

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

**Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2012
10:00 AM - Lower Level Conference Room**

Present: Steve Kruskall, Tim Holiner, Matthew Schmid, George Giunta, Barbara Roth-Schechter, Paul Tedesco

Absent: Bill Herd, Beth Webb, Jim Palmer, Mike Francis, Diane Fielding

1. **Review and Approval of the Minutes of Jan 5, 2012 meeting**
The Minutes were approved unanimously

2. **Update on Hunting Season – All**

Not all questionnaires have been completed, but so far, all hunters that have responded are eager to remain in the program although they were disappointed with this year's hunt. The total deer harvested in the DMP was actually 17, instead of 16 as previously reported (11 does and 6 bucks). Jim had an extensive discussion with Mike Francis about the role of TTOR, particularly the areas of Noanet. Everybody agreed that BOH-LCD should send a letter to Mass Wilflife petitioning for extension of the Mass hunting season (extension into January or more). Barbara agreed to attend to that letter.

3. **Sam Telford Project – All**

Based on the 'Request for Proposals' as received from MetroWest on February 14, it is apparent that our project does not meet any of the new Proposal Criteria (Healthy Aging Initiative, Reduction of Risky Behavior among Adolescents, Health Reform Process Improvement). Consequently, this project will not be able to go forward since all funding sources have now been exhausted. Barbara will advise Sam Telford to that effect.

4. **Mass DPH intern application – Barbara**

Due to the short time line provided for an application for a DPH intern the Application was submitted by Barbara and confirmed with Dr. Catherine Brown (DPH). The project description was submitted as follows:

Project Description for Mass DPH intern (June through August 2012) as included in Application (mailed Jan 18, 2012 – BRS)

For nearly four years the Board of Health (BOH) of the town of Dover has attempted to raise awareness of its residents to the significant health risk of Lyme disease (LD). While LD incidence has steadily increased over the last decade, the reliability of the data has been questioned. Although LD is a reportable disease, it is widely believed that the true incidence is underreported. The BOH would like to establish whether the incidence of Lyme disease in Boston's Metro-West is indeed markedly under-reported. Therefore, the BOH proposes to conduct an anonymous survey of both emergency and primary care physicians in our area regarding their Lyme disease reporting methods. The intern would assist in the design of the questionnaire, the execution of the survey and the compilation and analysis of the data. This study would be conducted with the aim of publishing the results in an appropriate scientific journal.

In an additional effort to raise LD awareness the BOH would like to conduct a study of the efficacy of permethrin-based tick tubes in reducing tick density on private properties. The tubes are currently suggested to be employed to treat lawn edges of residences in the hope of reducing personal exposure to ticks during routine outdoor activities on private property. The intern would participate in the final design of this study, the recruitment of study participants, tick data collection, and in the analysis of the data obtained, with an aim toward publishing in an appropriate scientific journal the study's findings and conclusions.

The intern would be expected to present his data in a public forum planned by the BOH to raise awareness of Lyme disease in Dover.

5. Final Review of informative letter to abutters – All

Due to the time limitation of this meeting and the non-urgency of this item, this discussion was postponed to the next meeting.

6. Invasive plants and their usefulness - All

Due to the time limitation of this meeting and the non-urgency of this item, this discussion was postponed to the next meeting.

7. Letter and adjacent town information to the Needham BOH – All

Due to the time limitation of this meeting and the non-urgency of this item, this discussion was postponed to the next meeting.

8. Planning of another town-wide Forum - All

All members agreed that a town-wide Forum on Tick-borne Diseases should be planned for the end-of-May or beginning-of-June: preferably, no formal speaker will present information, rather a series of stations with practical advice and information for specific action by Dover residents should be implemented. Lots of information can be obtained from the Newton, CT report which has been circulated widely.

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http://www.newtown-ct.gov/public_documents/NewtownCT_BComm/TBDACFR/TBDAC%20Final%20Rept%2010-17-11.pdf