

Shelter Island

Deer & Tick Committee

Meeting Minutes 05/12/10

Attendance:

Members Present: Chairman Rae Lapedes, Janalyn Travis-Messer, Abigail Field, Mike Scheibel, Dr. Scott Campbell, Dr. William Zitek, Pat Shillingburg, Steve Lenox and Jennifer Zacha

Members Excused: Dr. Vincent DiGregorio

Non-Committee Present: Dan Gilrein, Susan Walker, Nate Shampine, Supervisor Jim Dougherty and Ted Hills

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

- ❖ Chairman Lapedes started the meeting by asking Mr. Gilrein for an update from Cornell. Mr. Gilrein stated that Andy Szulinski from C.R. Daniels had come out for a visit with him on May 4th. Mr. Szulinski was only in the area for one day and wanted to see the 4-Posters deployed on both Shelter Island and Fire Island, so it was a whirlwind visit. He went into the different communities where 4-Posters are being used on Fire Island as well as the State Park there. He also met with Susan Walker and Jennifer Stress and discussed the various design issues that have been encountered with the units. According to Mr. Gilrein, Mr. Szulinski was pleased with the overall condition of our units after two years of use in the field. Mr. Gilrein also spoke with him about improvements which could be made to the 4-Poster's user guide/instructions. He went on to say that the SI units are functioning well and that corn quality is good. He briefly discussed funding by adding that Shelter Island Town is still in need of approximately \$37,000 and Cornell needs around \$80,000. Ms.

Travis-Messer reported that the Foundation is closer to reaching the \$8,000 needed to secure an \$80,000 private grant, which was discussed at last month's meeting.

- ❖ Chairman Lapides informed the group that the Foundation has been receiving donations from residents both online and through the mail. She believes this is in response to the recent article in the Reporter, which discussed the project's funding needs. She added that the group needs to think about the Committee's continued efforts down the road.
- ❖ Ms. Travis-Messer asked Mr. Gilrein if any Lone Star ticks have been seen yet this season, as she has not seen any. Chairman Lapides mentioned that she has seen a few. Mr. Gilrein commented that he had seen several dozen dog ticks in one given area and asked Dr. Campbell if this was normal in his experience. Dr. Campbell replied that they are coming out now and are usually found in grassy areas, such as the location where Mr. Gilrein encountered them.
- ❖ Ms. Field asked whether ticks nest or if they are generally more spread out. Dr. Campbell answered by saying that ticks are usually more concentrated in areas where females drop their eggs, such as deer bedding.
- ❖ Chairman Lapides then broached the subject of her resignation and the fact that this would be her last meeting. She discussed a bit of the history of the Committee and other members contributed their memories as well. Chairman Lapides then focused the group on two important issues at hand. The first issue was the need to pick a new Chairman and the second to discuss the direction for the future of the Committee. She added that heading forward, the Committee will need to keep an eye on emerging technologies, etc., as well as continuing to educate the public on tick-related issues. Dr. Campbell commented that the Chairman needs to be available to field questions and deal with issues as they come up. When asked, most members stated they would be unable to take on the job of Committee Chairman due to other time constraints. Ms. Shillingburg stated that she would be able to take on the responsibility of Chairman. Chairman Lapides asked if Ms. Field

would be able to Co-Chair with Ms. Shillingburg. Ms. Field asked about the duties of the Chairman and was hesitant to commit to the position until she knew what her responsibilities would entail. Mr. Scheibel suggested that Ms. Shillingburg be appointed Chairman for a certain time period, such as six months, and then re-evaluate to see if a Co-Chair would be necessary. Ms. Field stated that she would be much more comfortable taking on the role of Co-Chair after she had more time on the Committee and was better aware of what her duties would be. Dr. Campbell added that whoever decides to take on the role of Chairman will certainly not be alone as all members will be available to help out. Mr. Scheibel made a motion to appoint Ms. Shillingburg as the new Chairman. Dr. Zitek seconded the motion and all were in favor.

- ❖ Dan Gilrein then presented to Supervisor Dougherty a detailed poster which had been created from a presentation they had done. (Dr. Zitek had brought the poster to the meeting.) Chairman Lapidés asked if the Town could display this informative poster in Town Hall. Supervisory Dougherty thanked Mr. Gilrein and his staff and agreed to display the poster.
- ❖ Chairman Lapidés then asked the group if there was any old or new business which needed to be discussed. Ms. Travis-Messer asked if any of the group members knew of any landowners who may be willing to donate to the Foundation. No names were forthcoming. Dr. Campbell asked if the Foundation does any sort of mailing to solicit donations. Ms. Travis-Messer responded that she is currently working with the Group for the East End on how best to get the word out to potential donors.
- ❖ The next Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 16 at 10 am, in the Town Hall meeting room.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 am.