

TOWN OF ISLESBORO

TICK-BORNE DISEASE PREVENTION - GENERAL CHRONOLOGY AS OF 1997

- 1997 On the initiative of the Health Center, the Vector-borne Disease Laboratory (V-BDL) conducts a tick survey. Found 0.5 ticks per hour, 0 were infected.
- 2002 First case of Lyme disease on Islesboro diagnosed by Health Center.
- 2006 Second tick survey by V-BDL. 3.5 ticks per hour, 24.0 % infected. Dr. Peter Rand gives "Tick Talk" for Islesboro community. 4 Lyme disease cases.
- October 23, 2008 Health Center Advisory Board (HCAB) meeting. Edie Konesni, PA-C, reports that to date in 2008, there were 18 new cases of Lyme disease on Islesboro, as opposed to 7 new cases in 2007. She says that Lyme disease prevention should be an urgent priority for the HCAB and recommends that a sub-committee be formed to gather information on the subject and prepare a report. The following join the sub-committee: Jack Coffin, George Evans, Linda Gillies, Laura Houle and Jennifer Whyte.
- November, 2008 HCAB presents sub-committee's report to the Selectmen. Principal recommendations:
- The health threat posed to residents of Islesboro by the presence of the deer tick appears to be serious and should become a top priority for the Health Center, the Health Center Advisory Board and the Town of Islesboro.
 - To determine the course of action to address this potential problem, the Health Center Advisory Board should initiate a medical and scientific inquiry into the incidence of Lyme disease on Islesboro, its causes and what steps, if any, should be taken to address the problem.
 - Staff of the V-BDL and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, recognized authorities on issues related to Lyme disease, should be enlisted at the outset in order to assist in the design and implementation of the Health Center's inquiry.
 - The Health Center should inform the Board of Selectmen of this initiative and should keep the Selectmen briefed on an ongoing basis.
 - While the inquiry is being carried out, the Health Center should make every effort to inform islanders of the risk of tick bites, how to avoid them, and how to control ticks on their properties.

- November 2008 - March 2009 HCAB/Town Manager decide to conduct both tick and deer surveys, to be done by V-BDL and Stantec, Inc. respectively.
- May 3, 2009 Town Meeting approves allocation of \$15,000 for surveys.
- Spring/Summer 2009 In cooperation with local veterinarians, V-BDL conducts Islesboro/Midcoast Canine Lyme Disease/Anaplasmosis Serosurvey. Of the 65 Islesboro dogs tested, 13.8% carried antibodies for Lyme disease.
- Summer 2009 Health Center disseminates information about Lyme disease through providing information to various groups with outdoor activities, articles in the IIN and displays at the post office, ferry landing and Health Center.
- Oct/Nov 2009 V-BDL conducts survey of deer ticks at 20 locations on Islesboro (*Attachment H*). 5.0 ticks per hour, 48.4 % infected, a 50% increase over 2006.
- January 2010 Health Center negotiates with Stantec to conduct deer survey in March; use of island volunteers reduces price.
- March 15-18, 2010 Stantec conducts deer count. Under the direction of Vicki Conover and Heather Sinclair, the 9th grade biology class participate, as do 17 Islesboro volunteers coordinated by Laura Houle.
- April 14, 2010 Selectmen decide to establish a 7-member Lyme Disease Prevention Committee, known as the "tick committee."
- May 20, 2010 Stantec submits its deer count report, which concludes that Islesboro has 62 deer per square mile.
- November 12, 2010 Pete Rand, Eleanor Lacombe and Chuck Lubelczyk of the Vector-borne Disease Laboratory conduct tick count. 93 ticks were collected during a total of 11.25 hours of flagging, equaling 8.3 ticks per hour, up from 5 ticks per hour in 2009. Percentage of infected 48.4%.
- January 2011 Town retains Stantec Consulting to conduct 2011 deer survey, contingent on approval of \$7,000 in additional funds at the Special Town Meeting scheduled for February 26, 2011. The survey to include 700 Acre Island (not included in 2010).
- January 2011 With the encouragement of the Vector-borne Disease Laboratory, committee changes its name to the Tick-borne Disease Prevention Committee (T-bDPC).

January 20, 2011 IF&W takes aerial survey of Islesboro and 700 Acre Island. Because of snow conditions, the ability to detect deer was low and the survey did not provide a reliable estimate.

February 26, 2011 Special Town meeting approves \$7,000 in additional funds for deer survey.

Tuesday, March 1, 2011 Committee members and volunteers send out mailing to 300 Islesboro and 700 Acre Island landowners requesting permission for access to their land during deer count. All but about 10 landowners give permission.

April 11-14, 2011 Stantec conducts deer count. 42 transects on Islesboro and 13 on 700 Acre Island. They complete their survey work on Islesboro in three days and 700 Acre Island in one day. Their report concluded that there were 48 deer per square mile on Islesboro and 53 deer per square mile on 700 Acre.

May 2011 Committee presents completed report to Selectmen. Principal recommendations:

- Personal protection
- Pesticide use
- Landscape management
- Deer management program to reduce deer herds on Islesboro and 700 Acre Island to 10 or less per square mile over a period of years.

June 28, 2011 Community forum, Kinnicutt Center. 6:30-8:30 pm. Panel: Laura Houle (moderator), Allie Wood, PA-C, Linda Gillies, Philo Hutcheson. Peter Rand, MD, Eleanor Lacombe and Charles Lubelczyk from the V-bDL and Michael Johnson of Stantec attend. 60-75 people.

August 16, 2011 Community information meeting. Attend from MDIF&W: Jim Connolly, Region B; Tom Schaeffer, Region C; Kendall Marden, Game Warden; Mark Merrifield. About 80 people.

August 24, 2011 Special Town Meeting. Article considered: *To see if the Town shall support and establish a wildlife management plan with the goal of reducing the deer population to 10 deer per square mile and maintaining the population at that level, in order to reduce the incidence of Tick Borne Disease. The plan will be developed by a committee of local residents appointed by the Selectmen. The Selectmen will take said plan and any subsequent plans to the voters for approval before implementation.* Article passes 100-28.

September 2011 Selectmen establish Wildlife Management Committee. T-bDPC disbands.

October 13, 2011 First DRC meeting. Change name from Wildlife Management Committee to Deer Reduction Committee (DRC).

November, 2011 - March 2012 DRC prepares request to IF&W. Decides to postpone third deer count.

January - February 2012 DRC prepares/mails survey to ascertain landowner preferences. Good response. Town office enters data. 542 parcels comprising 4,371 acres would be open to hunting, 52% of Town's total land.

March 21, 2012 DRC sends request to IF&W. Principal recommendations:

- Special Hunt in December 2012, 2013, 2014
- Local hunters only
- Archery and shotgun.

March 29, 2012 Pete Anderson and Carol Macaulay attend IF&W's Advisory Council meeting in Augusta; conclusion is that the DRC is "probably headed in the right direction."

April 22, 2012 DRC sends amended request to IF&W.

April 26, 2012 Information Meeting. 6-8 pm, Kinnicutt Center. Attended by 60-70 community members. Entire DRC committee on stage. Moderated by Fred Thomas. Allie Wood speaks about Lyme disease, Keel Kemper about the need for the hunt and hunting procedures; Philo Hutcheson about how the hunt would be organized. Fact sheet about the hunt distributed; the sheet mentions that copies of the request of the DRC request to IF&W are available at the Town Office, the Library and the Community Center.

May 12, 2012 Town Meeting. *Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to accept the Deer Reduction Committee's plan to reduce the deer population to 10 per square mile by means of a Special Hunt.* In response to questions at the 4/26 Information Meeting, Fred Thomas read a statement clarifying the DRC budget and measures to be taken in case of a serious accident during the Special Hunt. Warrant approved by voice vote (moderator Marc Schnur elected not to have a paper vote, regretted by the DRC). Budget of \$13,032 approved.

May 23, 2012 Fred Thomas, Pete Anderson, Carol Macaulay, Linda Gillies attend Advisory Council meeting in Princeton. Step 1. Fred Thomas speaks.

June, 2102 Health Center sends boxholder mailing about tick control measures.

- August 16, 2012 Advisory Council meeting, New Harbor. Pete Anderson, Linda Gillies, Fred Thomas attend. Step 2. Council seems well disposed toward approval of the proposed Rule, no negative comments.
- September 19, 2102 Advisory Council meeting. Pete Anderson, Linda Gillies, Fred Thomas attended. Step 3. Rule considered: *8. Town of Islesboro, in the County of Waldo, shall be open to a special deer hunt during a specified period from the first Monday following the end of the expanded archery season until December 31 annually, for a period of three years. Only licensed hunters qualifying under the Town of Islesboro's Deer Reduction Plan may participate. Deer taken during this special hunt are in addition to the statewide bag limit. All other laws and rules relating to deer hunting shall apply. The permit from the Department to the Town of Islesboro will authorize restrictions to be placed on types of weapons, bag limits and any other special conditions deemed necessary.* Rule approved 5-1. Staff and IF&W members complimented Islesboro for doing a good job and said that as our deer reduction efforts had become a prototype for the State, we should keep careful records.
- October 4, 2012 Hunters for the Hungry offer loan of their refrigerated truck for deer storage during the hunt.
- October 11, 2012 Community information meeting about Special Hunt, Kinnicutt Center, 6-8 pm.
- October 21, 2012 First of three safety briefing/range exercise held at Sporting Club. Laura Houle gives the briefing from 10-11:30, lunch (prepared by Andrew Coombs) 11:30-noon, range exercises for shotgun and bow/arrow directed by Babe Hatch 12:30-2. Vic Maccalum attends. 14 hunters participate.
- November 2012 Database including information about deer, hunters, and transport designed.
- November 2102 V-bDL conducts second tick survey. Numbers are highest to date: 24.1 ticks were found per hour; of those tested, 52.8 tested positive.
- December 10-31 2012 Special Hunt. A total of 50 deer shot.
- January - April, 2013 In view of disappointing "take," much discussion, many meetings. Some feel that more deer could have been killed if rifles had been allowed and if the season had been longer. Others, including the committee chair and Keel Kemper of IF&W, feel that the Special Hunt would never take enough deer, and that Islesboro is "biologically treading water." They advocate for "new tools," a "paradigm shift," including sharpshooting.

- January 24, 2013 Fred Thomas, Pete Anderson, Linda Gillies attend Advisory Council meeting in Augusta. Keel Kemper attends. Fred Thomas circulates 2013 Lyme disease figures for Islesboro and explains need for "new tools." Commissioner Woodcock receptive.
- February, 2013 Keel Kemper introduces DRC to Anthony DeNicola of White Buffalo (WB), who submits proposal. \$57,600 first year, \$14,920 second, \$7,920 third for a total of \$80,440.
- March 13, 2013 Committee divided; issue presented to Selectmen.
- April 25, 2013 Town Information Meeting, Kinnicutt Center, 6 pm. 30-40 people attend. Keel Kemper, Fred Thomas, Pete Anderson, Linda Gillies speak. Fred describes "new information," advice from Anthony DeNicola; Pete reviews budget information, including cost of sharpshooting; Linda reviews information packet, which includes a summary of developments during the past year, an article from The Wildlife Society Bulletin, the 3/20/13 proposal from White Buffalo, Inc., Anthony DeNicola's emails of 2/26 and 2/27 strongly against continuation of the Special Hunt; budget and tax projections. Questions/comments contentious.
- May 22, 2013 Information meeting at the Kinnicutt Center, 4:30 pm. Joint meeting of the BoS and DRC. Panel: Peter Rand, Chuck Lubelczyk, Eleanor Lacombe from the V-bDL; Keel Kemper. Arch Gillies opens the meeting, Fred Thomas asks a series of prepared questions. Clear view of panel that deer reduction is the best way to prevent Lyme disease and that Islesboro should follow Anthony DeNicola's advice not to continue the Special Hunt. About 50 people attend.
- June 10, 2013 Special Town Meeting, Kinnicutt Center, 6 pm. About 150 people attend. Marc Schnur elected as moderator.

