

TOWN OF ISLESBORO

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

MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2016 - TOWN OFFICE, 4 PM

Present: Linda Gillies, Douglas Welldon (chair in Derreth Roberts's absence), Alison Wood, PA-C

Absent: Derreth Roberts

Also attending: Michael Clayton

Doug Welldon called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

Approval of draft minutes for the meeting of November 12, 2015. Upon MOTION made and seconded, the minutes were approved as written.

T-bDPC plans for 2016. Linda Gillies said that in view of the February 10th vote rejecting the Board of Selectmen's deer reduction proposal, the work of the T-bDPC will come to the forefront in the Town's efforts to promote tick-borne disease prevention measures. She said that while the committee had disseminated a good deal of information through meetings, mailings, and the Town's website, it was clear that islanders did not feel the Town was "doing enough." We need to review and modify the information both in terms of its content and how it gets to island residents. Doug agreed, saying that the T-bDPC must convey the idea that we have learned from islanders and will re-double our efforts. Allie said that T-bDPC should focus on how individuals can take measures to protect themselves from tick bites rather than island-wide strategies such as deer reduction. Mike Clayton suggested that we use what has been done on Nantucket as model. There was consensus that the committee should make use of the internet and social media. During discussion the following points were made:

- The T-bDPC could have its own website, with a link to it on the Town website. Initially, the site would require a professional designer. Doug said that the Historical Society has researched using Elm Street Printing's web service to set up their website, and likes what they've seen. There is a potential benefit to using Elm Street since that firm already does printing for the Town. He also suggested Wix.com. Linda said that she would ask Page Clason for ideas about professional services and how such a site could be maintained.
- Students/faculty at Islesboro Central School could do a video about tick prevention which could be shown on the website, YouTube, and Facebook. Linda said that she would speak with Heather Knight about this.
- There could be a "tick tip of the day" on Facebook. Someone would have to be responsible for this.
- There should be widely distributed printed information that people can put on their fridges (fridge magnets could be provided) and bulletin boards. This could be in the form of an eye-catching pamphlet and/or a "cheat sheet" such as is used in Nantucket.
- Tick tubes should be made at a discounted price at the island's grocery stores and/or the Town office.
- Information put out by the T-bDPC should have a consistent design "look."
- It should be made clear that no one prevention measure will "solve" the tick-borne disease problem on Islesboro. Rather, it is hoped that "every little bit will help."

- In its material the T-bDPC should specify that according to reliable scientific sources, some prevention measures that have been proposed, such as guinea hens or field burning, have proven to be ineffective, too costly, or environmentally harmful. To the extent possible, the material also should give an idea of the cost and effort associated with each measure.
- The committee should consider adding new members. Cindy Gorham and Paul Nichter were mentioned as having an interest in prevention. It would be good to have someone who is tech-savvy.
- As much new material as possible should be ready by May, when "tick season" begins.

Mike said that voters did not want people from the mainland coming to the island to hunt with guns and that sharpshooting was a waste of money; in his opinion, there should be a Hunt Supervisor such as was proposed in the BoS plan. He added that local hunters could do a deer count. It was agreed that decisions about hunting and issues relating to the deer population estimates were not within the purview of the T-bDPC.

Vector-borne Disease Laboratory Island Tick Survey. Linda distributed a copy of a survey that the Vector-borne Disease Laboratory plans to distribute to residents of islands belonging to the Maine Island Coalition. The purpose of the survey is to gain a better understanding of the needs, experiences, and opinions of island residents about tick-borne disease prevention and how the V-bDL can be of assistance. Islesboro differs from the other islands in that the V-bDL has worked consistently here since 2006.

There was consensus that while the Island Tick Survey is a good idea, the timing is wrong for Islesboro. Given all the recent controversy about tick-borne disease prevention, a questionnaire from the "outside" may be misunderstood.

Next T-bDPC Meeting. The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, March 2 at 4 pm in the Town office.

After motion made, seconded, and approved, the meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Gillies, Secretary

Follow-up:

- Linda to ask Page Clason about professional assistance in setting up a T-bDPC website.
- Linda to ask Heather Knight about the possibility of a school-produced video about tick-borne disease prevention.

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

Approved 3/2/16

