

TOWN OF ISLESBORO

LYME DISEASE PREVENTION COMMITTEE

MEETING – MAY 24, 2010 – 4:30 PM – TOWN OFFICE

MINUTES

Present: Linda Gillies, Laura Houle, Philo Hutcheson, Seth Wilbur, Alison Wood, PA
Present by invitation: Jeff Grossman
Absent: Andrew Coombs, Nakomis Nelson

Background Information. Mrs. Gillies reviewed a file of information that she had prepared for each committee member. The file includes contact information, a chronology of work done on Lyme disease prevention on Islesboro to date, the May 2010 report from Stantec Consulting analyzing the data from the March deer count, the Vector-borne Disease Laboratory's November 2009 report on the tick count conducted in October/November 2009, and the Health Center Advisory Board's December 2008 report about Lyme disease.

Philo Hutcheson pointed out that the earliest studies of deer and ticks on Islesboro go back to 1986, not 1997 as stated in the chronology. We should contact Inland Fisheries to see if those studies are available.

Election of Chair and Secretary. The following were proposed and unanimously elected: Laura Houle – Chair, Linda Gillies - Secretary.

The Committee's Mission. It was agreed that the committee should focus on Lyme disease prevention. The committee should not directly address the environmental consequences of a large deer population, although they are an important issue. Ultimately, the committee will present its findings and recommendations to the Selectmen and the community-at-large.

Timing. The committee will aim to come up with its preliminary findings and recommendations by mid-March 2011, in time to prepare for the Town Meeting in early May.

Tasks Ahead

Information Gathering. Committee members will assemble information about:

- The occurrence of Lyme disease on Islesboro in the coming months.
- Lyme disease prevention in the region – other islands and mainland communities. Allie Wood will obtain community contact information from the Vector-borne Disease Laboratory. Laura will assign committee members to follow up on those contacts.
- The tick and deer populations on Islesboro. We will ascertain whether further counts should be taken and how they will be paid for.
- The status of Lyme disease research and treatment in the medical profession. Philo Hutcheson will research this.
- The laws governing hunting on Islesboro and in other communities. Jeff Grossman will supply the legal language relating to Islesboro.

Community Education. The committee will inform the community through:

- Brief articles in the Islesboro Island News. Linda Gillies will draft an article for a summer issue.
- Forums. Seth Wilbur suggested inviting people in other communities who had dealt with the Lyme disease issue. Linda Gillies suggested showing the film provided by Hank Conklin about Lyme disease, *Under Our Skin*.
- Supporting the Health Center's ongoing dissemination of information about practical measures that can be taken to avoid contracting Lyme disease.

Frequency of Meetings. The committee agreed to meet once a month on Mondays at 4:30. The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, July 12 at 4:30 in the Town Office.

The Committee's Name. It was agreed that the committee should be called the Lyme Disease Prevention Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gillies, Secretary

Follow-up Task List

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| Linda Gillies | - Prepare draft article for a summer issue of Islesboro Island News and circulate to committee for comment. [Since the meeting Laura has suggested in including the Stantec summary report with the article.] |
| Jeff Grossman | -Supply Laura with information about the laws governing hunting on Islesboro. |
| Laura Houle | -Contact Inland Fisheries to see if findings of 1986 deer count studies are available.

-Once Allie has obtained contact information, assign committee members the task of researching information about Lyme disease prevention undertaken by specific communities. |
| Philo Hutcheson | -Investigate status of Lyme disease research and treatment in the medical profession. |
| Allie Wood | -Request contact information for people in communities who have dealt with Lyme disease prevention from Pete Rand at the V-BDL [Since the meeting Allie has obtained this information; Laura will include it on the agenda for the July 12 th meeting]. |

5/31/10