

**RYE MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION
MEETING**

**Tuesday, October 20, 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 5:04 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes – September 15th

Motion by Tim Sanborn to approve the minutes of September 15, 2020 as presented. Seconded by Denis Lipman. All in favor.

III. New Business:

1. Dragon Activity reports; trends; “Stink bug” infestation status

Sarah MacGregor, Dragon Mosquito Control, gave an update to the Commission in regards to the past month’s work. She noted that it is still dry. They still had to go out onto the saltmarshes because they are flooding, but there is not much activity. That continued right into October. The mosquitos have finished their cycle and are done for the season. She pointed out that last year was a different season because there was more rain. There was some late breeding on the saltmarshes and this year there was none. She reported that the trails between Parsons Field and the rec area were sprayed for ticks on September 25th. While ticks have been low in numbers this season, they will continue to monitor for them as the numbers could rebound from the recent rain and deer ticks tend to come out in the fall.

Referring to the “stink bug” infestation, Chair Sanborn explained this is a pest that has been infiltrating many homes throughout the area. He asked Ms. MacGregor if she can provide any information.

Ms. MacGregor explained that people call them all stink bugs, even though some of them are seed bugs which are longer and thinner and are more reddish brown. The stink bug is coming into homes where it is warm for the winter. People should not crush them, as they will stink. The seed bugs will stain. It is best to just shoo them out of the house. She noted that these are not beneficial insects. She also noted that most bugs cannot fly below a certain temperature and don’t have the means to stay warm. Once the cold weather hits that is usually the end of them.

2. Monthly Invoice Submission – Dragon

The Commission reviewed Invoice #31-119 for a total of \$14,160, which is the final invoice of the season.

• Larvaciding	\$8,800
• Surveillance, setting traps, Identifying species, packing & delivering to the State for testing	1,300
• Monthly larvae survey	1,000
• Mortality of larvicide treatments	1,000
• Monthly data management	500
• Spraying RJH, Parsons Field, RES, rec area	1,200
• Spraying of town trails	360
Total:	<u>\$14,160</u>

Motion by Denis Lipman to pay Invoice #31-119 in the amount of \$14,160 to Dragon Mosquito Control. Seconded by James Farrelly.

3. 2021 Budget

Chair Sanborn reviewed the proposed 2021 Budget numbers for the Commission. He noted that last year, the Mosquito Control Commission’s Budget was \$86,495 with a year-to-date actual of \$82,123. For 2021, the budget is proposed at \$87,495.

The Commission reviewed the budget details. Chair Sanborn asked Ms. MacGregor if she could provide a breakdown of the additional costs.

Ms. MacGregor explained they have done an analysis of other products which provide a residual. One major factor that has to be considered is that the State of N.H., who control a lot of the saltmarshes, allows for larvaciding but they only allow certain products. It does not do any good to look at products that are not on the State’s very short list. She continued that she has two products that Dragon used this year. Both BTI with one that is a combination that makes it last for 28 days. There are two other products with a different manufacturer that have a similar residual. Those are expensive per pound. The majority of what Dragon uses is called VectoBac and it is roughly \$2.00 per pound. She noted that they use 10 pounds per acre, so it can add up fast. A residual product would run from \$8.50 to \$10.50 and up. She thinks it is too expensive to consider using it widespread. It would add in the range of \$20,000 to \$25,000 to the budget. Also, it cannot be guaranteed that it would be a “miracle” product for Rye. She recommended sticking with what they have been using. She does not recommend going with an all organic program. She pointed out that the catch basin program is organic and portions of the larvaciding on the marsh is organic.

Chair Sanborn will be presenting the budget to the selectmen on November 5th.

4. Other Administrative Issues/New Business

Chair Sanborn stated that the other item he thinks would be appropriate to address with the selectmen at the budget meeting is the potential name change for the commission. A warrant article would be required to go before the voters in March to change the structure of the commission to allow alternates. Right now, the commission is not set up for alternates.

IV. Old Business
None

V. Next Meeting – Tuesday, November 17th, 5:00 p.m.

Adjournment

**Motion by Denis Lipman to adjourn at 5:38 p.m. Seconded by James Farrelly.
All in favor.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger