

COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

Town of Bethlehem Deer and Tick Borne Disease Committee

December 2014

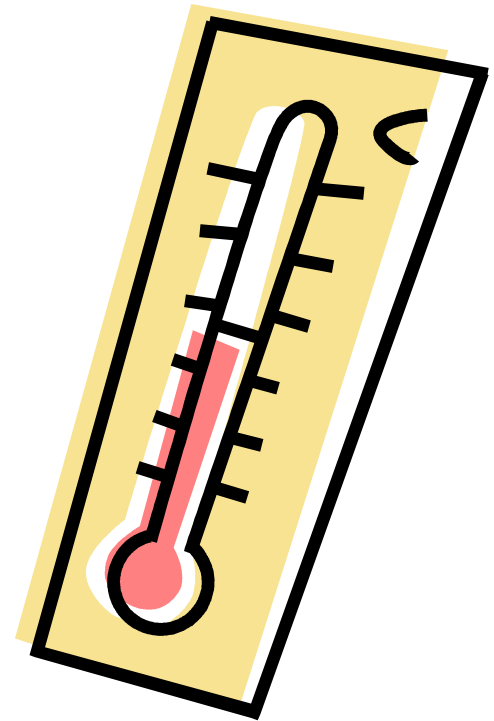
What we are going to look at

- Why run a survey?
- Survey methodology
- Survey results
- Takeaways for committee to consider

WHY?

Goal of survey- take the community's temperature

- Assess community experience deer and tick populations
 - To further inform committee members as we develop recommendations to present to the Town Board

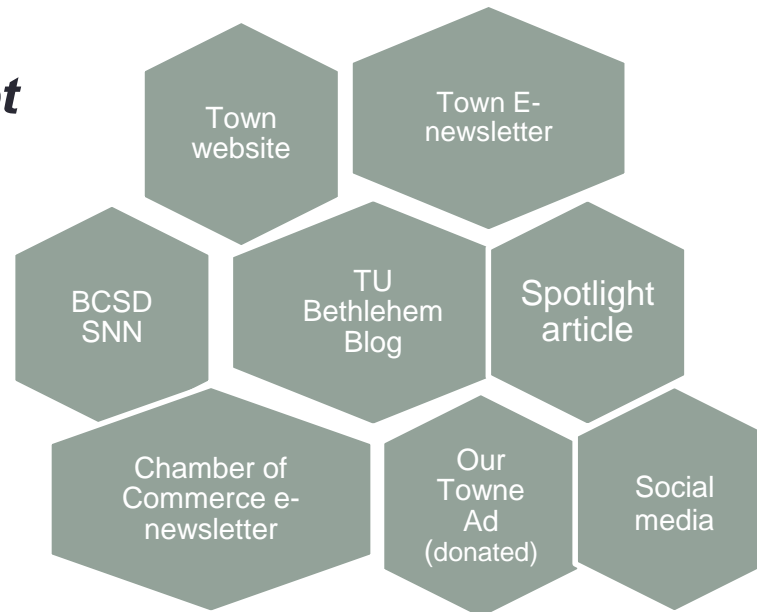


METHODOLOGY

The details

- Online survey – free, simple method to garner community input
- Survey distribution

power of the internet



The details

- Survey launched on September 10th and closed on October 15th, 2014
- 1740 responses collected
- Survey results are NOT intended to be representative of the ENTIRE community...

RESULTS

Big picture

- Deer are a nuisance
- Nobody likes ticks
- Responses varied by geography
- Respondents had lots of thoughts



black-legged, or deer, tick
(Ixodes scapularis)



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Deer are a nuisance

- Landscape and garden damage
- Driving and traffic concerns

Landscape and garden damage

- 73% of respondents have experienced landscape or garden damage
- Of those experiencing damage, 75% felt interventions they used to deter deer were either ineffective or only somewhat effective
 - Popular interventions: deer resistant plantings, fencing, urine/predatory scent products, soap or spray deterrents

Driving and traffic concerns

- 66% of respondents see deer at least 1-2x week on or near town roads
 - 25% see them almost daily
- 23% report someone in their immediate family being in a deer/car accident on town roads
 - Of those experiencing an accident 26% described “major damage”
- Only 50% of respondents reported accident to BPD

Too many deer?

- 49% of respondents say
 - *There are way too many deer in Bethlehem and it's a problem*

Nobody likes ticks

- 81% of respondents have found ticks on their body (or that of an immediate family member)
- 86% of respondents know someone who has had a tick borne disease
 - 39% of respondents report that either they or an immediate family member have been diagnosed
- 27% of respondents feel like they have a pretty good handle on controlling ticks

Tick management

- 71% perform regular tick checks
- 56% wear protective clothing
- 52% apply Frontline or similar product on pet
- 41% avoid tick-infested areas

- Lesser used interventions
 - 17% spray yard with pesticides
 - 1% use “tick tubes”

Responses* varied by geography

- Overall 73% of respondents had landscape damage
 - 45% Glenmont
 - 56% Selkirk/S. Bethlehem
 - 77% Delmar
 - 91% Slingerlands/North Bethlehem
- Overall 66% of respondents saw deer at least once a week while driving
 - 40% Glenmont
 - 54% Selkirk/S. Bethlehem
 - 66% Delmar
 - 85% Slingerlands/N. Bethlehem

**to some questions*

Responses* varied by geography

- Overall 23% of respondents reported a car accident on town roads
 - 20% Delmar
 - 21% Glenmont
 - 28% Slingerlands/North Bethlehem
 - 30% Selkirk/S. Bethlehem
- Overall 49% of respondents think there are way too many deer and it's a problem
 - 31% Selkirk/S. Bethlehem
 - 34% Glenmont
 - 51% Delmar
 - 66% Slingerlands/N. Bethlehem

**to some questions*

Responses* varied by geography

- Overall 27% of respondents reported having a “pretty good handle on controlling ticks
 - 34% Glenmont
 - 29% Selkirk/S. Bethlehem
 - 29% Delmar
 - 23% Slingerlands/North Bethlehem

**to some questions*

Respondents had lots of thoughts

- 663 (38%) respondents took the time to answer
 - *If you have any thoughts you'd like to share, here's your chance!*

Recurring themes in comments

- Development has caused the deer population problem
- Heart breaking personal anecdotes about tick borne disease
- Hunting might be part of the answer to reduce the deer population
 - But some respondents felt VERY strongly that only non-lethal interventions are acceptable
- Non-toxic methods of tick control important

Recurring themes in comments

- Co-exist with nature
- Deer are not the only host animals for ticks
- Personal responsibility
- Education

TAKEAWAYS

Community support

- 84% of respondents in favor of Town looking at methods of reducing tick population
 - 90% of Slingerlands/North Bethlehem
- 61% of respondents in favor of Town looking at methods of reducing deer population
 - 47% in Glenmont and Selkirk/S.Bethlehem
 - 63% Delmar
 - 73% Slingerlands/North Bethlehem

Interventions to consider

- Traffic safety
- Public education
 - Landscape management
 - Tick management
- Consider deer population when approving future development

QUESTIONS?
