

# **RYE MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING**

**Tuesday, July 21, 2020  
5:00 p.m. – Rye Town Hall**

***Present: Chair Tim Sanborn, Commissioner Denis Lipman, Sarah MacGregor, Dragon Mosquito Control, and James Farrelly (pending commissioner)***

## **I. Call to Order**

Chair Sanborn called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

## **II. Approval of Minutes of June 16, 2020**

**Motion by Tim Sanborn to approve the minutes of June 16, 2020. Seconded by Denis Lipman. All in favor.**

Commissioner Lipman acknowledged the great service and friendship that Tom Aspinwall gave to the commission. He will be missed, but he is wished a spontaneous and exciting retirement.

Chair Sanborn agreed. He has known Tom for forty years and worked with him during college. He thanked Tom for his many years of service and wished him well.

## **III. New Business**

### **1. Greenhead trap locations; Are they all in place? How many?**

Sarah MacGregor noted that all of the traps have been put out for the season; 172 traps. It was also noted that it was alleged that there could be an increase in attractiveness for the greenheads to go into a box that was painted with stripes resembling a zebra. Two of the traps were painted in this manner, but there was no dramatic increase in the number of greenheads that were trapped.

**2. Rye recreation area; special approval for tick and mosquito spray 6/25.  
Lee Arthur follow up**

Ms. MacGregor noted that the spraying was completed with no issues. The fields, tree lines and the front of buildings were fogged. This will be covered under the spraying line item in the budget in the amount of \$300.00

**Motion by Tim Sanborn to approve the spraying for the recreation area. Seconded by Denis Lipman. All in favor.**

**3. Dragon Activity reports; trends?**

Ms. MacGregor noted that it continues to be very dry; however, the ocean still floods the saltmarshes, which keeps activity busy. Dragon will start on the saltmarshes on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. One treatment of the catch basins has been completed. Those treatments are mostly geared toward suppressing the West Nile Virus mosquitos that utilize that habitat. She also noted that even during a drought, water stays in those basins. An organic product, made from bacteria, is put into the basin that works for about a month and kills any mosquitos that try to hatch in the water. She pointed out that most water in catch basins are freshwater with other pollutants that run into them.

The majority of Dragon's work in June is on the saltmarshes, putting out the greenhead traps and gearing up for the trapping of the adult mosquitos. The State is able to start testing the beginning of July. Nothing that has been tested at the State has tested positive, thus far. There have been positive test results coming out of Massachusetts. There was an adult in Loudon who tested positive for James Town Canyon Virus. It is typical to not see Triple E or West Nile until almost August. Because of the drought, the mosquito numbers are fairly suppressed. Hot dry summers tend to favor West Nile Virus. However, Triple E is being brought into the area by birds that have migrated south for the winter and are returning to the north for the season.

Ms. MacGregor noted that Dragon is trapping in five locations in the Town. These are sites that have been used for quite a few years, which provides a history of scientific data. The traps are set on Mondays and picked up on Tuesdays. The mosquitos are identified on Wednesdays and the State picks them up on Thursdays to be brought to the state lab for testing. She pointed out that the state lab is also responsible for Coronavirus testing. The number of samples that can be sent has been reduced, so the lab is not being overwhelmed with mosquito and Coronavirus samples.

Chair Sanborn asked about the marsh near the North Hampton border, near the causeway on Central Road.

Ms. MacGregor explained it has never been a productive marsh. The marsh drains pretty well and never really breeds. Through the years, Dragon does check because marshes change, but it is still not doing anything. Some of the most productive marshes are the ones behind Pollock Drive, Concord Point, and on Pioneer Road near Seavey Creek.

#### **4. Monthly invoice Submission/Dragon**

##### Inv. #30865

Larvaciding	8,800.00	
Larva Survey	2,000.00	
Surveillance:		
Set traps, identify species,		
Pack & deliver to State	1,300.00	
Check mortality of treatments	1,250.00	
Repair of greenhead traps	600.00	
Set out the greenhead traps	500.00	
Monthly data management fees	500.00	
Spray town trails for ticks	360.00	
Spray fields & woods at rec area	300.00	<u>Total: \$15,610.00</u>

**Motion Tim Sanborn to approve Dragon Mosquito Control Invoice #30685 for payment. Seconded by Denis Lipman. All in favor.**

#### **5. Other administrative issues/ New business**

It was agreed that bullet points for the updates from Dragon were helpful and efficient for reading purposes. Dragon will continue with that format. The updates will continue to be sent to the Rye Civic League for their monthly newsletter. Chair Sanborn will reach out to Steven Borne, RCL, to see if he is okay with the format.

Chair Sanborn will submit Jim Farrelly's nomination and his letter of interest to the Board of Selectmen for approval at the next select board meeting.

#### **IV. Old Business**

- None

#### **V. Next Meeting Date: August 18, 2020**

#### **Adjournment**

**Motion by Denis Lipman to adjourn at 5:31 p.m. Seconded by Tim Sanborn. All in favor.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dyana F. Ledger