

TOWN OF ISLESBORO

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

MEETING OF THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2015 - TOWN OFFICE, 4:00 PM

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm.

Approval of draft minutes for the meeting of October 22, 2014. Upon MOTION made and seconded, the minutes were approved as amended.

Islesboro's participation in a clinical trial for a Lyme disease test being conducted by the Lyme & Tickborne Diseases Research Center at Columbia University (the Center). Allie said that the IHC had been introduced Dr. Brian Fallon, Director of the Center, through an Islesboro seasonal resident who contracted Lyme disease here last summer. In an effort to find a more reliable Lyme disease test, the Center is conducting a clinical trial for a new test developed by an infectious disease specialist in California. The process will involve testing the blood of 100 patients who have the rash or definite symptoms of Lyme disease. In the coming "tick season," Islesboro will provide the Center the blood of approximately 10 patients who have these symptoms, as well as an equal number of patients who have no symptoms. If possible, the patients will also be tested after six weeks and six months. Each patient as well as the Health Center will be reimbursed for their participation. Allie said that IHC staff had hesitated about undertaking this project, which will be additional work for staff at a busy time, but had concluded that it will be a valuable learning experience. Over the summer oversight of the project will be assigned to Andy Borghese, the temporary PA.

Derreth asked about liability concerns. Allie said that patients participating in the project should be covered under the IHC's liability policy, but that we should verify this with Janet. She added that Dr. Fallon, who came to the Lyme disease field through his work in psychiatry, is very well regarded in his field.

Allie said that on Wednesday, April 29, Dr. Fallon and his assistant, Shreya Doshi, will be coming from New York to meet IHC staff and to instruct them in the workings of the clinical trial. There will be a meeting from 10-noon followed by lunch and a tour of the island. Linda asked about informing the community, and it was agreed that Maggy Willcox should be invited to the meeting with a view to an article in the May/June IIN; in addition, information about the study should be included in the Health Center's June "tick" bulletin.

More extensive testing by the IHC for tick-borne diseases. Allie said that as a rule, when people come to the IHC with Lyme disease symptoms, they are given an antibiotic. If after a few days they get better, no tests for Lyme disease are given; if they do not improve, then a test for Lyme is usually given. In 2014, two Islesboro residents were tested by a naturopathic doctor in Camden and were found to have anaplasmosis as well as Lyme disease. As the incidence of anaplasmosis and other tick-borne diseases such as babesiosis and bartonella is on the rise in Maine, is it worth the IHC's while to test for them? The tests are costly (about \$500), so would only people with insurance have them? Allie suggested that the IHC should invite one of the two naturopaths in the area to come to the island to help in clarifying the IHC's policy; she will contact them.

Maintaining tick-borne disease statistics. Linda said it was important for the IHC to continue to collect and disseminate the statistics about tick-borne disease on Islesboro, but that she knew that it was a burdensome task for the Center's busy staff. Allie said that it was a question of coding and that she would talk with Rhonda about streamlining the system.

Linda said that over the winter she had worked on organizing the statistics relating to various aspects of tick-borne disease on Islesboro - tick population and infection rates , deer harvest and population estimates, tick-borne disease numbers. These figures are now available in a hard-copy notebook as well as electronically. She added that she has also updated the committee's section of the Town website.

Dissemination of information about tick-borne disease. It was agreed that the T-bDPC should continue with monthly bulletins in the Town calendar mailing and articles in IIN. Linda said that in spring 2014 we distributed detailed tick-borne disease prevention information and asked if the same should be sent this year. An option would be a lighter approach such as a one-page sheet found by Cindy Gorham on a California website. There was consensus that we should try to adapt the CA one-pager to Islesboro and send it out with the May calendar. The detailed information is available in the T-bDPC's section of the Town website. The first bulletin that includes tick-borne disease figures to date will be sent in June; Derreth will work on a new design. The next article in IIN can give the results of the Stantec deer pellet count, to be conducted in the week of April 27.

Next meeting. The next T-bDPC meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 9 at 4 pm in the Town Office meeting room.

After motion made, seconded, and approved, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Gillies, Secretary

C: Janet Anderson, Sandy Oliver, Cindy Gorham, Tina Pendleton, Owen Howell, Edie Konesni, Rhonda Shand, Peggy Pike, Maggy Willcox

Approved 6/9/15