

**Rye Mosquito Control Commission
Tuesday, July 16, 2019
5:00 p.m. - Rye Town Hall**

Commissioners Present: Chairman Tom Aspinwall, Denis Lipman and Tim Sanborn (arrived at 5:19 p.m.)

Others Present: Sarah MacGregor, Dragon Mosquito Control

I. Call to Order

Chairman Aspinwall called the meeting to order at 5:09 p.m.

II. Approval of minutes from June 18, 2019

Motion by Tom Aspinwall to approve the minutes of June 18, 2019 as written. Seconded by Denis Lipman. All in Favor.

III. New Business

1. Errant green head traps. Are they back in the correct locations?

Chair Aspinwall reported that within the last month, mysteriously green head traps ended up in two of the Selectmen's driveways. He thinks that it was someone just pulling a prank. One of the Selectmen called Mr. Aspinwall and asked why they were in his driveway. Mr. Aspinwall stated that the Mosquito Commission had no knowledge of the placement. Mr. Aspinwall stated that he has reported the incident to the police because the traps are Town property and cost \$125 each.

Ms. MacGregor stated that it happened on July 4th. Her crew got them back into service in another place. She believes they are located near Pollack Drive now, which was her suggestion.

2. Follow up with Lee Arthur about tick and mosquito activity at the recreation area.

Ms. MacGregor reported that she has communicated with Ms. Arthur about July 4th, but has not talked to her regarding the recreation area. Ms. Arthur is usually very pro-active; however, she has not called. Ms. MacGregor reported that July 4th, Dragon sprayed 110lbs on the salt marsh behind the recreation area.

Chair Aspinwall stated that he is hoping for some salt marsh restoration in that area because there is a definite migrating problem and invasives.

Ms. MacGregor pointed out that the State has already done the front part of it. It would be nice to continue and finish it.

Chair Aspinwall stated that the Conservation Commission has done a lot of excellent work removing tide obstructions.

Ms. MacGregor pointed out that at least twice, the State dumped spoils that they dredged out of the harbor into that marsh. Later they removed spoil from eleven areas from that marsh. That marsh has been abused for decades.

Commissioner Sanborn arrived at the meeting at 5:19 p.m. to “disrupt and liven up the meeting.”

3. Activity reports from Dragon. Any unusual trends?

Ms. MacGregor reported that the normal flood was during the holiday. They are flooding on the new moon now so it will be again tomorrow. The little bit of rain over the last weekend triggered more activity. She added that they are focused on the salt marsh activity.

Ms. MacGregor reported that the trend this year is “Early Disease Activity”. Massachusetts announced last week they have found West Nile, as well as New Jersey has had an early case. Ms. MacGregor is predicting that it will happen early and often this year in New Hampshire. The traps are very heavy with mosquitos Statewide; more this year than last. Most recently, Connecticut has tested mosquitos, including salt marsh mosquitos, for Jamestown Canyon Virus, which is the new virus that New Hampshire has had its share of. This virus has been in the deer population for years and is now suddenly causing illness in humans, where it wasn’t ten to twenty years ago.

Commissioner Lipman asked if there were different factors in the Jamestown Canyon Virus verses the West Nile.

Ms. MacGregor explained that the symptoms are the same; however, if a person has a compromised immune system and/or alcoholism they could be in serious trouble. This is an interesting component that has not been a factor in these diseases prior. It killed a man in Derry in 2018.

Chair Aspinwall speculated that the alcoholism factor would have to do with liver functions.

The Commission discussed ways to prevent the diseases from affecting the Town. They all agreed that public education and awareness is key. It is important to get the word out before someone gets sick or there is a fatality.

Ms. MacGregor reported that one problem is that the State is not testing for Jamestown Canyon yet. They are trying to get funding to add that disease. The State has a page on their website that outlines the symptoms and what to do in the case of exposure. Ms. MacGregor stated that it is three to ten days for the onset of the symptoms, which are flu like symptoms. If these last more than a couple of days, medical attention is recommended. Ms. MacGregor reported that there is a health officer network that distributes all this information through the State. The protocol is in place for reaching out to the wide variety of people that need the information, whether it is health providers, veterinarians, health officers, or town and city officials.

Ms. MacGregor provided the Commission with a fact sheet about the disease.

Chair Aspinwall recommended the Commission should add the fact sheet to their next article in the Town Newsletter.

Ms. MacGregor announced that the State took the first mosquitos last Thursday for testing. She is expecting to hear from them any day. She noted that it was a year ago today that there was a finding in Manchester.

4. Submission of invoice for June services. Discussion.

Chair Aspinwall reported that he has received invoice dated 7/1/2019 number #30371 from Dragon Mosquito in the amount of \$16,980. The invoice includes 16 new greenhead traps and repairs to some existing traps.

Motion by Tom Aspinwall to approve the payment of invoice #30371 to Dragon Mosquito in the amount of \$16,980. Seconded by Tim Sanborn, conditioned upon it meets the amounts in the budget for each line items. All in Favor.

IV. New Business

Commissioner Sanborn asked Ms. MacGregor if she was familiar with mosquito dumps. Ms. MacGregor stated that they are BTIs. It is illegal to put it in any water, unless it is like a whiskey or beer barrel type container, a birdbath or a boat. It can't be put in a wetland.

Commissioner Sanborn asked about using them in combination with the spray.

Ms. MacGregor stated that Dragon buys BTI by the ton. Whereas, the other method is a very expensive way to buy BTI. Ms. MacGregor reported that tomorrow she will be getting a BTI delivery of 4,000 lbs.

Commissioner Sanborn asked what the new product was.

Ms. MacGregor explained that it was two products, which last for a month. It is called Vetco Max, it contains BTI and Bacillus sphaericus.

Commissioner Sanborn informed Ms. McGregor that there are two soccer camps this year at the recreation area. The first one is Monday July 22nd. The Second one is the week of August 12th. The area needs to be sprayed in advance.

Ms. MacGregor said that she would contact Ms. Arthur at the Recreation Department.

V. Old Business - None

VI. Next Meeting Date: August 20, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. Town Hall

VII. Motion to Adjourn

Motion by Tim Sanborn to Adjourn at 5:54 p.m. Seconded by Tom Aspinwall. All in Favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger