

**Westport, CT Deer Management Committee Meeting - Approved**  
**Wednesday June 20, 7:30PM Rm 102 Westport Town Hall**

Commenced: 7:35PM

Adjourned: 9:10 PM

In attendance:

Peter Knight

Michele Lamothe

Linda McCracken

Susan Pike

Ben Deipolyi

Alan Eugley

Absent:

Domenico Antonelli

Minutes:

1. 5.16.12 minutes were reviewed and approved.
2. Monica Wheeler of the Westport Weston Health District spoke to the committee regarding available resources for the committee and Westport Weston Health District Programs for tackling Lyme Disease.
  - Target Lyme, a Westport Weston Health Dept initiative developed a community program to educate the public on protecting themselves against Lyme Disease; the focus was mainly landscaping techniques and personal protection. Funding for the program is no longer available but the materials from the initiative are still available.
  - A discussion of how Lyme Disease is reported and how the reporting has changed over time. The CT Ag Station website contains the Lyme numbers that have been reported
  - BLAST – Ridgefield’s website is a plethora of information for residents on how to protect themselves from Lyme including personal protection, landscaping techniques and tick control methods.
  - She discussed several studies including an ongoing study by Yale in which a single organic spraying was used in resident yards. Results are not yet available, but the study is following actual Lyme Disease cases rather than number of ticks. Kirby Stafford is working on a cedar/garlic oil which has been shown to repel ticks and a fungus (*Metarhizium anisopliae*) has been used to kill ticks successfully and will be available commercially for property owners in 2014
  - She discussed personal protection measures including daily tick checks, showering immediately after coming in from outside and recognizing the bullseye as well as atypical Lyme rashes as the most important thing residents can do to protect themselves, and gave her opinion that deer reduction measures would be unlikely to be beneficial in Westport. (Only on islands)

- Literature from the Westport Weston Health District were distributed to members of the committee
3. Each Subcommittee gave a summary of their first set of meetings and chairperson/secretary elections:
- A: **Lyme Numbers:** The subcommittee will compile any statistics currently available on reported Lyme cases in Fairfield County as well as other tick borne diseases (if available). Whether Lyme disease is a reportable disease and how it is currently (and previously) reported will also be investigated. Linda is currently acting as chairperson/secretary until the full subcommittee is available to meet at which time an official chairperson, secretary will be chosen.
  - B: **Education:** The education committee developed 7 areas of study for the committee. The areas were assigned to specific subcommittee members for further study. The areas were as follows: 1. Lyme Disease and other tick-borne diseases in general and prevention methods (specifically personal protection), 2. Automobile accidents, 3. General deer information/husbandry, 4. Landscaping protection from deer, 5. Tick Control using non-toxic and organic products. 6. Effects of deer on forest understory, 7. Public education campaign. Linda: Chairperson/Secretary
  - C: **Deer Numbers:** An affordable (approximately \$6000) and extremely accurate method of infrared counting of deer was presented. Chairperson/Secretary: Ben Deipolyi
  - D: **Deer Population Control:** The subcommittee members came up with a list of several areas of study which were distributed amongst subcommittee members for further investigation: Impact of current hunting programs in other Fairfield County towns on deer populations and Lyme Disease, methods of trapping deer, Sterilization options, identification of open spaces in Westport where deer might congregate. Identifying ways of making Westport “inhospitable” to deer and deer fencing strategies were also discussed. Chairperson: Ben; Secretary will rotate through remaining members.
4. The next full committee meeting is scheduled for Wed, July 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM, room TBA

Michele Lamothe  
Secretary  
Revised 8/29/12