

RYE MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION
Tuesday, April 18, 2017
5:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Chairman Tom Aspinwall, Vice-Chair Tim Sanborn and Denis Lipman

Others Present: Sarah MacGregor, Dragon Mosquito Control

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Aspinwall called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **March 21, 2017**

Motion by Tim Sanborn to approve the minutes of March 21, 2017 as presented. Seconded by Tom Aspinwall. All in favor.

III. OLD BUSINESS

1. Implementing the mosquito activity report form

Chairman Aspinwall noted that he emailed the commission and Ms. MacGregor a copy of the mosquito activity form (complaint form) for review.

Speaking to Ms. MacGregor, Vice-Chair Sanborn asked if any other towns use a form for resident complaints.

Ms. MacGregor replied no. She pointed out that her company, Dragon Mosquito Control, has an online form on their website that can be used.

Chairman Aspinwall commented that some residents had issues last year with their complaints not being addressed. He pointed out that last year was an unusual season last year. He had called the National Mosquito Association and they did not have any explanations for mosquito populations due to drought.

Referring to the mosquito activity report form, Vice-Chair Sanborn stated that they thought this would be a proactive step for Rye residents to be able to provide input. Some of the calls were going directly to the town hall. This is a way to streamline the process and keep track of the complaints.

Ms. MacGregor noted that complaints that come in to her company get logged and are transferred to the field personnel. She continued that information that is helpful to include on the forms would be the time of day the resident is having issues with mosquitoes. That can mean a whole different habit and will direct the company on what can be done. Another important piece of information is the location. Is it when the person is entering the woods or just sitting on their deck at night? She stated that the mosquito species that might be causing problems aren't always going to be determined without tracking. There are potentially 45 species in the State.

Commissioner Lipman asked how soon the problem will be investigated once someone turns in the form. Will it be 24 to 48 hours?

Ms. MacGregor confirmed. She commented that they do not let the complaint linger, as long as it comes in during the work week. The company does not have a standard policy on addressing complaints; however, they are very prompt in dealing with anything a property owner might call about. She asked how the resident would get the form. She also noted that the form has a place for the resident's issues, the Town of Rye also has a section for input and the contractor.

Chairman Aspinwall explained that the form is posted online.

Ms. MacGregor noted that sometime there are issues with fillable online forms. Also, some people do not want to do something that requires too much effort.

Vice-Chair Sanborn noted that this is the reason for the paper form. A resident could see the Selectmen's Secretary to fill one out.

Chair Aspinwall stated that if the Selectmen's Secretary receives a form, she will submit the complaint to him. He would then follow up with Dragon.

Ms. MacGregor noted that the issues are not just with mosquitoes but also with dragonflies, black flies, and etcetera.

Vice-Chair Sanborn pointed out that this is why they have been discussing the possibility of changing the commission's name. The commission is not just dealing with mosquitoes. Referring back to the form, he continued that maybe the commission needs to establish a communication follow up process. Part of the purpose of the form is to track the complaints so it is known where there are problems with mosquitoes.

Commissioner Lipman commented that the commissioners could also have the forms on hand in case a resident calls them directly.

Referring to the follow up process for complaints, Vice-Chair Sanborn suggested that the Selectmen's Secretary forward the complaint to Sarah MacGregor/Dragon and send a copy to the commissioners. Having a process will let it flow easier and oversights can be avoided. The commissioners agreed.

Ms. MacGregor noted that Dragon has a form they leave for the homeowner. It is usually used when no one is home when they get to the site. It explains to the homeowner what was found and what was done. Often times, the homeowner is at work and a meeting with them cannot always be scheduled.

Commissioner Lipman stated that response is very important to him. The last company the Town had was very responsive to individual complaints.

Vice-Chair Sanborn asked if it is realistic to say to people that there will be a technician in Rye within a week of a complaint.

Ms. MacGregor stated that it would be less than a week. The RFP calls for a response time of 48 hours. She noted that Dragon has a contact section on their website with a place for a resident to write something specific to the company. She monitors those emails that come into the company. There is also an online no spray registry. She noted that the registry needs to be updated yearly, as it expires December 31st of every year.

It was agreed that the new list should be cross referenced with the Selectmen's Secretary's list. The commission also agreed that the activity report (complaint) form would be revised to add the time of day and the location. Residents will be able to print off a complaint form from the town website. Any forms that are emailed or turned in to the Selectmen's Office, will be forwarded to Dragon with a copy sent to the commission.

2. Review of monthly activity reports

Ms. MacGregor noted that Dragon received the permit from the State over the past week to start work for the season. They have been out surveying and larviciding. Dragon is still waiting for the okay from DRED to treat the State owned salt marshes. (She submitted a list of the State owned managed marshes that Dragon treats to the commission.)

There was some discussion on the products that are allowed to be used on the marshes. The commission also reviewed the monthly activity report form that was prepared by Susan MacGregor and used by Dragon. An update is also included with the monthly activity report and invoice to give the commission an overview of the mosquito control.

3. Other old business

- None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Outlook for the 2017 Mosquito Season – Sarah

Ms. MacGregor requested data and activity reports that might be available for last summer. Chairman Aspinwall will follow up with that information.

2. Assessment of green head traps

Chairman Aspinwall noted that the greenhead traps are being stored in the barn at the Goss Farm. The chair of the Conservation Commission has a key to get into the barn. He also noted that Phil Auger, Southeast Land Trust, wants to know what is going to be going into the marshes that they manage. Southeast Land Trust is not a big fan of the greenhead traps. The traps will need to be inspected for repairs. There may also be a need for more traps to be built.

3. ZIKA monitoring

Ms. MacGregor stated that the State received funds; however, they are using the funds to buy equipment. The State gave Dragon traps that are specifically designed to trap ZIKA mosquitoes. There are currently two species of mosquitoes that transmit ZIKA. One will probably not be seen in New Hampshire, unless there is a huge change in the climate. The second mosquito, Asian Tiger Mosquito, is in Massachusetts. The breed is established and surviving the winters. The mosquitos have been seen in Bristol County and Plymouth County, Mass., and is spreading. One thing that has been found to be spreading the breed are boats that may be travelling to Florida or to the islands bringing the eggs back, which become established on metal containers/pods. She noted that ZIKA outbreaks are mostly seen in urban areas. She suggested that they may want to track the harbor. The traps need to be in a secure place, such as on someone's personal property. The State will be testing these mosquitoes if any are found. The State is holding a series of workshops for ZIKA pest control. There is also a committee that is working on a response plan.

4. Other new business

Commissioner Lipman noted that the walkway from Parsons Field to the recreation center is going to be enhanced. He will keep the commission updated.

- **Next Meeting – May 16, 2017, 5:00 p.m.**

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Tim Sanborn to adjourn at 6:15 p.m. Seconded by Denis Lipman. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger