

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

**Meeting Minutes**  
**July 18, 2013**  
**9:00 AM**

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

**Absent:** Angela Wilson-Taylor, Diane Fielding, Mike Francis, Jay Walsh

**Visitors:** Julie Wright (summer intern), Eric Olson and Adam Krebs (Brandeis University)

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

Minutes of the June 13, 2013 meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously.

**2. DPH Summer Internship - All**

- Julie completed the data collection portion of her tick study in shady versus sunny transects. The collected ticks will be delivered to Sam Telford for carriage analysis and Julie will now work on analyzing her data and writing a report. She will email a draft of her abstract to Barbara. Her abstract is due to DPH on July 29. She will present her work on August 13.
- Findings of last year were confirmed: Shady areas had higher densities of ticks than sunny areas. Last year's data were found by Barbara and will be forwarded to Julie ASAP.
- The number of ticks collected this year was only about half of that collected last year. The numbers collected at Caryl Park and one of the high school sites in particular were very low compared to last year. Differences in collection time of day, temperature, and timing with mowing were cited as potential factors. Barbara will inquire about whether Caryl Park and the high school were sprayed this spring. (Post-meeting note: Neither site used any pesticide spraying during spring/early summer of 2013.
- Julie also reported that communications with people at the sites while collecting data were generally very positive and contributed to raising awareness. She felt the tick signs at the sites were also effective. The committee decided to keep the tick signs up for a while longer and add results information. Julie will provide the new information. George will affix the information to the signs.

**3. Deer Management – Jim, George**

- Jim and George plan to conduct hunter interviews in August. One additional committee member is needed for the interviews. Barbara, Tim, and Mary volunteered to help out.

- The committee needs to go to the town Selectmen to request access to a few additional pieces of town property for the bow hunting program. Barbara to write a request letter.

#### **4. Internal Communications/External Communications I Local - Mary**

*Meeting Schedule* – Dates for the next two meetings are August 15<sup>th</sup> and August 29<sup>th</sup>. Mary will propose additional meeting dates for the remainder of the calendar year.

*New Member Recruitment* – Barbara provided names of several potential new committee members. Barbara and Mary will meet with candidates for an initial screening if possible during the month of August.

*Dissemination of Dover Lyme Forum DVD* – Tim made two additional copies of the Dover Lyme Forum DVD and delivered them to the library.

#### **5. External Communications II Regional and Beyond - Barbara**

- Barbara introduced Professor Eric Olson and graduate student, Adam Krebs, to the committee. Eric Olson is a Senior Lecturer in the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University focusing on environmental studies. He is currently working on long-term tick density studies in Weston (six year timeframe) and would like to expand his work to Dover.
- While discussing potential projects during the meeting, the idea of building a large (15-20 acres) deer enclosure that could be used both for tick density and/or ecology studies and as a place for residents to enjoy a wooded area free from deer was suggested. It was noted that enclosures smaller than 5 acres are not effective for studying changes in tick density, though observations on forest comeback could be made. Increasing the enclosure size to 15-20 acres makes it attractive as a potential place for people to enter also.
- Based on this discussion the following next steps were agreed upon: Eric will research the costs for constructing a large enclosure. George and Tim will look into laying out the area on the conservation land of Wylde Woods. They will initiate a discussion with the Con Com at the next meeting. Eric noted that it would be best to have two years to collect baseline data before an enclosure was constructed. The committee noted that it will need a good plan for presenting the proposal to the town and fund-raising.

#### **6. Website - Matthew**

Matthew will remove the Powisset Farm deer hunting rules and regulations document from the website. He will add to the site the new information/report from this summer's DPH internship.

#### **7. Database/Archive – Tim**

Discussion of this activity was postponed until the next meeting.

#### **8. Inter-Town Representation and Communication - All**

- Barbara participated in a television discussion in Holliston with Sam Telford. A DVD is forthcoming.

- Barbara was contacted by the librarian in Lenox for information/advice regarding doing a LD reporting survey like we did with physicians in the area. Pittsfield is also interested in executing such a survey.
- Barbara received a study on the advancement/mobility of Lyme disease in Canada. Based on the included observations, Lyme disease was found to advance about thirty miles per year in the Richelieu valley of Eastern Canada.

**9. Adjournment – All**

The meeting was adjourned at 11am.