

TOWN OF ISLESBORO

LYME DISEASE PREVENTION COMMITTEE

MEETING – MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2010 – 4:30 PM – TOWN PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICE

MINUTES

Present: Linda Gillies, Laura Houle, Seth Wilbur, Alison Wood, PA

Absent: Andrew Coombs, Philo Hutcheson, Nakomis Nelson

Invited but unable to attend: Jeffrey Grossman

The minutes of the committee's meeting of July 12, 2010 were approved as amended.

Information Gathering

- Allie Wood reported that so far in 2010, the Health Center has diagnosed 10 cases of Lyme disease. All cases were contracted on Islesboro.
- Linda Gillies, who has been charged with assembling information about Lyme disease prevention in other coastal communities, reported that the job is about half done. In early October she met with State Wildlife Biologist Lee Kantar in his Bangor office, and he gave her access to his files. Larry Sharp, a lawyer and the first chair of the Cliff Island Deer Management committee, provided a useful account of deer control on islands in Casco Bay. Further information about coastal communities will be provided by residents, town officials and three regional IFW offices – Region A (Portland area), Region B (mid-coast) and Region C (Mt. Desert, the Cranberries, Swan's). She presented two "work in progress" documents, one giving detailed information gathered about individual communities, the other a chart giving an information snapshot of each location. She also circulated a comprehensive report about tick-borne diseases on Nantucket, *Report to the Nantucket Board of Health and Selectmen*, prepared by the Nantucket Tick-Borne Disease Committee. The 37-page report is available online by typing in the committee's name on Google.
- The committee reaffirmed that a second deer count should be taken in March 2011. Linda Gillies will be in touch with Steven Pelletier, Principal of Stantec to ascertain the price. Allie Wood said that proper scientific procedure would entail new transects. As only \$7,500 was allocated in the 2010/11 Town budget for survey work, and Stantec's charge for the survey taken in 2010 was \$10,000, the committee may have to request additional funds.

Reporting to/Involving the Islesboro Community

- It was agreed that Laura Houle should submit an article for the November/December Islesboro Island News. The deadline is November 15th. The committee reviewed and commented on a draft. Allie Wood suggested that in an effort to compile the most accurate statistics, the issue should include a box requesting summer residents who were diagnosed with Lyme disease after leaving Islesboro but who contracted it here to contact the Health Center.

- In December, once the information about other communities is complete, the committee should begin to plan the forums for the Islesboro community. The first forum should review and expand upon information that has already been given to island residents in one venue or another – the nature of Lyme disease, basic preventative measures, etc. Other forums could include presentations by people from other island communities who had experience with Lyme disease prevention, a presentation on land management designed to lessen the risk of tick bites and a viewing of the film, “Under Our Skin.” Allie Wood will view the film to determine whether showing it would be appropriate. Some information and presentations could be incorporated into the Health Fair, which is due to be scheduled for 2011.

Timing of the Committee's Work. It was agreed that the March deadline set by the committee in May for the submission of its final report/recommendation to the Selectmen will not allow sufficient time to collect all the information needed. The second deer count will be held in mid-March, for instance, and the data must then be analyzed. It looks as though the committee’s final report/recommendation will be submitted in the spring.

Next meeting. The committee’s next meeting was scheduled for Monday, December 6th at 4:30 in the Town Office.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Gillies, Secretary

Follow-up Task List

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| Linda Gillies | -Continue information-gathering process.
-Contact Steve Pelletier at Stantec Consulting about the March 2011 deer survey. |
| Laura Houle | -Submit article to November/December Islesboro Island News, November 15 th .
-Contact Jeff Grossman about giving a report at the Selectmen’s meeting of November 10 th . |
| Alison Wood | -See the film “Under Our Skin.” |

10/26/10