Article 2. To see if the Town will vote to suspend the Special Deer Hunt previously approved at the May 12, 2012 Annual Town Meeting. An amendment to add "until Town meeting 2014" was voted down 74 to 60. Then there was a vote on the original amendment; it was voted down 97 to 43.

Article 3. To see if the Town will vote to expand the date of the Special Deer Hunt previously approved at the May 12, 2012 Annual Town Meeting to the first Monday after Thanksgiving through the end of February, and to allow the use of rifles during the same. An amendment was made eliminating the last phrase, "and to allow the use of rifles during the same." That passed 110-28. The article was further amended to read "...expand the date of the Special Deer Hunt previously approved at the May 12, 2012 Annual Town Meeting to the first Monday after the extended

- archery season through the end of February.” That passed 83-37. No rifles and no overlapping with extended archery.*
- June 12, 2013 Fred Thomas, Pete Anderson and Linda Gillies submit letters to the Board of Selectmen resigning from the DRC. Fred sends memo to the remaining DRC members telling of the resignations. “This is because as we have expressed at public meetings and other Deer Reduction Committee meetings, the beliefs we hold are not in agreement with the course that the Islesboro community has decided we should take.”
- September 19, 2013 IF&W Advisory Council does not include revised Islesboro plan for Special Hunt on its agenda. Reason uncertain - a glitch?
- October 1, 2013 Through Gunnar Gundersen, Advisory Council representative for Waldo, Keel Kemper, and Becky Orff, Assistant to the Commissioner, Arch Gillies, Sandy Oliver, Gil Rivera, and Bill Tilden meet with Commissioner Woodcock, who approves Islesboro's plan.
- November 2013 V-bDL conducts second tick survey. Numbers were lower than in 2012: 22.3 ticks were found per hour; of those tested, 36.4 tested positive.
- December 16 , 2013 Special Hunt begins.
- January 2014 Allie Wood, PA-C of Health Center prepares summary of Lyme disease cases treated at Health Center during 2013. 53 cases confirmed by rash or lab test, 27 strongly suspected cases (These figures were modified in September - see below.)
- February 28, 2014 Special Hunt ends. 36 deer taken. Low number attributed to harsh winter. to Town advising sharpshooting program in view of high tick-borne disease numbers. .
- April 16, 2014 In a talk at the Camden Public Library Dr. Richard Sears, State Epidemiologist says that in 2013 there were 1374 reported cases of Lyme disease in the State (with unreported cases, closer to 2000).
- April 17, 2014 Dr. Peter Rand of the V-BDL writes to the Board of Selectmen expressing concern about Islesboro's high Lyme disease numbers and advocating for a sharpshooting program. Letter published in paper and included in May Town calendar mailing.
- April 24, 2014 Linda Gillies returns as secretary of DRC.
- May 15, 2015 Recognizing that the DRC is best suited to dealing with deer reduction issues, the Health Center Advisory Board reconstitutes the Tick-borne Disease Prevention Committee to monitor tick-borne disease on the island

and to provide information to the Islesboro community. Members: Linda Gillies, Derreth Roberts (chair), Doug Welldon.

- June, 2014 Members of summer community arrive having seen the Lyme disease figures and determined to advocate for a sharpshooting program as per Dr. Rand's letter. Form Concerned Citizens of Islesboro (CCI).
- July-August, 2014 CCI circulates two petitions. The first, presented to the Selectmen, expressed concern about tick-borne disease on Islesboro; over 200 signatures were obtained. The second, which required 35 signatures, advocated for a Special Town Meeting to consider the following article: *To see if the Town will vote to cancel the Special Deer Hunt scheduled for December 2014-February 2015, approved at a Special Town Meeting on June 10, 2013, and approve replacing it with a hunt organized by professional sharpshooters in the winter of 2015 in order to rapidly reduce the deer population to a density of 10 per square mile or less. The cost of the hunt will be underwritten with private funds. All meat from the deer hunt will be available for distribution to the community.*
- August 10, 2014 Anthony DeNicola (ADN) comes to assess Islesboro and 700 Acre Island. His trip funded by a CCI member. Joined by Keel Kemper on August 11.
- August 12, 2014 ADN has breakfast meeting at Sporting Club with DRC, lunch meeting at Sporting Club with hunters who participated in Special Hunts.
- Information Meeting, Kinnicutt Center, 5:30, sponsored jointly by BoS and CCI. ADN, Allie Wood, Dr. Rand, Kara Masters speak; Keel Kemper answers questions; Alexandra Gillespie, moderator. About 120 attend.
- August 25, 2014 Workshop with BoS, DRC, T-bDPC, CCI to discuss CCI petition, information meeting of 9/8/14, etc.
- September 8, 2014 Second information meeting, Kinnicutt Center, 6:30, sponsored by BoS. ADN, Allie Wood, Alexandra Gillespie speak; Keel Kemper, Chuck Lubelczyk of the V-bDL answers questions. About 90 attend.
- September 30, 2014 Special Town Meeting to consider the CCI article. Article 2. *To see if the Town will vote to cancel the Special Deer Hunt scheduled for December 2014-February 2015, approved at a Special Town Meeting on June 10, 2013, and approve replacing it with a hunt organized by professional sharpshooters in the winter of 2015 in order to rapidly reduce the deer population to a density of 10 per square mile or less. The cost of the hunt will be underwritten with private funds. All meat from the deer hunt will be available for distribution to the community.* Paper ballot, 148 opposed, 87 for.

- September, 2014 In the September/October issue of Islesboro Island News, Terry Cowan, an island resident and paramedic, wrote a letter saying that the Health Center's figures were "blatantly false," and "used to whip up passions and justify future Town actions." The basis for his criticism was that the IHC had combined all cases treated with two weeks of antibiotic - both "confirmed" cases reported to the CDC (rash, lab tests) and "strongly suspected" to reach the total of 86. In response, the Health Center re-examined its figures, eliminating 6 cases in which the patients had likely been bitten off island and separating out "confirmed" (53) from "strongly suspected" (27).
- October 9, 2014 DRC votes to recommend to the Selectmen that Ken Smith and Mike Boucher join the committee. Selectmen subsequently approve nomination.
- November, 2014 In preparation for Special Hunt, DRC holds range exercises for returning hunters November 1 and 9, safety briefing classes for new hunters on November 9 and 15.
- November 2014 V-bDL conducts second tick survey. 14.7 ticks were found per hour; of those tested, 31.2% tested positive.
- December 15, 2014 Special Hunt begins.
- January 2015 Allie Wood, PA-C of Health Center prepares summary of Lyme disease cases treated at Health Center during 2014. 24 cases confirmed by rash or lab test, 19 strongly suspected cases. A 46% decrease in confirmed or strongly suspected cases compared to 2013.
- January/Feb 2015 DRC prepares new request to MDIF&W to conduct a second three-year Special Hunt. Changes are:
 - Expand the Special Hunt to include all qualified Islesboro landowners, including those who own property but do not live on the island.
 - Begin the Special Hunt earlier - from the first week of November of each year through January of each year. The hunt will overlap with the Expanded Archery season for approximately 5 weeks.
 - Establish a more rigorous system for qualifying hunters who participate in the Special Hunt.
- February 2015 Preparation for Stantec pellet count. Stantec determine transects; DRC sends letters to 370 landowners requesting access to their land during the count. Approximately 80% of landowners respond positively.
- February 28, 2015 Special Hunt ends. 38 deer harvested - 34 on Islesboro, 4 on 700 Acre.

- March 16, 2015 DRC members Ken Smith and Mike Boucher meet with Commissioner Woodcock and Keel Kemper, present proposed plan. Commissioner is non-committal, though questions whether there would be safety issues if the Special Hunt overlapped with Expanded Archery.
- March 25, 2015 DRC members attend Board of Selectmen meeting. Present plan for a special hunt from the beginning of November through January. In an alternative plan, the timing of the hunt would be the same as in the previous three years. They request authorization to have the articles considered at a Special Town Meeting in May or June.
- April 27-30, 2015 Biologists Michael Johnson, Pam Griffin, and Chuck Ferris of Stantec conduct deer pellet count on Islesboro and 700 Acre Island. Report reveals that the deer population on Islesboro is up slightly from 2011 (50.9 as opposed to 48.0), and on 700 Acre it is down slightly (46.6 as opposed to 53.0).
- April 29, 2015 Dr. Brian Fallon and his assistant Shreya Doshi of the Lyme & Tick-borne Diseases Research Center at Columbia University Medical Center/The New York State Psychiatric Institute (the Center) meet at the IHC with staff and members of the T-bDPC to plan for the IHC's participation in a clinical trial for a new tick-borne diseases diagnostic test. In 2015 the IHC plans to provide the Center with blood samples from approximately 10 patients who have the LD rash. In addition, IHC will provide blood samples from an equal number of patients who do not have the symptoms.
- June 11, 2015 Special Town Meeting.
Article 2. *To see if the Town will vote to authorize a three year Special Deer Hunt to be conducted from November 2, 2015 through January 30, 2016; November 7, 2016 through January 31, 2017; and November 6, 2017 through January 31, 2018 (i.e., with some overlap with the Expanded Archery season on Islesboro) on such terms and conditions as recommended to the Board of Selectmen by the Deer Reduction Committee; subject to the approval of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife; and subject to an annual review by the Board of Selectmen.* The article was rejected by a paper ballot vote, 35 yes, 36 no.
Article 3. *To see if the Town will vote to authorize a three year Special Deer Hunt to be conducted from December 14, 2015 through February 29, 2016; December 12, 2016 through February 28, 2017; and December 11, 2017 through February 28, 2018 (i.e. without any overlap with the Expanded Archery season on Islesboro) on such terms and conditions as recommended to the Board of Selectmen by the Deer Reduction Committee; subject to the approval of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife; and subject to an annual review by the Board of Selectmen.* The article was approved by a paper ballot vote - 45 yes, 27 no.

- June 13, 2015 Ken Smith and Gil Rivera attend DRC MDIF&W Advisory Committee in Augusta; Ken presents plan for a three-year Special Hunt. AC member Dr. Sheridan Oldham from Rangeley presents a statement opposing the DRC proposal.
- August 6, 2015 Ken Smith and Maggy Willcox attend Advisory Committee meeting in Pickerel Pond. There were few questions; Dr. Oldham continues to express her opposition.
- September 16, 2015 Ken Smith and Maggy Willcox attend Advisory Committee meeting in Augusta. Dr. Oldham had prepared a motion opposing the DRC request. Her motion carries 11-1; Gunnar Gunderson voted in favor.
- September 23, 2013 DRC attends BoS meeting to begin discussion of next steps.
- September 2015 DRC interest in a possible deer population camera survey, which must be taken in the fall. In order to test whether deer would come to the bait, DRC members Babe Hatch and Don Johnson place corn and cameras in four locations. Few deer were seen, and not all the corn was eaten, signaling that a camera survey would not be effective.
- October 1, 2015 Rachel Rolerson-Smith and Ken Smith resign from DRC.
- October 20, 2015 BoS approves Jon Kerr and Peter Mills as members of DRC.
- November 4, 2015 BoS announces plan to work with the DRC, T-bDPC, and the community-at-large to develop a new tick-borne disease prevention strategy for consideration by the voters in spring 2016.

Updated 11/15/15

Desktop