

RYE MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION MEETING

**Friday, December 11, 2020
5:00 p.m. – Rye Town Hall**

Present: Chair Tim Sanborn, Commissioner Denis Lipman and James Farrelly

I. Call to Order

Chair Sanborn called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes – October 20, 2020

Motion by Denis Lipman to approve the minutes of October 20, 2020 as written. Seconded by Tim Sanborn. All in favor.

III. New Business:

a. 2020 Year in Review

Chair Sanborn noted that the Mosquito Control Commission's article in the current Town's Newsletter acts as a final update of 2020 for the Town. He commented it was an exceptionally dry year; yet, there was a fair amount of mosquito control that took place, as mosquitos were still breeding in tidal pools and marshes.

b. 2021 Budget

The Commission reviewed the 2021 Mosquito Control Budget that was presented to the Select Board, which was approved in the amount of \$87,495. The Select Board rejected the additional \$5,600 in spraying. Chair Sanborn noted that the prior Select Board's have agreed to leave the \$5,600 in the budget in the event of an emergency.

c. RFP Submission Review

Chair Sanborn noted that he has scheduled a time to meet with the Select Board on December 14th to give them the Commission's recommendation for mosquito control services for 2021. He will also be discussing the idea of a possible name change for the Commission.

The Commission reviewed and discussed the RFP's received for mosquito control services for 2021. Chair Sanborn noted this is the first time in eight years that he has seen a third proposal. He is appreciative to see a third vendor proposal.

Proposals received:

- **Swamp, Inc.**
- **Dragon Mosquito Control**
- **Northeastern Vegetation & Mosquito Control**

Commissioner Lipman noted that he is not nixing Swamp's proposal because it's the highest bid. However, based upon his experience in working with both Swamp and Dragon, he would rather go with Dragon again. He feels that Sarah MacGregor, principal of the company, has been more responsive. She always attends the meetings and takes it very seriously. She has been more responsive than Swap was when they were the Town's vendor. He continued that he has not had experience with Northeastern Vegetation. He would suggest that they ask for references that can be checked.

Commissioner Farrelly agreed. He pointed out that Northeastern indicates that they have managed mosquito programs in the past for Rye.

Chair Sanborn commented that it has not been during his tenure. He asked Commissioner Lipman if he would prefer to defer the vote until references can be checked.

Commissioner Lipman replied he would, in order to be fair to them. He thinks it is prudent to get references from Northeastern Vegetation and check them out. He would also recommend that they go online to do more research on the company. This is what he would do in order to be comfortable making a decision. He asked if they would be able to do a phone vote once the references are checked.

Chair Sanborn explained they could have an email vote. The Commission has opened this to the public at this meeting, so they have done their duty in that regard. The agenda for the meeting was posted. If someone felt strongly that the current vendor did not do a good job, or if they had questions, they could've attended the meeting to speak to the Commission. Chair Sanborn noted that he will contact the references provided on Northeastern's proposal. He pointed out that all three proposals are competitive bids. He asked Commissioner Farrelly if he had any thoughts on what has been presented.

Commissioner Farrelly commented that he would like to take a closer look at the proposals. He agreed with checking references before taking a vote.

d. Name Change Proposal – Warrant Article?

Chair Sanborn explained that the Commission has expanded their scope beyond just mosquitos. They also have tick prevention and other potential pests/insects. There was discussion at a past meeting about whether or not the name of the organization should change. At a prior meeting with the Select Board, he mentioned this idea to the Selectmen and they understood the reasoning why. He continued that the question about the warrant article is because one of the Select Board members thought the Commission may have the ability to have alternates. He told the Board that the Town Administrator said this couldn't be done because the Commission was formed under a State mandate that did not allow for alternates. He asked the Commissioners if

they want to put forth a warrant article to change the Commission's structure to allow for alternates. If one of the Commissioners could not sit for one of the monthly meetings, an alternate would fill the seat for that meeting.

Commissioner Lipman stated he would vote "yes", as having alternates would be helpful. It seems practical.

Commissioner Farrelly agreed.

**Motion by Denis Lipman to present the idea of a warrant article to the Select Board to open the Commission up for alternates. Seconded by James Farrelly.
All in favor.**

Chair Sanborn asked the Commission if they have any ideas for the name change.

Commissioner Lipman pointed out that they have had this discussion before and he has voiced his opinion. He does not think it is necessary. It will just "muddy the waters". He feels this discussion should have happened before going to the Select Board. Then it could have been said that the majority of the Commission want the name change.

Chair Sanborn explained that in prior meeting he said he would "float" the idea of he name change. He has not officially gone to the Select Board, as that is the purpose of this meeting. At the next Select Board Meeting, he would present the potential name change. At this point, it is only an idea. He noted that the Select Board was open to the idea and understood the reasoning for doing it.

Commissioner Lipman commented that to most people, 'Mosquito Control Commission' says "bug", bugs in general. He noted that Chair Sanborn has said in the past that it is also about the environment and the marshes. This is true; however, adding the word "environment" adds a whole new "ball of wax".

Chair Sanborn stated it becomes a matter of interpretation and how the term is being used. He asked Commissioner Farrelly his thoughts.

Commissioner Farrelly stated they are into an area of whether it sounds old-fashioned and not quite representative of the Commission. "Mosquitos" are mosquitos. He thinks people are probably more afraid of ticks than mosquitos.

Commissioner Lipman replied that he does not feel it is old-fashioned at all. Referring to the word "Control", he thinks that is good because they can't be eliminated. Mosquitos can only be controlled.

After a bit more discussion, Commissioner Farrelly noted that he likes the idea of presenting a name change to the Select Board, if they could come up with something they could get behind.

Chair Sanborn suggested that they think about this over the weekend and discuss it again the beginning of the week.

IV. Other Business

Each Commissioner took a reference from the Northeastern Vegetation proposal to call. They agreed to get their feedback to Chair Sanborn as soon as possible.

- Next meeting to be determined – Tentatively scheduled for April 2021.

Adjournment

**Motion by Denis Lipman to adjourn at 5:42 p.m. Seconded by James Farrelly.
All in favor.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger