

**RYE MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION
MEETING**

**Tuesday, August 18, 2020
5:00 p.m. – Rye Town Hall**

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

I. Call to Order

Chair Sanborn called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

Chair Sanborn welcomed James Farrelly to the commission. He reminded Mr. Farrelly that he will need to visit the Town Clerk's Office and be sworn in, in order to be a full voting member.

II. Approval of Minutes - July 21, 2020

Motion by Tim Sanborn to approve the minutes of July 21, 2020. Seconded by Denis Lipman.

Vote: 2-0

Motion passed

III. New Business

1. Greenhead Trap Status

Speaking to Ms. MacGregor, Chair Sanborn asked what happened to the Greenhead boxes in the Pollock Saltmarsh.

Sarah MacGregor, Dragon Mosquito Control, explained there was a chance that New England was going to be hit by Hurricane Isaias. In 1991, Hurricane Bob destroyed all the Greenhead traps. The decision was made to bring in all Greenhead traps off all the marshes a bit early this year.

2. Rye Schools; special approval for tick and mosquito spray – week of 8/24

Chair Sanborn asked if a request for spraying has been received from the school.

Ms. MacGregor replied no. She pointed out that her company has looked at the schools' websites and could not find any mention of whether school was going to be remote learning this year or held in the buildings.

Commissioner Farrelly noted that Rye Elementary is scheduled to open after Labor Day.

The Commissioners agreed that the schools should still be sprayed this year if the schools make the request.

Motion by Tim Sanborn to conditionally approve the spraying at the schools based on the budget for the special spraying. Seconded by Denis Lipman.

Vote: 2-0

Motion passed

3. Dragon Activity Reports

Ms. MacGregor noted that the weather continues to be really dry, as there has been very little rain this summer. The marshes are currently flooding so the crews have started back out on the saltmarshes. With or without a drought, the tides keep the crews busy. The catch basins that needed to be treated have been completed. Mosquitos are continuing to be sent to the State lab in Concord for testing. This is about the time of year when positive test results are seen. There has been another case of Jamestown Canyon Virus detected in Bow, which is the second case seen this summer. This virus is found in the deer population, not birds the way it is with Triple E and West Nile.

Ms. MacGregor noted that the drought is definitely suppressing any freshwater mosquitos. Droughts tend to make it easier to contain mosquitos. Any containers that can collect water will see mosquitos; such as, bird baths, dog bowls or swimming pools. These mosquitos tend to carry West Nile. It was noted that the drought tends to keep the tick population down, as well.

4. Monthly Invoice Submission/ Dragon

The Commissioners reviewed the monthly invoice submitted by Dragon Mosquito Control.

Motion by Tim Sanborn to approve Invoice #30952 in the amount of \$13,850.00 consistent with the budget; \$800 for larvaciding, \$1,300 for surveillance, \$2,000 for monthly larvae surveying, \$1,250 for mortality, and \$500 for monthly data management. Seconded by Denis Lipman.

Vote: 2-0

Motion passed

5. Other Administrative Issues

Chair Sanborn noted that the Commission has had previous discussions about the formal name of the Mosquito Commission. The Commission is not limited to just mosquitos and that is what's in the name. Other names were proposed to the select board; however, it has not really gone

anywhere. That was two or three years ago and there is now a new select board. He commented that he would be willing to bring this up to the select board. In the past, a suggestion was made for the Rye Environmental Safety Commission.

Commissioner Lipman replied he would say no to that name because it is too encompassing of other things. That would get into a whole environmental issue. He would be supportive of keeping the name as is because people know the Commission deals with bugs, pests and creatures that bite. Without getting too specific, people get the idea and know that the Commission deals with bugs.

Commissioner Farrelly pointed out that “environmental” sounds overly broad.

Chair Sanborn suggested that he at least approach the select board with the idea and find out what would be involved. There may be a need to have a warrant article to even change the name. The Commission could go back to the select board at a later date to present a name, if they decide to move forward.

Ms. MacGregor noted that a common phrase in the industry is “vectors”, which is all encompassing. She commented that she will put the idea out to her crew to see if they can come up with some suggestions.

IV. Old Business

Ms. MacGregor submitted a write-up for the Rye Newsletter to be sent to the Selectmen’s secretary.

V. Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, September 15th, 5:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Motion by Denis Lipman to adjourn at 5:36 p.m. Seconded by Tim Sanborn.

Vote: 2-0

Motion passed

Respectfully Submitted, Dyana F. Ledger