

NEW SHOREHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Proclamation in Support of Lyme and Tick-Borne Disease Awareness Month

May 7, 2024
P-2-2024

WHEREAS, from 2004-2018, vector-borne diseases in humans have more than doubled in the US and while Lyme disease accounts for 82% of all reported tick-borne diseases; other tick-borne diseases including spotted fevers, babesiosis, and anaplasmosis/ehrlichiosis have become increasingly prevalent; and

WHEREAS, Lyme disease is the most commonly reported vector-borne disease in the US caused by bacterium Borrelia burgdorferi, and is transmitted primarily by the blacklegged tick found in 50% of US counties, concentrated in the Northeast, upper Midwest, and Western regions of the US; and

WHEREAS, approximately 500,000 Americans are diagnosed and treated for Lyme disease each year; and Rhode Island has one of the highest number of cases reported in the nation. Lyme disease is an underreported illness, and therefore, the actual number of people with Lyme disease is likely much higher; and

WHEREAS, in response to this growing problem and risk, US federal entities developed the National Public Health Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Vector-Borne Diseases in People (2024) to address the rising public health threat of VBDs; and

WHEREAS, ticks that carry Lyme disease can also carry several other pathogens, many of which are reported in Rhode Island and often co-infections (infection with more than one tick-borne pathogen) are reported, which complicates diagnosis and treatment; and

WHEREAS, tick-borne diseases are a clinical diagnosis based on symptoms, physical findings and the potential of exposure to infected ticks or their habitat; and

WHEREAS, when Lyme and tick-borne diseases are not quickly and properly diagnosed or treated, it may result in severe illness, disability, or death; and the CDC has just added (2024) Lyme disease to the list of disease agents that have been linked to chronic symptoms; and

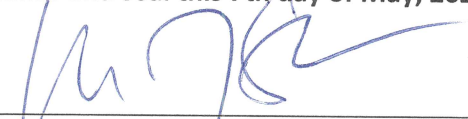
WHEREAS, while most tick-borne diseases can be treated successfully with a few weeks of antibiotics and by taking steps to prevent bites can help prevent tick-borne diseases, including using tick repellent, removing ticks promptly and properly, applying pesticides on the landscape and reducing tick habitat, every community has the responsibility to educate the public about the symptoms, the importance of seeking prompt medical treatment, and how to prevent tick-borne diseases; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island coordinates various tick-borne disease activities including surveillance, education, and outreach initiatives, and works to advance workforce development and training to sustain and strengthen tick-borne disease public health practices; enhance tick-borne disease surveillance capacity; and perform and evaluate educational outreach to healthcare providers, public health partners, policy makers and the public;

NOW, THEREFORE, the New Shoreham Town Council hereby proclaims:

MAY 2024 AS LYME & TICK-BORNE DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH
and encourage all community members to help spread tick-borne disease awareness and prevention education.

And Further Be It Resolved, we decree that this Proclamation be made part of the permanent record of the Town, Witness our hands and seal this 7th day of May, 2024.



First Warden Keith Stover



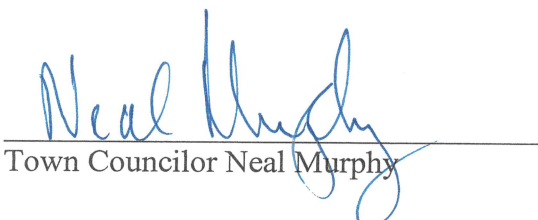
Town Councilor Tristan Payne




Second Warden Martha Ball



Town Councilor Margaret O'Neill



Town Councilor Neal Murphy



Attest: Town Clerk Millicent Hight