

RYE MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION

**Tuesday, May 18, 2021
5:00 p.m. – Rye Town Hall**

Commissioners Present: Chair Tim Sanborn and James Farrelly

Also Present: Sarah MacGregor from Dragon Mosquito Control and Mark Troy (pending commissioner)

I. Call to Order

Chair Sanborn called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes from last meeting

- **April 20, 2021** – (not a formal commission meeting, as only one commissioner was present)

Chair Sanborn accepted the meeting notes of April 20, 2021 as revised.

III. New Business

- **Dragon Activity for start of 2021 season; new trends; “Stink bug” status**

Sarah MacGregor, Dragon Mosquito Control, noted that she sent the Commission the April activity report, invoice and monthly update. She pointed out that April seems to be the lighter activity month because there is no trapping going on. She continued that the season is under way and they have been larviciding since mid-April. They are getting ready to spend another week on the saltmarshes with the moon tide next week. She explained that the tides are controlled by the phase of the moon. The moon phases can cause the tide to spring up on the full moon, new moon or both. She stated that they monitor the moon phases, tide levels and start checking the marshes. In addition to moon phases, they have to monitor these sites after heavy rain, as that can trigger some heavy breeding in the saltmarshes. She pointed out that saltmarsh mosquitos, like most mosquitos, need a wet/dry cycle. Right now, the marshes are fairly dry, so they are prime for a moon flood.

Chair Sanborn asked if there has been anything unusual at the start of this season, as compared to prior years.

Ms. MacGregor replied that it is pretty average. Mosquitos are beginning to hatch, which is a fairly normal occurrence at this time of year. Generally, by Memorial Day they have all hatched

out of the water that was missed or not hit during treating. Because of the drought last year, which lingered well into the fall, there are going to be some species that are down this year. The drought interrupted or completely stopped their life cycle. This means there will probably be less Triple E and fewer mosquito species. She noted that ticks are being monitored at the rec area and Parsons Field. They haven't seen any, which may be due to the low tick population last year and the spring/fall treatment of ticks.

Chair Sanborn asked if tick spraying has started.

Ms. MacGregor replied no, only monitoring. The spraying will begin when they start finding ticks during monitoring.

Chair Sanborn asked about "stink bugs".

Ms. MacGregor noted that stink bugs and Seacombe bugs have a resemblance to one another. Those bugs are making their way outdoors.

Chair Sanborn asked Ms. MacGregor to ask the State if they have any recommendations for getting rid of "stink bugs".

Ms. MacGregor noted that she will email her contact that deals with forest insects, as that is what they would fall under.

- **Monthly Invoice Submission/Dragon**

Commissioner Farrelly asked how many greenhead fly traps were replaced this season.

Ms. MacGregor replied that they built 16 new traps. Traps are lost every year, as some fall apart and rot.

Chair Sanborn explained that they when doing the budget, they include a certain number of traps to be built, based on an estimate given by Ms. MacGregor.

Ms. MacGregor noted that they put 170 traps in the barn, with 16 new ones being built, and those will be pulled out in early June to be put on the saltmarshes. There will be about 186 total.

**Motion by Tim Sanborn to approve Invoice #31148 in the amount of \$12,510 to Dragon Mosquito Control. Seconded by James Farrelly.
All in favor.**

- **Other Administrative Business/Other New Business**

Ms. MacGregor reviewed the draft she prepared for the Town's upcoming newsletter.

There was also some discussion about Steve Borne's request for a writeup for the Rye Civic League Newsletter. Commissioner Farrelly commented that he would be happy to work on something for Mr. Borne.

Speaking to Ms. MacGregor, Commissioner Farrelly stated that as a member of the commission, he would like to go out with the crew and observe. He asked if this would be possible.

There was some discussion on what would be involved in going out with a crew. Commissioner Farrelly agreed to contact Ms. MacGregor by email to set up a time.

- **Open Seat on the Commission**

Chair Sanborn reported that they received a letter of interest from Mark Troy to fill the vacant seat on the Commission. He read the letter received from Mr. Troy. (He asked Mr. Troy to step out of the room for consideration.)

Commissioner Farrelly stated that it seems Mr. Troy generally has some enthusiasm for what they do. He would fully support Mr. Troy's involvement with the Commission.

Chair Sanborn agreed. He noted that no other letters of interest have been received and he will confirm this with the Selectmen's Secretary.

Motion by Tim Sanborn to recommend Mark Troy to fill the vacancy on the Commission. Seconded by James Farrelly. All in favor.

IV. Old Business

There was discuss regarding the schedule for the next meeting.

- **Next Meeting Date: June 22, 2021** (pending courtroom availability)

Adjournment

Motion by Tim Sanborn to adjourn at 5:28 p.m. Seconded by James Farrelly. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger