

Shelter Island Deer & Tick Committee

Meeting Minutes 10/14/09

Attendance:

Committee: Chairman Rae Lapidés, Janalyn Travis-Messer, Dr. William Zitek, Steve Lenox, Patricia Shillingburg, Dr. Scott Campbell, Mike Scheibel and Jennifer Zacha

Non-Committee: Chief James Read, Dan Gilrein, Susan Walker and Ted Hills

Meeting called to order by Chairman Lapidés at 10:06 am at the Town Hall Meeting Room.

- ❖ Chairman Lapidés requested an update from Dan Gilrein. Mr. Gilrein commented on the budget shortfall for 2009 and mentioned that increased corn consumption was a big factor. He said that funding from the DEC is forthcoming and the logistics are being worked out. He reported that the 4-posters are working well and that there has been less clogging of the units. He added that the 40 units outside of Mashomack are getting twice-weekly attention by the applicator (Premier). The 20 in Mashomack are being visited only once a week by Vector Control staff. He said that his assistant (Jen Stress) has also been visiting each device every week for cleaning, repairs, other maintenance and to verify that the units are being treated and filled.
- ❖ Chairman Lapidés commented on the budget shortfall of \$32,000 and added that the Deer & Tick Management Foundation gave the town \$10,000 as of October 1 and that Cornell will be receiving funds from the DEC, which will take care of the remaining \$22,000. She also reported that the DEC may have found volunteers to maintain the units next year so the town would only need to pay for the corn and tickicide.

- ❖ Ms. Travis-Messer asked if corn consumption has indeed dropped this time of year as anticipated. Mr. Gilrein replied that there has been a rather dramatic decline in corn consumption as of late and that this is most probably due to the abundance of acorns, which the deer generally prefer over corn. Ms. Travis-Messer asked if the \$22,000 remaining budget shortfall could, in fact, turn out to be less if there was a continued decline in corn consumption through December 15. Mr. Gilrein agreed that it could be less and stated that corn will no longer be added to the units as of mid-November and that the units would only be treated with tickicide through mid-December when the units are removed. Chairman Lapidés added that other funding sources are currently being investigated.

- ❖ Chairman Lapidés asked Susan Walker for an update on her work. Ms. Walker stated that there have been tissue samples obtained from three (3) known deer, five (5) unknown deer and one (1) from North Haven. These were obtained beginning October 1. She mentioned that the goal is to get samples from ten (10) Island deer and three (3) from North Haven. Clarification was needed on what constituted a “known” deer. Ms. Walker replied that a “known” deer is one that is known to have visited a 4-poster device. She mentioned that there were pre-season samples taken from three (3) known deer during the end of July. Lab results were completed on these samples and once the results are approved they will be released. She also added that there have been two collared deer killed in the past month and that two additional deer will not be collared since there is still an adequate sample size.

- ❖ Ms. Travis-Messer inquired if there are reports on deer behavior available for review. Ms. Walker responded that there are reports of this type available on the Cornell website and that they are planning to have a presentation on this topic sometime this winter. Mr. Gilrein suggested review of the April summary report on the town website. He also added that all reports will be posted on both the town and Cornell websites.

- ❖ Ms. Travis-Messer asked Mr. Gilrein if he had a chance to review the soil sample test results submitted by resident, Bill Smith. Mr. Gilrein replied that he had seen the results briefly but has not had

the opportunity to review them in detail. He added that he will look them over and offer his comments to DEC staff. Chairman Lapides commented that Vinny Palmer of the DEC also plans to review the results and that due to the way in which the soil samples were obtained and handled that the verifiability of the results may be limited.

- ❖ Chairman Lapides informed the group of upcoming meeting dates. She mentioned that Vinny Palmer would be attending the Town Board work session next Tuesday, October 20 at 1 pm, and that he will respond to Bill Smith's soil test results at that time. In addition, a group from Nantucket will be coming to the Island on November 4th to learn more about the 4-Poster program. She asked that committee members be available that day to meet with them and that the meeting times have not yet been scheduled.
- ❖ Mr. Scheibel asked Mr. Gilrein if there were any updates on Fire Island. Mr. Gilrein replied that things were relatively quiet there and that the residents seemed quite pleased with the results and were reporting seeing fewer ticks. Ms. Lapides added that she has been hearing similar reports from Shelter Island residents who are finding fewer ticks on their pets as well.
- ❖ Mr. Gilrein mentioned that he had received an inquiry from a possible project donor and that he should have more details sometime next month. This person does not live in the area, but is aware of the project and would like to support it financially.
- ❖ It was noted that the next Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 18 at 10 am.

Attached: Long Island Analytical Laboratories soil sample test results provided by Bill Smith.

Meeting adjourned by Chairman Lapides at 10:54 am.