

**MULGRAVE PUBLIC MEETING**  
***Rabies Public Meeting***  
***January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008***

A public meeting concerning the recent incidents of rabies was held in the Mulgrave Fire Hall, on Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 7:00pm.

***Attendance***

Deputy Mayor Arthur Carter, Councillor George Freer, Recording Secretary, Tanya Tibbo. Approximately 35 to 40 residents attended the meeting.

***Regrets***

Mayor Leonard MacDonald, Councillor Anne MacDonald, Councillor Lorne MacDonald, Acting CAO Jeffrey Aitkens.

***1. Calling of Meeting to Order***

Deputy Mayor Arthur Carter called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. He welcomed Mark Pulsifer, Dr. VanZwol, Dr. Humpreys, and Rodney Lane to the meeting. He also welcomed Dr. Shelly Sarwal and Lucas Wide via tele-conference.

***2. Discussion***

- The only type of rabies in Nova Scotia is bat rabies.
- Concerns about residents feeding wildlife.
- Bats are a threat as they can carry the virus.
- Residents asked for a timeline with regard to the situation in Mulgrave. Mark Pulsifer responded.
- Discussed the likeliness of a fox passing the virus to coyotes. Very rare.
- Discussed how the virus is spread. It is only spread from the saliva of an animal with symptoms.
- Explained post-exposure treatment.
- Discussed risks to trappers – very low.
- Discussed rabies clinic – not permitted.
- There is no reason to expect that this problem will continue.
- Residents asked many questions that were answered by the panel.
- Residents relayed personal incidents or experience with regard to foxes.
- Options Town can take include:
  1. Town can consult with a Nuisance Wildlife Operator
  2. Create a by-law prohibiting residents from feeding wildlife
  3. Educate the public – website and newsletters
- Three main points were relayed at the meeting
  1. Do not feed wildlife
  2. Have your pets inoculated against the rabies virus
  3. Residents in Mulgrave are at no greater risk than anyone else in Nova Scotia.

#### **4. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

APPROVED BY:

ARTHUR CARTER  
DEPUTY MAYOR

RECORDED BY:

JEFFREY AITKENS  
ACTING/CAO