

**Lyme Disease Committee
of the
Board of Health
Dover, MA**

**Meeting Minutes
April 1, 2010**

1. Review and Approval of the Final Report of the LDC to BOH

Approved with minor edits and posted on LDC website on 4/5/2010

2. Review of LDC Warrant Recommendation and Action of BOH

Review and presentation of “Report by the Dover BOH concerning the health hazard of Lyme disease, its relationship to deer ticks and deer density” as circulated to all stake-holders of open town land, Selectmen, and Chief of Dover Police Department. Approved with minor edits and posted on LDC website on 4/5/2010.

BOH expressed its appreciation of all the work and progress that has been made by the LDC. The BOH has authorized the LDC for another year to coordinate and implement the three-pronged approach recommended for reducing the risk of LD in Dover, including organization and/or oversight of the controlled deer hunt on open town land.

3. Presentation of BOH Deer Management Plan

Based on discussions with the principal stake-holders of open town land and significant input from MWL and deer management personnel in Sudbury (Con Com), the following **tentative** deer management plan was presented by BRS to the LDC:

- Bow hunting only during hunting season but with increased number of deer permits allowed per hunter
- If possible bring in local hunters
- All hunters have to be Mass-licensed, have to have bow hunting experience for at least 3 years
- If needed bring in additional MWL-registered hunters; MWL has an extensive list of hunters

- The general hunter qualifications are basic; have to pass hunter education class and have doe and/or buck permit; all within the laws of Mass, i.e., not on Sundays, no firearms, no dogs, wear hunter orange etc;)
- From tree stand only
- Tree stand to be removed during non-hunting season
- Significant signage and publicity (local paper etc)
- Hunters select 'their' space or are assigned and then reconcile with stake-holder; generally 10 -15 acres per hunter
- Gut piles have to be carried out (or buried)
- Number of deer shot has to be recorded within 48 hours (state law) and reported to Dover
- Depending on Dover sensitivities other qualifications can be added
 - Have to pass a proficiency test (Target practice*
 - Take advanced bow hunter education class (1 day, on line , through MWL) no charge*
 - Identify individual arrows with ID #*
 - Check in and check out in a check-out station (to be created) in Dover*
 - Stay on tree stand, can not walk around*

Overall MWL recommendation: A good start is to identify a few large open areas to begin with, then expand over the years, hopefully attract cooperation of adjoining towns.

4. Progress Report of Implementation of Deer Management Plan

The above **tentative** plan was discussed without reaching any decision. Concerns were raised about the administration and potential liability of the hunt. All members felt the need to wait for MWL input to proceed.

The MWL Deer Project Leader will meet with all parties on May 19 at 7 p.m. in the LL Conference Room of TH.

5. Future Plans for LDC

The next meeting is scheduled for May 6, 2010 at 9:30 AM in LL Conf Room.