

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

**Meeting Minutes  
June 14, 2012**

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

**Absent: Mike Francis, Bill Herd, Beth Webb, Jim Palmer, Meagan Burns**

1. **Review and Approval of the Minutes of May 31, 2012 meeting**  
Approved as submitted

2. **DPH Intern Program – Update**  
Meagan provided a summary of the two projects – Attachment # 1

**Project 1**

**Review of the draft letter and draft survey resulted in the revised final forms – Attachment # 2 .**

**In addition, it was decided to alert the CMOs and Chiefs of Infectious Diseases (of the targeted hospitals) about the survey – Attachment # 3**

**Project 2**

**The spreadsheet with the initial dragging results are provided in Attachment # 4.**

**Following a discussion it was decided to discontinue dragging at Charles River School because of the daily sprinkling of the fields. The question was raised about other spraying of the area. The following information was obtained: other than organic fertilizer, no additional spraying is done. Information concerning spraying of the DSHS soccer field is still outstanding.**

**Input about ticks found on Meagan to add to the dragging count was sought from Sam Telford: they are part of the tick count on that site.**

3. **Update on planning of the BOH-LDC website – Barbara, Matthew**

**It was decided that the LDC website should focus exclusively on Dover. Therefore, the Dover webmaster will be solicited to help design it and Lauren Kruskall will be informed of that decision. Barbara and Matthew will meet with Bill Clark on June 21 to discuss details.**

**4. Update on action items of May 31**

**DLCT – Steve reported that it is unlikely that DLCT will expand its land allowance for the DMP.**

**Noanet – Jim : the outcome of that inquiry will be presented at the next LDC meeting.**

**Assessor' data – Barbara : Karen McTavish will provide to Diane a listing (and possibly labels for mailing) of all residents with properties > 5 acres.**

**Landowner letter – Tim : Tim provided a first draft which will be revised for the June 21 meeting.**

**DMP signs – Diane : the BOH still has a significant number of 'Caution' signs which were found adequate (despite 2011 date) to continue to distribute. Paul will distribute them around Dover sites.**

**The yellow hunting signs of the 2011 hunting season will be removed by George.**

**Tick cards will be distributed again at the Post Office, Police, Dover Market, Library by Barbara and Matthew.**

**Attachment # 1:**

Summary 6/14/12:

1. Tick Density Project

6 sites with sun/shade pairs were selected and marked out to ~100 yds in length:

- 3 at the high school
- 1 at Caryl Park
- 1 at Charles River School
- 1 at the Powisset trails

Dragging for ticks could not be completed the week of June 4<sup>th</sup> due to weather (too wet). Dragging was instead started the week of June 11<sup>th</sup>. Drags were completed at

Caryl Park and Charles River School the morning of June 11<sup>th</sup>. Drags were completed at the high school sites and the Powisset trail on June 12<sup>th</sup>. Results are in an accompanying excel spreadsheet. Ticks were recovered at four of the six sites.

Upon actually dragging at Charles River School, I discovered that the sun site is adjacent to a small wetland area, and that the shade site is next to a sprinkler system in the field. I am considering dropping this site altogether because of the water proximity that we did not notice when selecting the site. Should we choose to eliminate it, I feel it would be a scientifically valid decision since it is influenced solely by outside factors, not the data collected.

Another question is whether I should include ticks that I find on my person as part of the final count. I would be interested to hear any opinions on either of the above questions.

## 2. Physician Survey

The survey has been designed, along with a cover letter, and e-mailed to Diane for printing. I have been in contact with the Medical Staff Offices of the three hospitals which we intend to draw physician addresses from- Newton Wellesley, BID Needham, and the Metrowest Medical Center. Addresses have been sent to me by BID and Metrowest, and I am accessing Newton Wellesley addresses from their web find-a-doc which lists all their associated physicians. I will hopefully be done compiling them tomorrow (6/14) and the addresses can be approved by Steve, and e-mailed to Diane for printing of labels on Monday. We will mail surveys on Thursday 6/21.

## **Attachment # 2**

### **SURVEY**

1. Please estimate the number of cases of actual Lyme disease (not exposure) you have treated in the past twelve months?

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2. What percentage of the above cases have you reported to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health?

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3. If there are cases of Lyme disease that you have not reported, please indicate which of the following has/have influenced that decision:

a. Lyme disease too common

b. Reporting process too cumbersome

c. Patient privacy concerns

d. Other

Specify (Optional)

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Please Return by July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012

**ACCOMPANYING LETTER:**

For the past ten years the town of Dover experienced an increasingly high incidence of Lyme disease. Four years ago the town's Board of Health formed a Lyme Disease Committee (LDC) to educate the citizens of Dover about the recognition and prevention of Lyme. You may have read about this Committee's extensive efforts in both local and national news media.

As part of an effort to better understand the extent to which Lyme disease impacts Dover and surrounding communities, the LDC is conducting a survey of area physicians who are on the front line in the treatment of Lyme disease. The LDC asks you to complete the enclosed short survey and return it to the Dover Board of Health. We have enclosed a stamped, addressed envelope to help you do so. Please rest assured that your responses to this survey will remain completely anonymous.

Thank you in advance for your contribution to our efforts to reduce the incidence of Lyme disease in our area.

Barbara Roth-Schechter Ph.D.  
Dover Board of Health  
Chair of Lyme Disease Committee

Meagan Burns B.S.  
Boston University School of Public Health M.P.H. candidate

Stephen Kruskall MD  
Member of the Lyme Disease Committee  
Past-President of the Medical Staff, Metro-West Medical Center

**Attachment # 3**

Dear Dr. ....

The Dover Board of Health is in the process of sending out a Lyme disease survey to individual physician members of your medical staff who might initially make the diagnosis of Lyme disease. This survey is part of the ongoing campaign against the high incidence of Lyme disease in Metro-West communities. Individual responses to our survey will remain entirely anonymous.

The Board of Health greatly appreciates your support of our effort and trusts that you will encourage your physicians to complete and return this survey. The survey is attached for your information.

Thank you in advance,  
Dover Board of Health  
Barbara Roth-Schechter, PhD

**Attachment # 4:**

Shade or Sun	Start Time	End Time	App. Temp (F)	Males	Females	Nymphs	Total	Additional No
Shade	9:30 AM	10:25 AM	No data*		6	1	16	23 No temp beca
Sun	10:30 AM	11:00 AM	No data*		0	0	0	0 No temp beca
Sun	11:20 AM	11:50 AM	No data*		0	0	0	0 No temp beca
Shade	11:50 AM	12:20 PM	No data*		0	0	0	0 No temp beca
Shade	7:45 AM	9:00 AM		64	1	1	19	21
Sun	9:10	9:45 AM		64	0	0	0	0
Sun	9:55	10:30 AM		64	0	0	0	0
shade	10:30 AM	11:10 AM		64	0	0	9	9
Sun	11:20 AM	11:45 AM		64	0	0	0	0
Shade	11:50 AM	12:20 PM		64	0	0	0	0
Sun	12:50 PM	1:20 PM		72	0	0	2	2
Shade	1:20 PM	1:50 PM		72	1 5*		0	1 3 collected F