

Draft 10/22/14

TOWN OF ISLESBORO

ISLESBORO HEALTH CENTER  
TICK-BORNE DISEASE PREVENTION COMMITTEE (T-BDPC)

MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2014 - TOWN OFFICE, 3:30 PM

Present: Linda Gillies, Derreth Roberts, Douglas Welldon, Alison Wood, PA-C

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 pm.

Election of officers: It was agreed that as this was the committee's first formal meeting (to date, the work, which has involved the preparation of documents such as the Tick Bulletin, has been done via email), officers should be elected. Allie Wood serves on an ex-officio basis.

MOTION: The T-bDPC proposes the following: Derreth Roberts, Chair; Linda Gillies, Secretary  
The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Tick Bulletin. It was agreed that the committee should continue the bulletins for November, December, and January. They should include updated tick-borne disease figures; the November bulletin should stress that tick season is not over until December. Next year's bulletins, which will resume in May, will include additional information about tick-borne disease prevention.

Proposals. It was agreed that should community members have suggestions about tick-borne disease prevention measures that could be taken by the Town, they should submit written proposals to the committee for consideration.

Testing for tick-borne disease. Allie said that, to date, not all patients who were diagnosed by the Health Center with confirmed or suspected cases of tick-borne disease were given a blood test. Although the results of testing at the two labs used by the IHC are not entirely reliable, they do identify other tick-borne illnesses such as babesiosis and anaplasmosis, which are on the rise in Maine. Committee members felt that having this information would be important. Allie said that at approximately \$500 per test, the cost for universal testing would be high, some \$17,000 per year. As not everyone is insured, outside funding would be required. She said that she would consult with a contact in Vinalhaven about grant possibilities.

Statistics Project. Linda said that one of the T-bDPC's priorities was gathering and organizing statistics related to tick-borne disease on Islesboro and elsewhere so that that they are readily available for a variety of purposes. Over the next few weeks she plans to organize the "bits and pieces" in various files that she has kept since 2008 into one file that can be easily accessed. She circulated an outline of the project. Derreth has offered to help.

Vector-borne Disease Laboratory. Allie and Linda said that Chuck Lubelczyk, Eleanor Lacombe, and Robert Smith, MD, of the V-bDL had been on the island on Sunday, October 19 to take the fall tick survey. For research purposes they had requested the hide from a freshly killed deer and two dead hares. Linda said she would mention this to the DRC at their October 23rd meeting. Subsequently, via email Chuck introduced Linda to Rob Burgess and Bruce Connery of Bar Harbor's Deer Herd Control Task Force, which is holding an information meeting on October 27; Linda said that she might attend.

After motion made, seconded, and approved, the meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Gillies, Secretary