

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING FOR THE NEWTOWN DISTRICT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, MONDAY, AUGUST 27, 2012 AT 1:00 P.M., NEWTOWN HEALTH DISTRICT, 3 PRIMROSE STREET, CONFERENCE AREA, NEWTOWN, CT 06470

PRESENT: Donna M. Culbert - Director of Health, Dr. Robert Grossman, Chairman; Board Members: Joan Crick, Audrey Grasso, Ann Marie Lindblom, Bernie Meehan, Medical Advisor - Dr. Thomas Draper

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Mr. and Mrs. Moran, John Voket – The Newtown Bee

Tickborne Disease Prevention / Deer Management

Dr. Grossman opened up the BOH meeting and introduced Mr. and Mrs. Moran to the BOH members. Dr. Grossman explained that Mr. and Mrs. Moran were present to discuss the actions of the Tick Borne Disease Committee. Dr. Grossman explained that this item was listed later on the agenda, but recommended moving it to accommodate the Morans.

Dr. Grossman asked Mr. Moran to express his concerns to the Board. Mr. Moran asked Dr. Grossman what actions were being considered as a result of the Tick Borne Disease Committee. Dr. Grossman replied that Michelle McLeod and he as co-chairmen of the TBDC sent a letter to the Newtown Bee two weeks ago and outlined in that letter the recommendations and actions presently being taken concerning tick-borne diseases. Dr. Grossman shared with the BOH members an e-mail from First Selectman, Pat Llodra, to Donna Culbert and Judy Blanchard, the health coordinator at the high school. Dr. Grossman asked Ms. Culbert to comment.

Ms. Culbert explained that Ms. Llodra specifically wanted to address the education piece proposed by the TBDC. Ms. Culbert and Ms. Blanchard were asked by Ms. Llodra to head up a committee to further the education of tick-borne disease. Ms. Culbert and Ms. Blanchard examined the committee report and identified two specific areas that they wanted to collaborate on. Ms. Culbert and Ms. Blanchard will be working on the campaign material and the continued effort of improving the information that is made available to the public and the media. Ms. Culbert explained that a local scientist at Western Connecticut State University (WSCU), as well as others, will be assisting both her and Ms. Blanchard in this effort.

Ms. Culbert brought the discussion back to the Moran's and explained to the BOH members that Mr. Moran has visited the NHD in the past and inquired as to what the Board's position was on deer reduction with regard to the tickborne disease issue. Mr. Moran asked if the Board could take a position on it and as a result, Mr. Moran was invited to present his opinion to the BOH members here today.

Dr. Grossman stated that he did hear from a number of people at the TBDC meetings about deer reduction. Dr. Grossman explained that the findings of the TBDC could not identify a good method of deer reduction that would make a significant reduction on tickborne disease. Dr. Grossman further explained that for the town to hire professional sharpshooters to help reduce the deer population, the potential cost is estimated at \$500,000.00. Dr. Grossman also noted that in order for this to be effective, it would have to be done on a yearly basis.

Dr. Grossman offered that the consideration of bow and arrow hunting also was not a viable solution. Dr. Grossman explained that copies of studies where this had been carried out did not have a significant impact on the level of tickborne disease in the communities where it was applied. Dr. Grossman noted that the only area where controlled deer culling made a difference was in areas that were isolated and the deer population was reduced to zero with no chance of repopulation.

Mr. Moran informed the BOH members that the DEEP and the Town of Redding are looking at deer hunting solutions in that community. Mr. Moran identified the problems associated with the overpopulation of deer in Newtown, citing tickborne disease as well as auto accidents. It was Mr. Moran's opinion that there has been no definitive action recommended at this point concerning the overpopulation of deer in Newtown.

Ms. Culbert explained that the BLAST message promoted by the NHD helps to convey the message about the conveyance of tickborne diseases, the lifecycle of ticks and its host the deer. Ms. Culbert noted that the NHD advises residents not feed deer - trying to educate them that that deer are part of the equation. Ms. Culbert added that the public health message advises and suggests protective measures.

Dr. Grossman asked Dr. Draper if he had any comments. Dr. Draper replied that he and Ms. Culbert had covered much of what needed to be explained and he asked Mr. Moran for his input.

Mr. Moran addressed his concerns about the Town's lack of a position on deer reduction. It was Mr. Moran's position that deer hunting should be considered and added that he thought this was a rational solution to consider. Mr. Moran stated that he had looked at the TBDC report and noted that in a number of places in the report, deer reduction was suggested and considered helpful. Mr. Moran offered that he thought part of the opposition to deer hunting was the result of a vocal group of residents opposed to it.

Dr. Grossman disagreed. Dr. Grossman stated that the TBDC's report on deer hunting was from information obtained from various studies that have shown that deer hunting does not make a significant difference in the reduction of tickborne disease. Dr. Grossman explained that when he first convened the TBDC, he was in favor of deer hunting but has since changed his mind. Dr. Grossman noted that there is a lot of open space in town that has hunting restrictions on it and that what is left to hunt on would make little difference.

Mr. Moran shared the following information with BOH members. Mr. Moran explained that it is the nature of deer to have a home range. If the population is reduced in that that home range, it takes a while for the others to migrate to that range and consequentially it is helpful. Mr. Moran shared his experience with his own neighbors, polling them and getting their opinions and support for deer hunting. Mr. Moran explained to his neighbors that the hunters would be employed with the understanding of reducing the density of deer in the area and not killing just one to feed their family; they would hunt until there were not more deer that came to their stand.

Mr. Moran informed the BOH members that the DEEP, CT DPH and the CDC all agree that deer hunting is helpful. Mr. Moran explained that he finds it troubling that the Town has not taken a position. Mr. Moran cited the traffic accidents every year as a result of the deer population. Mr. Moran agreed that educating residents is helpful, but was of the opinion that the media has been saturated. Mr. Moran reiterated his concern that the town take a position.

Mr. Moran stated that the hunting would be easy and that once the deer population was reduced to 30 per square mile, the town might be able to afford sharpshooters. Mr. Moran added that he thought this was a feasible direction for the town.

Mr. Moran made the suggestion that the BOH take a position and be heard. Dr. Grossman asked if Mr. Moran had corresponded with the First Selectman. Mr. Moran replied that he had visited Ms. Llodra. Mr. Moran stated that his proposal was not positively received. Mr. Moran explained that when he polled his neighborhood concerning deer hunting, his neighbors thanked him for making the effort, even though they were not in a position to have deer hunting on their property for various reasons. Mr. Moran noted that this was frustrating and was looking for the BOH support.

Dr. Grossman explained that it is going to be difficult to do so. Dr. Grossman asked if any of the Board members had an opinion. Mr. Meehan agreed with Dr. Grossman that hunting in isolated areas has proven helpful, but in more densely populated areas, such as the Borough of Newtown, there would not be much deer hunting because of the many safety issues that would be involved. Mr. Meehan asked Mr. Moran what his solution for those areas would be.

Mr. Moran replied that deer do not migrate in highly populated areas. Mr. Meehan agreed with some of the points Mr. Moran had made but added that in today's political day and age, it is not as easy as one would suspect. Mr. Meehan agreed that eradicating deer in certain areas would be helpful, but they would be pushed into other areas. Mr. Moran explained that there are no restrictions on bow hunting and property size.

Mr. Moran noted that the Newtown Land Trust and Newtown Forest Association have deed restrictions on some of their property, but if the town of Newtown had a deer reduction program, they would take into consideration a deer reduction program on non-deed restricted property. Mr. Moran added that the state forest is huntable, but there are issues with limitation and taking a deer and how it gets reported

Mr. Meehan asked if there was documentation from the TBDC concerning deer hunting. Dr. Grossman replied yes. Dr. Grossman stated that Mr. DiNicola, a sharpshooter, attend TBDC meetings and presented his findings. Dr. Grossman noted that it was Mr. DiNicola's opinion that the Town would be wasting its time and resources unless there was a concentrated program with a number of hunters shooting full-time to eradicate a significant number of deer. Mr. DiNicola added that it would also be costly. Dr. Grossman restated his opinion that shooting a few deer would not make a significant difference in the amount of tickborne disease. Dr. Grossman added that it was unfortunate that there were not enough natural predators, such as coyotes.

Dr. Draper agreed that the presence of the deer and the deer population is a basic factor of tick borne diseases. Dr. Draper noted that they did not exist before the deer population exploded. It was Dr. Draper's opinion that it takes the whole community to decide if they want to support and invest in deer culling. Dr. Draper noted that the community decision not only includes the dollar cost, but its beliefs and philosophies about killing animals.

Dr. Draper considers deer hunting a political decision, where it would have to be voted on by the residents. Dr. Draper stated that in terms of the BOH, Mr. Moran was correct that eliminating the deer would reduce the number of tickborne diseases, but finding a way to do it, or the time, or the public will to do it, is beyond the capacity of the BOH to achieve.

Mr. Moran asked if the BOH would state that deer reduction would be helpful. Dr. Grossman noted that the TBDC findings considering deer reduction was a close vote. Dr. Grossman explained that the TBDC is made up of people from the community and there was a significant number of members who voted no to deer reduction.

Mr. Moran stated that he saw this as a political problem and that political problems don't get solved in one fell swoop. Mr. Moran suggested that deer reduction be one of the first steps to consider when dealing with tickborne disease. Dr. Grossman restated that he did not think it would be effective. It was Dr. Grossman's opinion that this could become a political issue that could have the potential to affect other improvements being considered.

Ms. Culbert added that Ms. Llodra explained to her that there is some effort that is going on with the DEEP and that this discussion is not over.

Mr. Moran cited the Town of Ridgefield's position on deer hunting. Mr. Moran noted that it was thought that that community was also divided on the issue, but when put to a vote, they moved forward with a deer hunting program in place.

Mr. Moran looked into having Newtown vote on this issue but discovered that it could not be brought to a referendum. Mr. Moran explained that the last charter revision eliminated referendums on things like this. Ms. Culbert suggested that if it were presented as a proposed expenditure of funds it may be one way to present it at a referendum. Mr. Moran noted that if it goes before the Legislative Council and is defeated, there is a two-week timeframe available to get all of the signatures that you need to get it to a referendum. Mr. Moran thought this was a daunting task for one person.

Dr. Grossman thanked Mr. Moran for his time and presentation.

Ms. Crick asked what the other options were to reducing the incidence of tickborne diseases. The BOH members made the suggestions of education, vaccines and adjusting to your environment.

Ms. Lindblom explained that Bridgewater has a deer culling program through the DEEP and Land Trust in Sunny Valley, Bridgewater. It was Mr. Meehan's opinion that deer culling programs were more palatable in smaller communities.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

Update on District Activities

Minutes - BOH Meeting – March 13, 2012

Ms. Culbert stated that there was a correction on page 3 under Audit. The audit was completed by Nanavaty, Nanavaty and Davenport. Dr. Grossman made a motion to approve the BOH meeting minutes from March 13, 2012. Seconded by Joan Crick. Motion approved.

Batchelder Property

Ms. Culbert informed the BOH members that it appears that the town could be seeing an EPA cleanup of the Batchelder property. Ms. Culbert stated that the final word will come at the end of this week or the beginning of September. Ms. Culbert noted that the cleanup work will take care of the leftover materials on the surface – mostly metal. Ms. Culbert stated that Newtown may be in a good position to receive additional grant monies for cleanup at that site. Ms. Grasso asked who owned the site. Ms. Culbert stated that it was a property in transition and that the town wants to be careful about having ownership of that property because of the liability. Dr. Draper noted that it was transferred to an entity for the cleanup and will go back to the Town's ownership afterwards.

