

RYE MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 21, 2018

5:00 p.m. – Rye Town Hall

***Members Present:* Chairman Tom Aspinwall, Vice-Chair Tim Sanborn and Commissioner Denis Lipman.**

***Others Present:* Dr. Gail Snow, Rye Health Officer and Sarah MacGregor, Dragon Mosquito Control**

I. Call to Order

Chair Aspinwall called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

June 19, 2018

July 24, 2018

- **Tabled**

III. Old Business

1. Mosquito activity at the Rye Recreation Fields

Sarah MacGregor, Dragon Mosquito Control, noted that extra treatment was done at the recreation fields at the end of July based on feedback from the Rye Recreation Director, Lee Arthur. There has been heavy mosquito activity due to the amount of rain received over the season. It is felt that the treatment has been effective since there have been no further concerns expressed by the recreation director.

2. Other Old Business

- **None**

IV. New Business

1. Proactive adulticide treatment for schools prior to opening
Confirmation needed from schools & the BOS for okay to treat

Dr. Gail Snow, Rye Health Officer, commended Rye for being one of the first towns to push for treatment at the schools. There has been controversy about this over the years; however, it is now being seen that treatment has been effective.

Chairman Aspinwall noted that adulticiding for mosquitos also works on ticks, which is a residual benefit. The tick population has become equally hazardous in the eco-system.

Dr. Snow pointed out that New Hampshire is one of the leading states in the nation for Lyme disease.

Chairman Aspinwall commented that the deer population in Kittery, York and the Berwicks is over the optimum level, which is contributing to the tick problem as they are part of the cycle of transmission. If the Fish and Game Department was to allow more hunting in that area, it would help to slow down the ticks. More education and awareness is needed on the dangerous effects of ticks.

Referring to the treatment for the schools, Chairman Aspinwall explained that the commission will recommend the treatment to the Town Administrator and Selectmen. The town will get confirmation from S.A.U 50 for the treatment. The school district will send out a notification to households to make parents aware of the treatment. He noted that over the past ten years, there have been no health concerns reported to the town or commission.

Vice-Chair Sanborn commented that the timing for the adulticiding is done before school starts on a weekend. The date has to be coordinated with all parties involved.

Ms. MacGregor agreed to work on coordinating the spraying for the weekend of August 25th.

Motion by Tim Sanborn to approve the adulticiding for the schools, including recreation and Parsons Field, pending the approvals from the Town and SAU 50. Seconded by Tom Aspinwall. All in favor.

2. Status of WNV and EEE influenza in Rye and surrounding towns

Ms. MacGregor noted that no cases of Triple E or West Nile Virus have been reported in Rye. The closest activity has been in Manchester and Salem. Labor Day is a peak time period for positives. Activity can continue until the first frost.

3. Monthly activity report for July

Ms. MacGregor noted that the activity for the salt marshes has been just about every day because of the rain and the flood tides. New Hampshire has set a record for rainfall in August. So far, the month of August has received 9.5 inches of rain, which is mosquito breeding weather. The town is up to almost 5,000 pounds of BTI use.

The commission reviewed the activity reports for July and the first part of August.

4. Catch basin activity/treatment

Ms. MacGregor stated that the treatment has ended for the catch basins. The basins cannot be treated when it is raining so much, as the treatment will flush out. The treatment will start up again in early September. There are approximately 530 catch basins throughout Rye.

5. Receipt of invoice for July services

The commission reviewed the invoice from Dragon Mosquito Control for July services in the amount of \$14,610.

Motion by Tim Sanborn to approve payment of the invoice for \$14,610. Seconded by Denis Lipman. All in favor.

6. Other New Business

The commission and Dr. Snow discussed the possibility of changing the name of the commission, as they do more than just mosquito control work in the town.

- **Next Meeting to be held September 18th**

Adjournment

Motion by Tom Aspinwall to adjourn at 5:40 p.m. Seconded by Denis Lipman. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger