

TOWN OF ISLESBORO  
HEALTH CENTER ADVISORY BOARD

Regular Meeting - Thursday, March 16, 2018, 3:30 PM, Town Office Meeting Room

MINUTES

Members present: Linda Gillies, Chloe Joule, Michael Kerr (chair), Derreth Roberts

Members absent: Sharon Ashley, Myra Rolerson, Brenda Thomas

Others present: Janet Anderson, Dorie Henning, NP, Owen Howell, PA-C, Rhonda Shand

Mike Kerr called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm. A quorum was established.

Upon MOTION made and seconded , the minutes for the meeting of January 19, 2018 were approved as written.

Mike reported that former HCAB chair Charlotte Mitchell has resigned as a member of the Board.

Health Center Director's Report. Dorie reported the following:

- The Health Center's new broadband access to the internet is working very well, and as a result, access to Epic – Maine Health EHR and the flow of electronic prescriptions is much easier.
- Dorie Henning and Owen Howell attended the Harvard Medical School's conference on Primary Care Medicine, held on March 12-16 in Boston. As always, the conference provided valuable information, especially updated clinical guidelines. Linda Wentworth will access the conference's online modules for continuing education.
- Health Center staff will use only the electronic procedure to prescribe controlled substances.
- A new billing procedure is still being worked out with Kennebec, which now bills the IHC for prescriptions made by the IHC, rather than the patients directly. IHC staff is concerned that the new system will be problematic in the summer, when patient volume is high.
- Staff is preparing for the Medicare audit, which is supposed to be done every five years and can be stressful. The three people who care most about the binders, which are prepared by Peggy Pike. When the audit was done six years ago, the IHC was commended for its careful documentation.
- The Emergency Plan, federally required for all Rural Health Centers in case of a natural disaster such as a flood or fire, has been created with the help of Sarah Runnion-Bareford. The plan includes a drill and simulation.
- The IHC is in the final stages of completing its participation in the Columbia Lyme Disease Study.
- On March 14, Dorie met with the Select Board to review the IHC's budget request for 2018/19. Included in the budget is a request for \$27,500 to secure a per diem provider during the summer months, for last summer the volume of work was too onerous for the present full-time staff. Finding a qualified person will be challenging, for both Vinalhaven and North Haven are recruiting for such a position. Searching via word-of-mouth, rather than through an agency, is preferable and that process has begun. IHC staff is looking for ways to generate more income and/or to reduce other budget items in order to cover the additional per diem costs. The HCAB will serve as a working group to assist with these budgetary considerations. Dorie was most encouraged by the Select Board's positive initial reaction to the request for additional staffing help and its support for the IHC's work in general.

Health Center Administrator Report. Janet Anderson reported the following:

- Janet and the IHC staff have been focusing on the 2018/19 budget. Other than cost of living, the only additional cost is for a per diem provider.
- Jack Coffin, who died in February 2018, has left part of the proceeds from his estate to the IHC. The bequest will be added to the IHC endowment, which now totals \$87,000. A meeting has been scheduled with the attorney for the state. There was discussion about whether at some point the IHC would need the income from an increased endowment in order to defray costs. Linda Gillies said she thought that the Islesboro community had sufficient resources to continue funding the IHC with tax-levy dollars. If private funds were needed, raising the \$1,000,000 or more to produce meaningful income would require a concentrated effort; raising capital funds, she said, doesn't happen by itself, it's "hardball."
- The Select Board continues to look for a solution to providing for emergency runs during the ferry's off-hours. She has written to the Maine State Ferry Service about the possibility of guaranteed runs but has had no response. Pendleton Yacht Yard, which several years ago contracted with the Town to provide emergency runs, can no longer fund two captains and has requested \$45,000 from the Town to maintain that level of service, especially during the summer. In all probability, a proposal will go out to bid.

Tick-borne Disease Prevention Committee Report. Derreth Roberts reported the following:

- Tick-borne disease numbers. Derreth circulated a report prepared by Linda Wentworth that details the IHC's tick-borne disease numbers for 2017. She noted that the number of visits by people who had bitten by a tick increased from 132 in 2016 to 224 in 2017. The number of confirmed cases of Lyme disease more than doubled, from 23 + 2 in 2016 to 50 + 5 in 2017.
- In recent years, members of the T-bDPC have become aware that some tick-killing pesticides, as well as certain weed killers used for garden, lawn, and driveway care, contain chemicals that can be harmful to humans, animals, and the environment. Concerned about the implications for Islesboro, in late 2016 an informal group began collecting information about pesticides. In the fall of 2017, Pesticide Safety on Islesboro was formed. The goal for PSI, which has become a sub-committee of the HCAB, is to collect and disseminate accurate, current information about safe pesticide use. The committee plans to accomplish this through brochures and a website: [pesticidesafetyislesboro.com](http://pesticidesafetyislesboro.com). In early April, the PSI will mail two brochures to all Islesboro residents, year-round and seasonal, and the website will become active.

Next HCAB meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 17, 2018 at 3:30 in the Town Office.

Upon MOTION made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Gillies

Draft 3/28/18