

TOWN OF ISLESBORO

TICK-BORNE DISEASE PREVENTION COMMITTEE

MEETING – WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 2011 – 9 AM – TOWN OFFICE

MINUTES

Present: Linda Gillies, Philo Hutcheson, Alison Wood, PA-C

Absent: Andrew Coombs, Laura Houle, Seth Wilbur

In Laura Houle's absence, Linda Gillies, Secretary, acted as chair. She called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.

As there was no quorum, no votes were taken at the meeting.

Report on Selectmen's meeting of 6/8/11. Linda and Allie, who attended the meeting, reported that several Selectmen commented on the report. Craig Olson expressed reservations about having firearms on the island; he would like to see a public forum. Seth Wilbur felt that no action should be taken for another two years. Sue Schnur felt there should be another count. Jeff Grossman said efforts should concentrate on reducing ticks, rather than deer. Allie responded by drawing a chart showing the steady increase in the number of Lyme disease cases in recent years and said that action should be taken as soon as possible. Public Safety Officer Fred Porter, who attended the meeting, said that he believed there were many fewer deer on Islesboro than in the past. There have been considerably fewer deer-related accidents, and he had seen less deer in his travels around the island.

Community Forum. Most of the discussion focused on the organization of the forum. The following decisions were made:

- From the Selectmen's comments, it was apparent that the forum should emphasize the seriousness of Lyme disease. Allie will include information about chronic Lyme Disease syndrome in her presentation. Issues relating to the proposed special hunt will also have to be addressed.
- Philo suggested that the presentations should be organized according to the order of the report:
 - Laura: Sections 5 (recommendations), and 8 (credentials of the report)
 - Allie: Part 1 and part of Part 2, through the number of infected ticks
 - Linda: Part 2, beginning with the number of deer on Islesboro, Parts 3 and 4
 - Philo: Only the Wildlife Management section of Part 5
- As Allie will be away from June 15-23, Linda and Allie will work on the presentation before she leaves. They will prepare a draft of Laura's section; Philo will prepare his.
- There was discussion of the forum logistics:
 - A projection screen larger than the one used at the ICS Graduation should be obtained.
 - Do we need a projector?
 - The sound system should be improved, if possible.
 - Linda will discuss the above with Heather Knight.

- Michael Johnson of Stantec will attend the forum in order to answer questions about the deer counts. He may also be able to address questions about controlled hunts, for he lives on Long Island in Casco Bay, where there has been a deer management program in place for several years. The committee should consider asking other outside experts, particularly those knowledgeable about hunting regulations.

Next Meeting. It was agreed that individual committee members would meet as needed to prepare for the forum. Allie and Linda scheduled a meeting for Friday, June 10 at 2:30. Should a meeting of the entire committee be required, Laura will schedule one.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gillies, Secretary
June 12, 2011