

TOWN OF ISLESBORO

LYME DISEASE PREVENTION COMMITTEE

MEETING – MONDAY, JULY 12, 2010 – 4:30 PM – TOWN OFFICE

MINUTES

Present: Linda Gillies, Laura Houle, Philo Hutcheson

Absent: Andrew Coombs, Nakomis Nelson, Seth Wilbur, Alison Wood, PA

Invited but unable to attend: Jeffrey Grossman

The minutes of the committee's first meeting on May 24, 2010 were approved.

Committee members reported on accomplishments since the last meeting and established a schedule for the committee's work in the coming months. They re-affirmed that the committee's overarching task is to come up with a report/recommendation for the Board of Selectmen by March 15, 2011.

INFORMATION GATHERING

Lyme Disease Prevention in the Region – Other Islands and Mainland Communities

- Laura Houle reported that in response to Allie Wood's request, Dr. Peter Rand had sent information about communities in which the Vector-borne Disease Laboratory has worked.
- Linda Gillies submitted a list of communities to be investigated including Cape Elizabeth, Cliff Island, Great Cranberry Island, Isle au Haut, Long Island, Monhegan, North Haven, Peak's Island, Swan's Island and Vinalhaven. Philo Hutcheson suggested adding Lincolnville and Northport, where Lyme disease has become a problem. As our investigations proceed, we may want to add other communities as well. A copy of the current list is attached.
- It was agreed that Linda Gillies would lead the effort to gather information. She presented a draft questionnaire to be used in the information-gathering process, copy attached.
- It was agreed that the information should be available by early December.

Occurrence of New Cases of Lyme Disease on Islesboro

- It was agreed that the Health Center will provide information about new cases of Lyme disease diagnosed during the summer and fall in early December.

The Status of Lyme Disease Research and Treatment in the Medical Profession

- Philo Hutcheson reported that Smith Kline stopped making the Lyme disease vaccine in 2001, as it caused arthritis and there was lack of demand. Merck has no new vaccine in a test sequence.

The Laws Governing Hunting on Islesboro and in other Communities

- Since the last meeting Jeff Grossman has supplied a copy of the statute specifying that hunting deer is restricted to bow and arrow “from the first day of the special archery season on deer.....to the end of the regular firearm season on deer of each calendar year in Waldo County.” A copy of the regulations is attached.
- Philo Hutcheson explained that the present regulations were enacted by the State Legislature at the request of the Town of Islesboro in 1938 or 1956. Any proposed change to Islesboro’s hunting laws would have to be submitted to the Legislature.
- As the language of the statute is difficult for the layman to understand, Philo Hutcheson agreed to prepare a written summary of the current regulations governing hunting and firearms on Islesboro. His piece will be ready by the committee’s next meeting on September 27th.

The Deer and Tick Populations on Islesboro. The committee discussed whether it was necessary/advisable to conduct further surveys of the deer and tick populations. Members concluded that:

- As the Vector-borne Disease Laboratory’s late fall 2009 survey of the tick population, one of a series of surveys begun in 1986, was definitive in its findings, another tick survey was not necessary in 2010/11.
- As the Stantec survey was the first of its kind taken on Islesboro, a second survey, to be taken in March 2011, would be advisable. As much of Stantec’s preliminary work (establishing the transects, etc.) has now been done, the committee hoped that the survey could be done for close to \$7,500, the amount budgeted by the Selectmen for survey work in 2010/11. Stantec should be contacted about this second survey.

REPORTING TO/INVOLVING THE COMMUNITY

Media.

- Linda Gillies reported that Laura Houle’s article about the committee’s LDPC’s first meeting, on May 24, 2010, appeared in the July issue of the Islesboro Island News.
- Philo Hutcheson pointed out that there had been recent coverage of the region’s increase in the incidence of Lyme disease by local newspapers and TV stations. He mentioned pieces in the Bangor Daily News and on Channel 2 News.

Forums. It was agreed that the LDPC’s forums for the community should be held in January and February 2011, once our information had been gathered.

Prevention. The Health Center will continue dissemination of information about practical measures that can be taken to avoid contracting Lyme disease.

Next meeting. It was agreed that because of busy summer schedules and time needed to begin the information-gathering process, the committee would not meet again until Monday, September 27 at 4:30 in the Town Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gillies, Secretary

Follow-up Task List

Linda Gillies	Begin information-gathering process.
Philo Hutcheson	Prepare layman's written summary of hunting regulations on Islesboro.
Laura Houle	Contact Michael Johnson about a March 2011 deer count.

Enclosures

- List of other communities to be investigated
- Questionnaire for people in other communities
- Hunting regulations pertaining to Islesboro
- Schedule for the LDPC's work

8/16/10