

Deer Management Sub-Committee B
Education Issues

Meeting Minutes

Meeting #3
August 8, 2012

1. Call to order

Chairperson, Linda McCracken called to order the third meeting of the Sub-Committee B (Education) at 7:35 PM on August 8 2012 in Town Hall Room 201.

2. Roll call

Secretary, Linda McCracken conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: Michele Lamothe, Linda McCracken, Susan Pike and Domenico Antonelli. None were absent

3. Approval of minutes from last meeting

The minutes from 7/5/12 were approved with one typo changed.

4. Old Business / Open issues

a. Prevention of Deer Vehicle Accidents - Dom

Reported further information on the following topics: deer whistles, Deer Repeller Pro (ultrasonic sound emitter for yard), deer crossing signs (many types and effectiveness, i.e., some have been shown to reduce driver speeds, others no effect), numbers of deer kills by vehicles (Ellen Linker's study shows higher numbers). Westport police are supposed to report kills on town roads to DEP, but apparently they don't always.

b. Prevention of Lyme Disease and other Tick borne illnesses – Michele
Reported information about anaplasma and babesia (both carried by deer ticks, anaplasma symptoms similar to Lyme, Babesia affects blood cells rather than tissues and is more lethal than Lyme. Dogs get Babesia from another tick (type of tick?) not deer ticks. Bartonella may not be a tick borne disease, could be carried by fleas. Reported further progress in focusing information about prevention of Lyme Disease. Basically prevention falls into two areas: Personal prevention, and landscape prevention. Each area has a few specific actions that can be focused on to achieve effective prevention strategies.

c. Education about Deer – Susan

Reported information about migration and range, deer behave differently according to locale, so can't apply information from other regions in U.S, to CT or Westport, lots of conflicting information.

d. Minimizing Deer Impact on Landscaping – Susan

Confirmed with nurseries in the area that the list of deer resistant plants Susan handed out on 7/5.

e. Deer Impact on Deforestation – Linda
Planning to analyze research paper from Yale School of Forestry that focuses on deer impact on vegetation specifically in Western CT.

f. Methods of Educating Public – Dom, Linda, Susan
Michele has an article containing a curriculum and she will e-mail to us.
Susan suggested talking to Geriatric physicians since people over 60 years old are at the highest risk for getting Lyme Disease. Sub committee discussed importance of establishing an ongoing advisory committee that will provide oversight to any established efforts for educating public about how to minimize the adverse impact of deer.

5. New business

- a. Sub committee members will begin to write reports on information have on each focus area
- b. The next Sub-Committee b meeting will be held on Thursday, September 13, 2012 at 7:30 PM.

6. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:51 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Linda McCracken

Minutes approved by: N/A (Draft)