

RYE MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

**Tuesday, September 15, 2020
4:00 p.m. – Rye Town Hall**

Present: Chair Tim Sanborn, Commissioner James Farrelly and Sarah MacGregor Dragon Mosquito Control

Note: Commissioner Denis Lipman arrived at 4:32 p.m.

I. Call to Order

Chair Sanborn called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes – August 18, 2020

Motion by Tim Sanborn to defer the approval of the August 18, 2020 to the next meeting. Seconded by James Farrelly. All in favor.

III. New Business

1. Dragon Activity Reports; Trends; Green Head Trap Status

Sarah MacGregor, Dragon Mosquito Control, noted that they continue to not find anything in freshwater, but saltmarshes keep the company busy because of the tides. She pointed out that they are on the verge of another flood tide. She continued that the rain that was received a few days ago really did not have much of an impact. The freshwater sites just sucked up the water, as the area is desperate for water. The saltmarshes are prime for flooding. When the saltmarshes dry out and then get wet from the tide, that is a perfect scenario for mosquitos, as they need that wet/dry cycle. The staff at Dragon will probably be busy right through the weekend. She commented that there is no end in sight right now in terms of the drought. It is expected that there will be activity on the marsh but no other freshwater issues. The number of adult mosquitos is down. This means the number of mosquitos that are sent to the State are down, which is state-wide.

Chair Sanborn asked if this means the number of mosquitos seen in the traps is down.

Ms. MacGregor confirmed. She noted that West Nile has only been seen in mosquitos in Manchester. There has been no other activity of West Nile or Triple E state-wide. This is not unusual during a dry summer. She does not expect to see anything major happening at this point.

In regards to the greenhead trap status, Ms. MacGregor noted it is estimated that about 8 to 10 traps are junk. A total of 170 traps were taken off the saltmarshes, so that would bring the count down to 160. They have been building 16 every spring once the budget is passed. That would bring the total count up to 175, which is a good number for greenhead traps.

Chair Sanborn noted the Commission has been budgeting to replace about ten percent of the traps yearly. He suggested that the Commission maintain that for the budget. He asked if there are other items that need to be considered for the upcoming budget.

Ms. MacGregor stated she does not anticipate any major changes or increases. In terms of the *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti), which is the bacteria that is used in the water, there are all-natural products and organic products. There are also residual Bti products that will last a long time. Some of that is being used in parts of Rye to see if there can be better control in certain parts of the saltmarshes that seem to be impacted the most by runoff from the upland edge. There is about a month's worth of control out of the residual products. It is four times as expensive; however, it gives a longer control and they have had fairly good luck with the product. Ms. MacGregor pointed out that there has not been a positive mosquito to come out of the saltmarsh since starting the product. She also pointed out that the bacteria that is being used in the catch basins is a different product, but it is an organic product too.

Chair Sanborn asked what it would cost Rye to go fully organic.

Ms. MacGregor agreed to get the numbers for the Commission, so they can consider it for the budget based on the Town's average consumption. She commented that they could go with the organic Bti product, which would only increase the budget a little bit. If the Town went with the full organic residual product, it would quadruple the cost of the insecticide.

2. Rye Schools Tick and Mosquito Spray

Ms. MacGregor reported that the schools, recreation area and Parsons Field were sprayed on September 4th. The spraying of the trails for ticks has not been done yet, as they are usually done in October.

Motion by Tim Sanborn to conditionally approve the tick spraying of the trails for October. Seconded by James Farrelly. All in favor.

3. Monthly Invoice Submission Dragon

Ms. MacGregor submitted the August invoice to the Commission for review and approval.

Inv. #31041:

- Larvaciding - \$8,800
- Surveillance, setting traps, identifying species, delivering to State lab - \$1,300
- Larvae survey - \$2,000
- Mortality of larvicide treatments - \$1,250

- Monthly data management - \$500
 - Removal of greenhead traps - \$500
- Total: \$14,350

Motion by Tim Sanborn to pay Dragon Mosquito Control Invoice #31041 in the amount of \$14,350. Seconded by James Farrelly. All in favor.

4. Other Administrative Issues

Commissioner Lipman arrived at 4:32 p.m. and Chair Sanborn gave him an update on topics discussed at the meeting.

IV. Old Business *None*

V. Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 20, 2020, 5:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion by Denis Lipman to adjourn at 4:38 p.m. Seconded by James Farrelly. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger