

Lyme Disease Committee
of the
Board of Health
Dover, MA

Minutes
May 16, 2013
9:00 AM

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

Absent: Jim Palmer, George Giunta, Mike Francis, Jay Walsh

1. Review and Approval of the Minutes of May 2, 2013 meeting

Minutes of the May 2, 2013 meeting were approved unanimously.

2. DPH Internship Summer 2013 Planning - All

Tick Study in Shady vs. Sunny Transects – Angela will serve as the primary contact for the summer intern, Julie, fielding for example weather calls on drag days. Jim, George, Barbara, and Angela will walk the sites prior to the first drag day and make final preparations in regards to tubes, containers, etc. that will be needed to conduct the study. An orientation session will be held with Julie on May 22nd from 10am to noon. The theoretical start date for dragging will be May 27th. Dragging should occur for a minimum of five weeks. Six weeks of data would be better. The MDPH internship orientation program will be held on May 30th. Information was provided by Barbara. Anyone who is interested/available is encouraged to attend.

Signs at the Drag Sites – The committee agreed that signs will be posted at the drag sites. Barbara brought a sample and the committee suggested the following: Orient the 8 ½” by 11” sign vertically; Increase the font size of the words “Tick Study Site”; Print the sign one-sided on lime-green (Lyme-green!!) paper with black wording; Post one sign per site for a total of 10 signs (5 sunny sites and 5 shady sites).

Trailhead Questionnaire – The committee agreed that another project for Julie will be to hand out tick information questionnaires to hikers at local trailheads in order to raise awareness. The questionnaire will be short, but informative with three of the most salient informational points (in the form of questions) on the front and “answers” on the back. The three “questions” will include information about personal protection, information about sunny versus shady tick density, and information/illustration from the tick card. The intern, Julie, will create this collateral with input and guidance from the LDC.

3. Internal Communications/External Communications I Local - Mary

Steve Kruskall informed Barbara that he will need to take a leave from the LDC for a while. It was decided that he should officially resign for now and then re-join once he is ready to return. With Steve and Paul gone a quorum for the LDC will now be achieved at four members. Angela also indicated that she may be moving away from Dover at some point and would

thereby need to resign, but noted that until those events unfolded she would stay and actively participate. Mary drafted a notice announcing that the LDC is seeking a new member and had it posted on the town web site on May 9th. So far no one has responded. Angela agreed to post the announcement on the Dover Mother's Association Big Tent Forum and look into potentially posting it with the Chickering PTO.

It was suggested that tick warning signs should be posted at the head of trails for the summer. Barbara brought a sample of one used previously. Tim agreed to work on improving the format of that sample for review at the next meeting.

4. External Communications II Regional and Beyond - Barbara

Barbara circulated a NY Times article and subsequent letters to and responses from the editor on predators, prey, and Lyme disease for review by the committee members.

5. Website - Matthew

Matthew has begun looking at the LDC website. He commented that in general the site was attractive, compelling, and in relatively good shape. Some of the items he will be focusing on initially include developing a better link from the doverma.org website and eventually interfacing with the LDC archive. He asked for guidance from the committee on prioritizing updates. It was suggested that the University of RI Tick Encounters site could provide good ideas. It was also suggested that the Alert button on the doverma.org site may be an ideal location for updates. It was also requested that Matthew look into improving the readability of the opening page as it is currently green on green and somewhat hard to read.

6. Database/Archive – Tim

Tim has just started looking into developing the LDC data archive.

7. Inter-Town Representation and Communication - All

Barbara noted that the date of the vote a proposal in Weston to prohibit hunting on town land was coming up. In fact, the proposal was voted down the previous evening.

8. Deer Management – Jim, George

There are no urgent issues at this time. Upcoming action items include reviewing available properties, going over the town regulations, interviewing hunters, readying the applications, and receiving new property forms.

9. Adjournment – All

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25am.