COMMISSION TO STUDY TESTING OF LYME AND OTHER TICK-BORNE DISEASES
MINUTES FOR MEETING OF 12/9/20

Rep. Marsh opened the meeting with the required 91-A script.

Rep. Marsh announced that Speaker Hinch yesterday appointed him to replace Rep. Woods as chair. He expressed his thanks to his friend Rep. Woods.
Rep. Marsh announced that Rep. Pearson had also been appointed to replace Rep. Ticehurst

A roll call was taken with the following being present: Rep. Marsh, Apara Dave, M.D., Ben Chan, M.D., Carl Tuttle, Kathie Fife, Michelle Wagner, Frank Hubbell, M.D., Lynn Durand, M.D, Tricia Aiston
Absent: Rep. Pearson, Sen. Bradley
Also Present: Rex Carr, M.D. (alternate for Lynn Durand, M.D.)

Rep. Marsh announced that Jeff Parsonnet MD had resigned from the Commission
Rep. Marsh announced that since he received his appointment the prior afternoon, he was following Rep. Wood's agenda for this meeting.

Minutes of the October meeting were approved by unanimous roll call vote with several members abstaining as they were absent.

Rep. Marsh requested a volunteer to become Clerk. There being none, he made clear he would produce minutes, but they would be terse and possibly inadequate.

The charge to the Commission was reviewed. The focus is on testing and education with a final report due in November.

The incidence of tick borne diseases in NH was discussed. DHHS has estimates and Dr. Chan will provide these for the next meeting. Dr. Chan and Dr. Carr both proposed presenters on this topic, but no consensus was reached as to how to proceed.

A discussion of currently available tests and testing protocols ensued.
Consensus was that Lyme is primarily a clinical diagnosis, and that the next meeting should lead off with a presentation by Dr. Sam Donta. Mr. Tuttle and Dr. Carr agreed to set this up.

Following that the commission will review testing protocols. The following assignments were made to get the relevant protocols and recommendations to Christina Dyer prior to the next meeting:

CDC – Dr. Dave
DHHS – Dr. Chan, who conveyed that DHHS has no specific recommendations.
ILADS – Dr. Durand
IDSA – Dr. Chan
Tick Borne Disease Working Group – Kathie Fife

Discussion ensued about educational programs to disseminate the Commissions findings. The following were assigned to collect information to be ready when the commission moves on to that topic.

DHHS – Dr. Chan will identify the persons responsible
NH Medical Society – Dr. Dave
NH Hospital Assn – Rep. Marsh will inquire.
NAMI – Michelle Wagner

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NH Nurse Practitioners Assn – Tricia Aiston
NH Osteopathic Assn – Dr. Hubble
NH Naturopathic Assn – Kathy Fife

Discussion ensued about the process forward. Presentations will be scheduled as relevant to the discussion. Technical issues likely preclude subcommittees at this time. Material will be posted to the website as they are used in discussion. Members were asked to comply with 91-A by avoiding direct communications with all Commission members.

Mr. Tuttle then gave a brief overview of his concern about failure to diagnose tick borne disease having devastating consequences. No one disagreed.

The Commission asked for public comment but there was none.

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday Jan 11 at 9am.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous roll call vote at approximately 10:42 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. William Marsh, Chair

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