

Lyme Disease Committee
of the
Board of Health
Dover, MA

Minutes

September 10, 2009

Present: Marlayne Brace, William Herd, Barbara Roth-Schechter, Matthew Schmid, Paul Tedesco

Absent: Tim Holiner, Steve Kruskall, Diane Fielding

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes of 8-20-09

2. Speaker Update: Steve was unable to attend the meeting. He sent the information that he has not yet been able to ascertain the availability of Dr. Lepore (Nantucket's surgeon and Tick expert) for a discussion with the LDC. The question was raised (Marlayne) whether it might be more convenient for Dr. Lepore to speak with us via telephone in a conference call. [Post-meeting it was established that the technology is available in the LL Conference room for such an event – Barbara]

3. LD Weblink Progress Report: This had to be postponed, since Tim did not attend the meeting and Diane had other urgent business to attend to.

4. LD Forum: Each member of the LDC presented their insight into the planning of this event and the following principles and tentative schedule were agreed upon:

The forum will focus on the impact of LD on Dover residents, but of course be open to residents from other towns.

It is essential that there is a consensus within the LDC prior to the Forum as to the purpose, content, approach, recommendations, and desired outcome of the Forum.

The LDC will need more information regarding deer-vehicle accidents in order to be prepared for relevant questions, especially car density comparisons and time of accidents (in terms of daylight and season) as well as location, close to town land, open space? Paul will review the deer-vehicle accident file for this kind of information. Barbara will try to obtain information about car density of 20 years ago compared to the present.

The format of the Forum should be informal favoring interactive exchanges when possible.

A simple questionnaire should be handed out at the beginning with a few questions regarding LD-related sentiments (see below) and will be collected at the end of the meeting for information to the LDC.

Ideally, the Forum should be held before the end of October, most likely in the HS or Middle School auditorium.

The program of the Forum should be roughly as follows (the program will be refined and finalized during the next 1 to 2 meetings) :

Review of the Tick life cycle

Review of managing personal protection against tick bites

Review of managing protection of property and pets

Review of correlation between abundance of deer, deer ticks, and incidence of LD; presentation of Dover LD survey results and Mass Wildlife deer data

Review of other consequences of deer overabundance to the community

Review of Mass Wildlife-recommended deer management options

Survey (by show of hand or on the questionnaire) to be ascertained for:

Does the town feel that there are too many deer?

Does the town feel that town land should be opened up for regulated deer hunting?

What are the parameters to be specified? (i.e., Mass residents only, >5 years hunting experience, limited hours, marker boards, safety zone signs etc, etc.)

How much would Dover like to reduce deer density?

Question and Answer session about Lyme Disease

**Respectfully submitted
September 24, 2009**

Barbara Roth-Schechter, Ph.D.