

RYE MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

5:00 p.m.

Rye Town Hall

Commission Present: Chair Tim Sanborn, and James Farrelly

I. Call to Order

Chair Sanborn called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.

II. Approval of minutes

- October 16th & November 14th

**Motion by Tim Sanborn to approve the minutes of October 16th and November 14th.
Seconded by James Farrelly. All in favor.**

III. New Business

1. 2024 Budget – Select Board & Budget Committee

The proposed Mosquito Commission Control Budget for 2024 was presented to both the Select Board and the Budget Committee. Both boards reviewed and made motions to recommend the budget, which will be presented as part of the Town's operating budget at town vote in March.

2. Executive Session – Review of vendor RFP proposals (cost/benefit analysis)

The Commission went into executive session at 5:09 p.m. to review three proposals for services for the 2024 year. Proposals were received from: Dragon Mosquito Control; Swamp Inc., and Northeast Vegetation. The Commission came out of executive session at 5:22 p.m.

3. 2024 recommendation to the Board of Selectmen

Chair Sanborn stated that he found Swamp's proposal interesting, in terms of an infector control program and proposing less for larviciding. Based on reading the proposal, it sounds like it's done by performing other activities to try to minimize the number of pools that would need to be larvacided. Chair Sanborn noted that a representative from Swamp sent an email asking to

discuss the proposal; however, he has not heard from them. Chair Sanborn noted that the Commission would be open to Swamp's proposal and perspective in the future.

Commissioner Farrelly questioned the absence of tick treatment on the Northeast Vegetation proposal. He thinks this mitigates the cost advantage and/or the services provided.

Chair Sanborn commented that Dragon Mosquito Control has performed at a very, highly satisfactory level over the past few years, as Rye's vendor.

Commissioner Farrelly agreed. He noted that Dragon's proposal is the most comprehensive, in terms of the insurance that they carry. Referring to the tick management in the Swamp quote, Commissioner Farrelly commented that what he finds compelling is that they seem to have a more organic approach in doing the job. He pointed out that the tick management cost is more than ten times of Dragon. However, it seems that they are treating the environment of where ticks thrive in what seems to be a comprehensive and organic way. He also pointed out that the proposal states that larviciding will be the main stay of the program for this season, but not in the future.

Chair Sanborn commented that Swamp is trying to go in that direction. This is why he has offered for Swamp to come in to make a presentation to the Town. This may be a direction that the Town wants to consider. If so, it would alter the RFP in the future.

Commissioner Farrelly agreed that he'd like to learn more about this program, if this is new to mosquito management. In terms of deferring the vendor decision, he doesn't think it's necessary because the Town has a trusted partner who does great work and is very responsive. However, he would just like to learn more about new ways to do the work in the future.

Chair Sanborn agreed that more information from Swamp would be interesting. He will let them know that the Commission is open to further discussion. Chair Sanborn also agreed that Dragon's proposal is comprehensive and they have provided great service to the Town.

The Commission agreed to recommend Dragon Mosquito Control to the Select Board for the 2024 season.

4. Other administrative issues/business

- Next meeting to be held in April; day and date to be determined.

Adjournment

Motion by Tim Sanborn to adjourn at 5:42 p.m. Seconded by James Farrelly. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted, Dyana F Ledger