

Lyme Disease Committee
of the
Board of Health
Dover, MA

Meeting Minutes
August 15, 2013
9:00 AM

Present: Barbara Roth-Schechter, Matthew Schmid, Tim Holiner, George Giunta, Jim Palmer, Mary Hable, Steve Kruskall, Angela Wilson-Taylor

Absent: Diane Fielding, Mike Francis, Jay Walsh

Visitors: Phillip Trotter

1. Review and Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes of the July 18, 2013 meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously.

2. DPH Summer Internship - All

- Summer intern, Julie Wright, finished her reports and submitted them and her data to the Committee. Ticks collected during the study were sent to Dr. Sam Telford for analysis. He won't be able to process them until this fall. Barbara and George attended the DPH final presentation. Diane needs to print out the summary paragraph so George can post it on the signs still erected at the drag sites.
- Barbara indicated to the DPH that the Dover LDC would be interested in hosting a summer intern again next year. The Committee unanimously approved the motion. An application is due by January and a project will have to be identified by then.

3. Deer Management – Jim, George

- Barbara submitted a written request to the Board of Selectmen asking that the 56 acres on Haven Street and 7 acres off Chickering Road be added to the town approved bow hunting program. The request was well-received but needs to be put to an official vote at their next meeting.
- Hunter interviews will start next week. Quite a few new applications have been received. The program is targeting 58 returning hunters and 10 new ones.
- The Committee interviewed a hunter who was available to meet during this meeting. At the conclusion of the interview all agreed that this new hunter would be a good addition to the program.
- The Committee discussed ideas for improving the efficiency of the deer management program. Points brought forward include:
 - Collect data, such as deer sightings, online. Matthew will talk to Bill about what functionality might be available for this type of activity.
 - Formally go on record with the State of Massachusetts as to the seriousness of the problem of tick-borne illness in Dover. To initiate this process the Committee would first present a case to the Dover Board of Health for declaring a state of emergency. Town residents would then petition the State to approve requests for specific changes in deer hunting laws. The

Committee agreed to wait to review the 2012 data, which will be published by the end of August, before committing further to this course of action.

4. Internal Communications/External Communications I Local - Mary

Meeting Schedule – The August 29th meeting will be cancelled since many members will not be able to attend. Meeting dates going forward include September 12th, September 26th, October 10th, October 24th, November 7th, November 21st, December 5th, December 19th, January 9th, and January 23rd. All meetings start at 9AM and will be held in the lower conference room of the Town House.

New Member Recruitment – Barbara and Mary interviewed new member candidate, Phillip Trotter. Phil attended this meeting. At the end of the meeting the Committee invited Phil to join as a member, and Phil agreed. The vote to formalize the offer was unanimously in favor. Barbara will present the recommendation to the Board of Health for approval at their next meeting. Another candidate, Kevin Doyle is interested in joining the Committee and can attend the next meeting.

5. External Communications II Regional and Beyond - Barbara

- Barbara circulated an article about a virus carried by ticks.
- Eric Olson did not attend this meeting, but the potential deer exclosure project was discussed:
 - Tim discussed the idea with the Dover ConCom at their last meeting and was advised that the exclosure could not be put over an existing trail. Nonetheless, there are still several large properties that would be suitable for the exclosure that do not have trails crossing through them.
 - Steve researched estimated costs for the exclosure and found them to be in the \$35k-\$40k range.
 - We need to review Rule 53.
 - Steps for going forward would include: Identify property and secure rights to erect an exclosure, find an academic sponsor (e.g. Eric Olson, Sam Telford), and raise funding.
 - An example of an 8' high deer fence can be viewed on Rockwood Street in Sherborn.

6. Website - Matthew

Matthew reported the following updates to the web site:

- The Powisset Farm deer hunting rules and regulations were removed.
- The new DPH intern report was added.
- Matthew is looking into changing the banner so it is more readable with handheld devices.

7. Database/Archive – Tim

Tim provided an outline for organizing data in a database. Committee members are to review and provide input. Members should also review any data and information they have in preparation for submitting it to the database. Tim will look into creating an account for storing the data.

8. Inter-Town Representation and Communication - All

No new news at this time.

9. Adjournment – All

The meeting was adjourned at 11am.