

RYE MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

5:00 p.m. – Rye Town Hall

Commissioners Present: Chair Tim Sanborn, James Farrelly and Mark Troy

Also Present: Sarah MacGregor from Dragon Mosquito Control

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of Minutes from last meeting

- **May 18, 2021**

Motion by Mark Troy to approve the minutes of May 18, 2021 as presented.

Seconded by James Farrelly. All in favor.

III. Old Business

- **New Commissioner**

Chair Sanborn welcomed Mark Troy to the Commission, as his nomination is now official with approval from the Selectboard.

- **Request for a ride along with Dragon Mosquito Control crew members**

The Commissioners have not yet had a ride along with Dragon. There has not been much activity so far for this season. Sarah MacGregor noted that there is a marsh spray coming up on June 23rd. There should be some activity starting by June 26th. She will keep the commissioners posted, so they can make arrangements for a day to do the ride along.

IV. New Business

- **Dragon Update**

Ms. MacGregor reported that most of the greenhead traps have been put out. There are 142 traps out with about 40 remaining. Dragon has finished spraying the saltmarshes and activity has been typical for this time of year. Ms. MacGregor noted that she followed up on a call from a resident with a concern. The gentleman said it was brown flies that pester him at night when he is sitting

at his fire pit. She is not sure they are flies, as they are out at night and are not biting. The gentleman said he does not have a problem with mosquitos. It seems this is a non-issue for the Commission. She also noted that there will not be fireworks in Rye this year, so Dragon will not be doing any spraying for that event.

- **Review and Approval of Dragon Invoice for May**

The Commissioners reviewed the invoice #31199, dated June 1st, from Dragon Mosquito Control.

Motion by James Farrelly to approve Invoice #31188 from Dragon Mosquito Control in the amount of \$10,750. Seconded by Mark Troy. All in favor.

- **Process for calls from residents**

Commissioner Troy suggested putting a process together for handling calls from residents; specifically, what the Commission needs to do and what they need to say. He thinks it should be very playbook driven. He commented that they need to be very clear to residents that they do not do any residential spraying. If they have any complaints, they should go to the website to log it there, so it is documented.

Ms. MacGregor noted that with the last call that was received, it was not reported to the Commission for a week. The information that was taken over the phone did not seem to match up with what the homeowner was saying. There are specific things that would be helpful to know when the person calls.

Commissioner Troy volunteered to write up a script, so what everyone says will be standard. The person could then be directed to the website.

Chair Sanborn pointed out that the script should be given to the Selectmen's Secretary Janice Ireland because the Town Hall gets the calls. Janice refers the person to the website and provides the information that Dragon is the Town's vendor.

Ms. MacGregor pointed out that Dragon has a complaint and contact form on their website.

Chair Sanborn played a voicemail for the Commission, so they could learn how the calls come in and discuss how it should be handled.

There was discussion in regards to the high cost of municipal tick control for the Town. Ms. MacGregor spoke about management plans for homeowners, as it would be more practical for homeowners to have someone spray their yards.

Commissioner Troy suggested having a link on the website providing information on what homeowners can do for their properties.

It was agreed to have a script to follow when residents call. They will be directed to the website where they can find a complaint form and links to information about homeowner management plans. It will also give people information on things the town can and cannot do. Ms. MacGregor will draft a script to be reviewed at the next meeting. Commissioner Troy will draft up a work flow process for the next meeting.

- **Communications with Rye Civic League**

Rye Civic League sends out a monthly newsletter, which is put together by resident Steve Borne. The Commission has been asked to participate in the newsletter with brief articles giving updates and information.

Commissioner Farrelly agreed to handle the monthly write-ups for the Civic League.

V. Other Business

Commissioner Farrelly thanked everyone for accommodating the change in date of June's meeting, as the original date conflicted with his son's graduation.

➤ **Next Meeting scheduled for July 20th, 5:00 p.m., Rye Town Hall**

No further business before the Commission.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger

Rye Mosquito Control Commission

Monthly Update

May 2021

May is a transition month when we go from having no mosquitoes to one day you hear that familiar whine in your ear. Dragon Mosquito has again been hired by the town for mosquito control in 2021. Many spring mosquito species begin hatching from shallow stagnant water and fly off in search of a blood meal. Most are active at dusk and dawn but a few species will fly during the day. Anyone living near or along the coast may have experienced the aggressive daytime pursuit of the summer salt marsh mosquito. This mosquito loves to rest on lush green lawns and will sometimes bite you in full sun which can surprise newcomers to the area. That's why we focus our control efforts on the salt marshes during mosquito season;

Here's the list of work completed in May:

- Finished up the last of the spring larviciding in freshwater swamps
- Assessed larvicide treatments for efficacy
- Began monitoring catch basins for mosquito larvae
- Larvicided salt marshes after the full moon tide

Work tasks coming up in June:

- Set out greenhead fly trap boxes on the salt marshes
- Treat catch basins to control disease carrying mosquitoes
- Larvicide salt marshes after flood tides
- Check freshwater sites after heavy rains
- Begin trapping adult mosquitoes around Rye
- Spray town trails between the Recreation Area and Parsons Field for ticks

Ticks have rebounded after last season's plunge. More people are complaining about ticks than anything else in the yard. Ticks require us to be vigilant while we're outside and once we get back indoors a thorough tick check is advised. Wearing light colored clothing, tucking your shirt into your pants and pants into your socks makes it easier to spot these despicable creatures, hence why it's always good idea to apply repellent.

Timothy E. Sanborn
Chairman