Ms. Culbert explained that there was a breach in the fence and the property is an attractive nuisance to kids on bikes and ATV's. Ms. Culbert stated that the water samples collected and tested surrounding the site have been fine, but when people access it and disturb the property, that is when there are risks. Ms. Grasso asked how deep the cleanup process would have to go. Ms. Culbert stated that most of the contamination was metal and metals tend to bind with soil and not move much through the ground.

Emergency Preparedness

Ms. Culbert explained that there was a statewide Emergency Preparedness exercise at the end of July and the beginning of August. Virtually all of the towns in CT participated.

Lyme in Rhyme

Ms. Culbert stated that she had worked with a student at Newtown High School preparing a poster based on the Lyme in Rhyme book for production and use as an educational tool.

Litchfield County – Community Transformation Grant

Ms. Culbert informed the BOH members that the Newtown Health District will be included in the Litchfield County Community Transformation Grant which includes the towns of Roxbury and Bridgewater and our respective share is valued at \$4,000.

Ms. Culbert explained that the Torrington Area Health District is the lead agency for this grant work. Ms. Culbert stated that this grant money is to be used as a Health Needs Assessment. Ms. Culbert stated that Roxbury did a community conversation for their elder population back in May. Ms. Culbert added that several agencies that serve the senior population were in attendance and that it was a good information sharing session.

QFO Course

Ms. Culbert shared with the BOH members that the NHD sponsored a Qualified Food Operator course for the food service volunteers at the Bridgewater Fair. Ms. Culbert noted that the cost for this course was shared by both the NHD and Bridgewater Fire Department. Ms. Culbert stated that 13 of the 15 people who attended were Bridgewater Fair volunteers.

New Milford VNA Flex Appeal

Ms. Culbert explained that a conditioning exercise program run by the New Milford VNA for seniors at the Bridgewater and Roxbury Senior Centers will be starting in September 2012.

Flu Clinics

Ms. Culbert stated that planning is underway for many opportunities for residents to receive flu shots through the NHD and the Bethel VNA and Danbury VNA. New Milford VNA will be scheduling clinics in Bridgewater and Roxbury. It was noted by BOH members that flu shots have become available at many venues in the community. Ms. Culbert advised them that drug stores do not vaccinate children and noted that the VNA's and the schools will be scheduling clinics to accommodate this population.

Tickborne disease Prevention

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

Fee Schedule Revision

Ms. Culbert explained that NHD fees have not been revised since 2005. Ms. Culbert stated that the proposed increases are not that drastic. Ms. Culbert noted that the building permit applications have been identified further along with their fees. Ms. Culbert explained that this is based on the effort required and the kind of information we are reviewing and helps the District keep track of what it is we are reviewing. Dr. Grossman asked what the Town charges for a building permit. Ms. Culbert replied that the Building department charges are based on the value of the work and square footage. Dr. Grossman asked if NHD fees are in addition to that. Ms. Culbert replied yes.

It is Ms. Culbert's goal that by 2013, the District will have some new regulations for the inspection of hair and nail salons and barbershops. Ms. Culbert explained that there is no standards for the inspections and that barbershops, hairdressers and cosmeticians are licensed by the State of CT Department of Public Health.

Audrey Grasso made a motion to accept the new fee schedule. Seconded by Joan Crick. Motion approved.

Executive Session

Ms. Crick made a motion to go into Executive Session.

The Board moved into Executive Session. John Voket from the Bee was excused.

Ms. Lindblom made a motion to exit Executive Session. Seconded by Dr. Grossman. Motion approved.

Dr. Grossman made a motion to increase the Director of Health's salary 2.3% per year for four (4) years (retroactive to 2009) forgoing any retroactive pay, due to budgetary constraints.

Ann Marie Lindblom seconded. Motion approved.

Ms. Lindblom left the meeting at this time.

Any Other Business

Dr. Grossman asked the BOH members if there was any further business. Having none, Bernie Meehan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Grossman seconded. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:

Maureen C. Schaedler
Administrative Assistant

Tick Borne disease - education

Mon 6/25/2012 1:53 PM

From: Llodra, Pat

To: Culbert, Donna, blanchardj@newtown.k12.ct.us

Cc: Rodgers, Will, Gaston, Jim

Good afternoon Donna and Judy.

The Board of Selectmen has committed to a two-phase action plan as a follow-up to the work of the Tick Borne Disease Action Committee. The first step is to engage with DEEP in developing a protocol for deer management. That does NOT mean that we are committing to a deer cull. That discussion has never occurred and there is much, much more process that would have to take place before such an action would even be entertained. Our 'partnership' with DEEP is pursued essentially because DEEP will conduct a specific assessment of deer population in Newtown, and because the agency will conduct a knowledge and attitudinal survey of our residents. We see this DEEP effort as providing us with useful information and, further, raising the consciousness of the community via the survey.

The second, and potentially more powerful thrust, is focused on education. To that end, we are asking that you serve as co-chairs of a task force to assess the current education and information program; determine gaps in content, audience, delivery method, and the like. Further, that you prepare a set of recommendations for the Board of Selectmen to consider as we seek to enhance and energize our education and public information program. In its ideal condition, we would be seeking a campaign of public and school-based information that successfully persuades the audience to consistently take appropriate and effective action in self-defense against tick borne disease.

I have some suggestions for others to serve with you on this Task Force, and I am sure you have ideas as well. Please get together and then meet with me for further discussion. Also, the BoS would like you to come to our September 4, 2012 meeting to hear your ideas about how to go forward and the time table you determine necessary to complete the task. Once we agree on the project plan we can then appoint the additional members of your committee.

As always, we thank you sincerely for your good work and for your commitment to helping Newtown address this public health challenge.

E. Patricia Llodra
First Selectman
Town of Newtown
3 Primrose Street
Newtown, CT 06470

(203) 270-4201 - Office
(203) 270-4205 - FAX

**Newtown District Department of Health
Fee Schedule
September 1, 2012**

SOIL TESTING (per lot) for the purpose of determining the primary septic, reserve area and/or code complying area for one dwelling/building

Subdivision (per lot)	\$ 200.00
Single New Lot	\$ 100.00
Any Return to New Lot (except as NDDH permit condition of approval)	\$ 100.00

Septic Repair	\$ 50.00
Code Complying Area	\$ 50.00

PRELIMINARY PLAN REVIEW

For subdivision, per lot	\$ 50.00
per 1,000 S.F. commercial space	\$ 50.00

LOT LINE REVISION/FIRST CUT

No septic system	\$ 25.00
With Septic system	\$ 50.00

SEPTIC PLAN REVIEWS – Approved Plans are NOT Permits-to-Construct

New Septic Plan Review	\$250.00
New Septic Plan Review REVISION (revision of previously approved plan)	\$ 50.00

Septic REPAIR Plan Review	\$ 50.00 licensed installer's approved plan is not transferable to another installer
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PERMIT to CONSTRUCT SEPTIC SYSTEM

NEW SEPTIC SYSTEM issued to licensed septic installer	\$150.00
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REPAIR SEPTIC SYSTEM issued to l.s.i. or owner/installer	\$ 50.00
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**Newtown District Department of Health
Fee Schedule
September 1, 2012**

FOOD SERVICE

Food Service Establishment License/License Renewal

- Class I	\$ 25.00
- Class II	\$ 50.00
- Class III	\$100.00
- Class IV	\$150.00

License Renewal Late Fee \$ 50.00

Temporary Food Event \$ 25.00

Food Service Plan Review

Remodel	\$ 50.00
Remodel with Expansion	\$100.00

Food Service Plan Review

New Food Service Establishment

- Class I	\$ 50.00
- Class II	\$100.00
- Class III	\$150.00
- Class IV	\$200.00