

Informal Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2018

Meeting Location:

Public Safety Facility at 4 Fairgrounds Road, Nantucket
PSF Training Room (2nd floor conference room)

Meeting Attendance:

Mice Against Ticks team in attendance:

Kevin Esvelt and Joanna Buchthal

Nantucket Steering Committee members in attendance:

Dr. Howard Dickler, Emily Goldstein Murphy, Dr. Malcolm MacNab and Danica Connors

Members of the public in attendance:

Ana Martinez, Emily Molden, Amy Jenness, Michael Specter and Anika Ullah

Virtual Attendees:

Sam Telford and Jeantine Lunshof

Meeting Notes:

Meeting overview:

Kevin Esvelt opened this meeting and welcomed the attendees. Joanna Buchthal then delivered a detailed project update. The group discussed how to better structure the Steering Committee and important items to be decided at the first formal Steering Committee meeting, when officers will be nominated. The remaining time was used to discuss how to improve Mice Against Ticks community engagement efforts and increase attendance at Mice Against Ticks events.

Notes from discussion about Steering Committee structure and planning:

Malcolm — He said that he would help organize the first official Steering Committee meeting where officers will be formally nominated. In preparation, Howard and Malcolm will discuss the committee structure and how the chairman and vice chairman positions might be divided up. He also mentioned that “working group” may be a more appropriate name than Steering Committee, and that he’d look into what the meetings should be called.

Malcolm — He explained that the Select Board would like Kevin to present. Malcolm also mentioned that he would talk to the Select Board about sending a representative to join the Steering Committee.

Public engagement suggestions from attendees:

Emily G — An island Facebook page could be useful for event advertisement if posted by the right person.

Howard — A regular letter to the editor with a short synopsis could be useful for keeping the public engaged and informed. Also, the main ways to get the word out on the island include the 2 radio stations, flyers, the newspaper, the library and Facebook.

Emily M — After years of low attendance at her own meetings, Emily offered refreshments, had a raw bar and served alcohol. She also involved local town officials who gave short

presentations. These changes transformed her event from an info session into a popular social gathering with high attendance.

Malcolm — Suggested two popular venues from public gatherings: the Nantucket Hotel & the Great Harbor Yacht Club. He suggested that we include a guest speaker to shake things up and interest more people in the event. But also cautioned that the message could be diluted if there are too many topics.

Danica — Recommended that we involve a local band, like the Foggy Roots

Malcolm — Suggested that Kevin present the project to the Nantucket high school

Emily G — Recommended that the MAT team connect with the STEM person at the high school

Howard — Recommended that Kevin be interviewed by Scott Widmeyer on his Cross Currents radio broadcast on Nantucket NPR before our next community event.