

**Deer Management Sub-Committee B**  
**Education Issues**

**Meeting Minutes**

Meeting #4  
September 13, 2012

**1. Call to order**

Chairperson, Linda McCracken called to order the third meeting of the Sub-Committee B (Education) at 7:38 PM on September 13, 2012 in Westport Town Hall Room 201.

**2. Roll call**

Secretary, Linda McCracken conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: Michele Lamothe, Linda McCracken and Susan Pike. Domenico Antonelli was absent.

**3. Approval of minutes from last meeting**

The minutes from 8/8/12 were approved.

**4. Old Business / Open issues**

a. Prevention of Deer Vehicle Accidents – Linda for Dom  
Dom had e-mailed spreadsheets of DKI (Deer Kill Incident) data he received from his contact at the State. He said in the e-mail that he will be further analyzing the data.

b. Prevention of Lyme Disease and other Tick borne illnesses (including Tick Control – Michele  
Reported that she has started writing information on personal prevention in a report and that she has more than one page on the tick life cycle to condense. Her personal prevention report includes tick control. Reported speaking to Monica Wheeler (Health District Director) about older adults being at the highest risk by age group. Discussed with Monica possibility of so many retirees that work in garden so they have increased exposure. Also, older generations didn't grow up being exposed to any prevention education like younger age groups. Immune system immaturity or weakness in the very young and very old, respectively seems to be the main issue with higher incidence in these age groups. Reported that Kirby Stafford is having difficulty getting high enough numbers of ticks in tick drags to study effect of different tick sprays.

c. Tick control – Linda  
Reported that she hasn't come across many studies using animals (birds preying on ticks).

d. Minimizing Deer Impact on Landscaping – Susan  
Reported that besides using the lists of deer resistant plants she prepared, the other key to her written report is the "Get Your Backyard In the Zone" brochure. Committee discussed that there are two versions of

this and compared them-they are basically identical and decided this could be used as is. She said that she will use the list of tick spray products for use on landscaped areas.

e. Methods of Educating Public – Dom, Linda, Susan

Susan reported she has not found the conclusions of the Brigham Women's study on curriculum, so she e-mailed the author for this. Michele has info on this and will e-mail the committee members. Also Michele referred us to the website, [wbhpreventlyme.org](http://wbhpreventlyme.org) for more info. Linda suggested the committee have a brainstorming session to come up with some prevention slogans to use for signs and robo calls. Example: "When outside tending the flowers, remember to shower within the hour", and "Have no fear when you spray twice a year".

## 5. New business

- a. Discussed whether committee should invite Kirby Stafford to speak about current research with tick sprays.
- b. Michele has twinning studies she will give to Susan for her report on information about deer.
- c. Michele reported she spoke with Director of Greenwich Health District about recent very low numbers of Lyme incidence (less than 10). He said that he can't explain it, but it may be due to underreporting by physicians. He believes the recent incidence is much higher.
- d. Susan reported on a televised hearing she saw discussing Lyme and that there were a lot of testimonies around chronic Lyme. There has been a lot of misdiagnosis, in adequate treatment and some medical professionals question the existence of chronic Lyme. Sen. Blumenthal is very active in Lyme prevention and the idea was discussed of building some political leverage communicating with him about our committee efforts and progress.
- e. Sub committee members will continue to write reports on information have on each focus area. Linda will compile some information about studies on biological tick control.
- f. The next Sub-Committee b meeting will be held on Thursday, October 25, 2012 at 7:30 PM.

## 6. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Linda McCracken

Minutes approved by: N/A (Draft)