

Rye Mosquito Control Commission
Tuesday, September 18, 2018
5:00 p.m. – Rye Town Hall

Commissioners Present: Chairman Tom Aspinwall and Denis Lipman

Others Present: Sarah MacGregor, Dragon Mosquito Control

I. Call to Order

Chairman Aspinwall called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

- **June 19, 2018**
- **July 24, 2018**
- **August 21, 2018**

Motion by Denis Lipman to approve the minutes for June 19th, July 24th and August 21st as presented. Seconded by Tom Aspinwall. All in favor.

III. Old Business

- **Proactive adulticide treatment for the schools and recreation area**

Sarah MacGregor, Dragon Mosquito Control, noted that treatment for the schools and recreation area was completed on August 27th. There were no issues or unusual mosquito activity. Five light traps have been put out at Parsons and the recreation fields, which show that there have been good results from the treatment. It was noticed that the mosquito activity was fairly calm during treatment.

- **Monthly activity report**

The commission reviewed the activity report for the month of August. Chair Aspinwall noted that the numbers for the saltmarshes have decreased significantly, which is a good sign.

Ms. MacGregor noted that the saltmarshes have been overwhelmed with water because of the amount of rain they have been getting. When there is too much water, it dilutes everything so it

is hard to actually find larvae. Her staff did what they could with the spraying over the last week but now the marshes are starting to dry up a bit. The waters will also flush out the catch basins.

IV. New Business

- **Health Alert for West Nile Virus**

Chair Aspinwall noted that West Nile Virus has been detected in North Hampton and Rye. There were four bird carcasses that tested positive in Southern New Hampshire.

Ms. MacGregor reported that there have been no reports of human infection, as of this date.

Commissioner Lipman asked what the commission can do to get the word out.

Ms. MacGregor stated that her company has been working on a message for the residents, which talks about the Public Health Declaration and what has been seen in Rye and other towns for WNV activity. The memo also gives residents recommendations and reminders with links for more information about WNV. She will send the memo to the commission to review before sending out to residents. She noted that the notice can be sent to the schools and put on the town's website.

Chair Aspinwall stated that he received an email from the Town Administrator regarding this issue. He responded to Mr. Magnant by saying he would vote to approve adulticide treatments for the schools and playgrounds. He also said that the commission would post notices for residents to be extra vigilant. He noted that they don't want to create a heightened sense of alarm, as much as a higher state of awareness. He is going to speak to Mr. Magnant about posting daily notices in the Portsmouth Herald. Notices should also be posted at the Town Hall, post office, safety building and on the town website. He continued that residents should be aware that they may want their children to go inside earlier in the evening. They should also make sure they are well protected with repellent. He noted that the mortality rate for WNV is not high like Triple E. Older people and people whose immune systems might be compromised are more susceptible to an adverse reaction.

Commissioner Lipman agreed with the recommendations outlined by Chair Aspinwall, which will be reviewed with the Town Administrator.

Ms. MacGregor stated that Monday will be a month since the last treatment at the schools, Parsons and the rec area. If it is agreeable with the schools, she would recommend another treatment.

Chair Aspinwall pointed out that the track record for safety and accuracy is great. There have not been any issues with anyone having any reactions to the treatment. Also, there has not been anyone that has come down with the virus.

Ms. MacGregor will contact the necessary people to see if Monday, September 24th will work for another treatment. She continued that there were reports yesterday of more WNV activity in Londonderry, Raymond, Candia and Manchester. That is a lot in one week.

- **Light traps and surveillance**

Ms. MacGregor noted the numbers in the light traps are at a low right now. The numbers at the end of August started out kind of high and have been decreasing; however, she expects another slight increase within the next week. Overall, the numbers have been up over the whole course of the summer in all towns. Her company has identified almost 120,000 mosquitos in all of their towns and that is a very high number. The numbers have doubled from the past couple of years. She pointed out that when there is a lot of rain, there are a lot of mosquitos.

In regards to the catch basins, Ms. MacGregor stated that they will start checking them in the next couple of weeks. They have not seen an issue lately because of the amount of rain. They may see activity in early October, which will indicate a treatment is needed for all basins (except for the basins that are running).

Ms. MacGregor also noted that the greenhead traps have been removed for the season. There were about four traps that had to be retired because of their condition. That leaves about 131 traps at this time. They are looking to build another 15 traps to bring the count up to 146.

- **Invoice for August Services – Dragon Mosquito Control**

Motion by Tom Aspinwall to accept and approve invoice #30111, dated 9/3, from Dragon Mosquito Control for August services in the amount of \$15,350. Seconded by Denis Lipman. All in favor.

V. Other New Business

Ms. MacGregor presented the map that the State generated for the Public Health Declaration. Some towns called to see why they were not on the map. Rye and North Hampton are not on the map. The map gets citizens' attention and allows towns to get a permit if they do not have a permit.

Chair Aspinwall asked what are the parameters that puts a town on the map.

Ms. MacGregor explained that the State looked at the risk and the minimum infection rate. They try to project who is going to have more activity. She wishes they had just done the whole southern tier of New Hampshire so any town that doesn't have a permit could easily get a permit. The permit covers the town for larviciding and street spraying. As long as there is a Public Health Declaration, the town can operate under that. Without a Public Health Declaration, the town needs to have a town meeting vote and wait for the State to issue the permit, which could take four months. The declaration makes everything faster and easier.

There was some discussion about holding off on the tick spraying until near the end of October.

VI. Next Meeting Date

- **Tuesday, October 16th, 5:00 p.m. – Town Hall Courtroom**

Adjournment

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger