

RYE MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMISSION

Tuesday, October 19, 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 4:30 p.m.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- **September 21, 2021**

Motion by Mark Troy to approve the meeting minutes of September 21, 2021 as presented. Seconded by James Farrelly. All in favor.

III. New Business

1. Dragon activity reports; trends

Sarah MacGregor, Dragon Mosquito Control, noted that this will be the last activity report for the season. They are wrapping up work for the year and the State has stopped testing mosquitos. No disease was reported for the Town of Rye for the season. Recent West Nile activity was reported by the State to be found in Stratham and East Kingston. There were just a handful of towns with West Nile disease activity; which included; Stratham, East Kingston, Portsmouth, Salem and Manchester. There were quite a few towns with the Jamestown Canyon Virus. The closest towns to Rye would be Kingston and Derry, with other towns around the Concord area.

Ms. MacGregor continued that this was a normal year for the mosquito population. The season started out dry, which keeps the mosquito population low. June was the hottest month of the season with a rainy July. This changed the mosquito situation quickly, not just for the saltmarshes, but also for the containers and freshwater. The changes created a trifecta for mosquito breeding and a lot of activity. Mosquitos thrive in the marshes when they are dry and then wet, which was pretty common all summer.

She further explained that there was severe drought in 2020, which impacted the mosquitos for this year because there were so few breeding sites available to them over the winter. Some mosquitos spend the winter as an egg waiting for the water. Some mosquitos spend the winter as larvae in the water and those were non-existent. There was a lot of rain in July. This sets the

stage for there to be more mosquito activity next summer with more disease activity. This season, the mosquitos were bad for a while but there weren't record numbers. However, next year could be a different because they didn't have the summer to rebound from the drought. It tends to take two or three years for some species to rebuild in population. More disease is anticipated for next year. The variable will be precipitation; the amount of snow and whether it's rain instead of snow. A certain amount of rain and snow sets up a situation for Triple E.

Ms. MacGregor also noted that they finished up the catch basins to control the West Nile mosquitos. The greenhead traps have been stored for the winter. Dragon has also been doing tick monitoring (tick drags) on the trails. She would like to schedule a tick spray for the trails between the recreation area and Parsons Field.

The Committee agreed to the spraying, which will come from the emergency adulticiding budget line.

2. 2021 year-end review

There was some discussion in regards to whether the budget item for emergency adulticiding should be increased for the 2022 budget to include additional tick spraying in the town. Ms. MacGregor pointed out that some towns have a tick spray on all town properties twice per year; which includes, the schools, fire and police departments, town hall, recreation areas and even cemeteries. The spraying is done in the spring and again in the fall, which can pretty much eliminate ticks in that area. This provides the best control of ticks on town and school property.

Ms. MacGregor recommended that Rye continue with the tick spraying in the spring and fall. The Commission may want to consider adding other sites; such as, other trails. She noted that the trails in Rye are sprayed in the spring and fall, but the schools are only done in the fall.

After further discussion, it was agreed to include the schools, rec area and Parsons Field in the tick spraying for the spring, so they will be done twice per year.

3. 2022 Budget Discussion

The 2022 Mosquito Control Budget was reviewed by the Commission. The emergency adulticiding budget will be increased to cover three full tick sprays; one spray for the spring, one for the fall and one budgeted for an emergency spray. The greenhead trap line item will remain the same with funds for 16 new traps, which will bring the inventory to 200 traps, and \$600 for repairs.

Ms. MacGregor will follow up on the year-to-date numbers for pretreatment and post-treatment, as there could possibly be a reduction in those line items to move into other areas of the budget. She will report that information back to Chair Sanborn.

The rest of the budget will remain the same as 2021. The 2022 budget is being presented to the Select Board on November 4th.

4. Monthly invoice submission/Dragon

The Commissioners reviewed the invoice for October submitted by Dragon.

Motion by Tim Sanborn to pay invoice #31525 in the amount of \$12,125 to Dragon Mosquito Control. Seconded by James Farrelly. All in favor.

5. Other administrative issues/2022 RFP

The RFP for mosquito control services will be drafted and ready for an approval by the Commissioners at the next meeting. The vendor for next year's mosquito services will be chosen in December with the company being contacted by the end of the year.

IV. Old Business/Rye Education Poster Placement

Commissioner Troy noted that he will be drafting a memo and setting up the process for postage distribution for next year. He will incorporate current locations and propose some new locations. Commissioners will be assigned to certain locations.

V. Next Meeting Date

- **Tuesday, November 16th, 4:30 p.m. – Rye Town Hall**

Adjournment

Motion by James Farrelly to adjourn at 6:00 p.m. Seconded by Tim Sanborn. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger