

TOWN OF ISLESBORO

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

MEETING OF FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2015 - TOWN OFFICE, 11 A.M.

Present: Linda Gillies, Derreth Roberts (chair), Douglas Welldon, Alison Wood, PA-C (by phone)
Also attending: Nancy Alexander

Derreth Roberts called the meeting to order at 11 a.m.

Approval of draft minutes for the meeting of August 18, 2105. Upon MOTION made and seconded, the minutes were approved as written.

Monthly Tick Bulletin. Nancy Alexander said she was attending today's meeting to share concerns about how our island tick-borne disease statistics are formatted and interpreted. She presented ideas for an alternative format, including replacing the definitions currently listed in the "circumstance column" with one-word headers: "Interdiction, Suspicion, Confirmed, and Chronic." She also suggested that new cases diagnosed at the Health Center be listed by month (rather than by a range of dates) with annual totals. Committee members agreed that a change in the order of the tick-borne disease categories would be good and could be done immediately. There was consensus that the challenge is to keep the table simple yet comprehensive; above all, the presentation must be consistent. Other changes in format, if any, will wait until the beginning of the 2016 "tick season." Committee members thanked Nancy for her very constructive suggestions; Nancy agreed to serve as a resource, providing additional feedback as we move forward into the next season.

Recent developments/next steps.

Linda said that at the DRC meeting of 9/22/15 (minutes previously circulated) and the BoS meeting of 9/23/15, discussion of the deer/tick/tick-borne disease issue was contentious, reflecting continuing disagreements about various aspects of the issue and how they should be resolved. She was particularly concerned that there was call for Town-sponsored, island-wide aerial insecticide spraying as a way to control ticks. Derreth said that insecticides should be applied at the discretion of individual property owners; an island-wide program would constitute a serious community health risk. Allie Wood and Doug Welldon said that the T-bDPC should coordinate with Health Center staff and other committees such as Groundwater Protection to formulate a recommendation to the BoS, which has ultimate responsibility for establishing policy.

Linda said that at the BoS meeting Sandy Oliver proposed a carefully chosen working group of people who represent the various points of view to find what common ground we have as a community regarding the tick/deer/tick-borne disease issue. Allie said that the island needs to work together, and that conversations between small numbers of individuals would be more effective in reducing contention and achieving consensus. She suggested that she attend the next DRC meeting. Linda said that it had been scheduled for October 20th but could be moved till the 27th, when Allie will be available.

Derreth said that with IF&W's recent denial of the DRC's request for a second three-year special deer hunt and the numerous ramifications, a comprehensive action plan with a focus on the health/well-being of our community inclusive of tick-borne disease prevention, ground water safety, fire safety, etc. is needed.

Linda said that the BoS would be meeting on the issue at a forthcoming meeting.

Next DRC Meeting. It was decided to postpone scheduling the next T-bDPC meeting until the BoS had presented its plan for next steps.

After motion made, seconded, and approved, the meeting adjourned at 12:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Gillies, Secretary

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

Approved 11/12/15