

Lyme Disease Committee
of the
Board of Health
Dover, MA

Minutes
June 13, 2013
9:00 AM

Present: Barbara Roth-Schechter, Angela Wilson-Taylor, Matthew Schmid, Tim Holiner, George Giunta, Mary Hable, Diane Fielding

Absent: Jim Palmer, Mike Francis, Jay Walsh

Visitor: Savita Shukla (resident), Julie Wright (summer intern)

1. Review and Approval of the Minutes of May 30, 2013 Meeting

Minutes of the May 30, 2013 meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously.

2. DPH Summer Internship - All

Tick Study in Shady vs. Sunny Transects

- Julie is now three weeks into the study and is finding ticks in both sunny and shady transects. 30% more ticks were found in the shady transects during the first week of dragging, and 50% more ticks were found in the shady transects during the second week.
- It was noted that temperatures are significantly lower than last year. There is also mowing going on at some of the transects, though this is not significantly different from last year.
- Three people have questioned Julie while she has been dragging. Responses have been supportive.
- Julie's write up for the website was reviewed and accepted and will be posted on the website.
- Julie agreed that her schedule for the summer will go six weeks.

3. Deer Management – Jim, George

Applications are still being accepted for new hunters. Interviewing of hunter candidates will begin in July. There are about 15-20 hunters to interview to bring the list up to date. Jim and George will organize the interviewing process and then solicit committee members to attend. The current thought is to use the new hunters to supplement hunting activity at current active locations. (i.e. Hunters will share hunting spots.) Continued discussion regarding ways to improve deer management efficiency is planned.

4. Internal Communications/External Communications I Local - Mary

New Member Recruitment – The Committee confirmed its decision to let new member recruitment efforts rest until later this summer or early fall.

Dissemination of Dover Lyme Forum DVD – Mary reported that she had received a positive response from the library about keeping a copy of the Dover Lyme Forum DVD available for circulation. Tim agreed to burn additional copies of the DVD and will contact Mary when they are available. Mary will deliver to the library.

Other Information at the Dover Library – The library contacted Barbara for recommendations for books about Lyme disease to have on hand. Barbara recommended “Deer Land”.

Information at the Transfer Station – It was agreed that copies of the tick density study information should be on hand at the transfer station. Barbara will deliver the copies.

Summer Meeting Schedule – Dates for the next three meetings are July 18th, August 15th, and August 29th. Mary has reserved the lower conference room in the Town Hall for these meetings.

5. External Communications II Regional and Beyond - Barbara

- Barbara reported that she was contacted by Eric Olson (Brandeis University) about doing a multi-year study in Dover correlating tick density to deer density. Barbara invited Eric Olson to attend this meeting, but he did not respond. Matthew suggested that Eric Olson’s idea could be fine-tuned by baselining the tick density within a given deer corridor and then fencing it off (creating an enclosure). Tick density could then be measured over several years to determine the effect of the enclosure, thereby suggesting a correlation between tick density and deer density. The Committee was excited about this idea and agreed that Barbara should contact Eric Olson regarding his interest in working on such a study.
- Barbara circulated an article FYI to the Committee regarding Lone Star Tick bites and red meat allergy.

6. Website - Matthew

Matthew continues to work to update the content on the website. The Committee discussed ideas regarding content and community building. Creation of a deer reporting function was also discussed. Matthew will talk to Bill about what kinds of functionality might be available. The Committee agreed to spend another month reviewing the website and thinking about what it should become.

7. Database/Archive – Tim

The database/archive program is still in the starting phase.

8. Inter-Town Representation and Communication - All

Nothing new to report.

9. Adjournment – All

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15am.