

**Rye Mosquito Control Commission
Tuesday, August 20, 2019
5:00 p.m. - Rye Town Hall**

Commissioners Present: Chairman Tom Aspinwall, Denis Lipman, Tim Sanborn arrived at 5:16 p.m.

Others Present: Sarah MacGregor, Dragon Mosquito Control

I. Call to Order

Chairman Aspinwall called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

II. Approval of minutes from July 16, 2019

The following corrections were noted:

- 1.) Page -2 – 1st paragraph reads: Chair Aspinwall stated that he is hoping for some salt marsh restoration in the area because there is a definite ~~migrating~~ problem and invasives. It should read: Chair Aspinwall stated that he is hoping for salt marsh restoration in the area because there is a definite draining problem, there is upland and invasives.
- 2.) Page -2 – 3rd paragraph reads: Chair Aspinwall stated that the Conservation Commission has done a lot of excellent work removing ~~tide-obstructions~~. It should read: Chair Aspinwall stated that the Conservation Commission has done a lot of excellent work removing tidal restrictions.
- 3.) Page -2 – 4th paragraph reads: That marsh ~~has~~ been abused for decades. It should read: That marsh had been abused for decades.
- 4.) Page -3 – New Business reads: Commissioner Sanborn asked Ms. McGregor if she was familiar with mosquito ~~dumps~~. It should read: Commissioner Sanborn asked Ms. McGregor if she was familiar with mosquito dunks.
- 5.) Page -4 - 1st Paragraph reads: It is called ~~Veteo Max~~, it contains BTI and Bacillus sphaericus. It should read: It is called NetcoMax, it contains BTI and Bacillus sphaericus.

Motion by Denis Lipman to approve the minutes of July 16, 2019 as amended. Seconded by Tom Aspinwall. All in Favor.

III. New Business

1. Preparation for treating Rye Schools prior to the opening of school. When is the first day of class?

Chair Aspinwall stated that the schools are starting shortly (August 27 & 28). The schools, town and Commission traditionally recommend the aduaticiding of the recreation areas and the school yards.

Commissioner Sanborn arrived at the meeting.

Motion by Chair Aspinwall to recommend the aduaticiding of the recreation areas and the school yards prior to the first day of school. Seconded by Denis Lipman. All in favor.

Ms. McGregor will notify the schools.

2. A concerned resident has noticed a couple of dinghies' in a neighbor's yard that are not inverted so they are collecting water and could be a potential mosquito breeding site.

Chair Aspinwall stated that he has tried to resolve the issue but without any communication from the party. There is nothing the Commission can do on private property without the owners' permission.

3. Activity reports from Dragon. Health concerns?

Ms. McGregor reported that there has been activity in the Merrimack Valley. Also, there was a man in Kingston that has been diagnosed with James Town Canyon virus and Powassan; a mosquito virus and a tick virus. There is also EEE in Manchester and Pelham. In Massachusetts, there has been two human cases, three hundred and ten EEE mosquitoes and a goat with EEE, and fifty-six West Nile mosquitoes.

Commissioner Lipman asked Ms. McGregor what is happening locally with ticks.

Ms. McGregor reported that ticks have increased and are impacting more people. However, they did a "tick drag" yesterday, on the trails and the recreation area, and came up with zero ticks. She also reported that they did the spraying at the recreation area before soccer camp (on the 18th of July).

Ms. McGregor added that this is the time of year that EEE and West Nile starts showing up in the mosquito samples, but hopefully not in other mammals like horses and humans. She noted that there has been a worldwide decline in the number of insects, which is bad for the ecosystem. The food chain for the organisms has been affected. It is impacting the birds, etc. On the other hand, diseases have increased. It is recommended to plant gardens as pollinators and to not wipe

out the thickets and the wild growth. Leave wild areas, which are much more beneficial to pollinators, than a well-manicured lawn or garden. Ms. McGregor also stated that sometimes a storm will wipe out a whole population of migrating insects. This has happened to the Monarch Butterfly during a hurricane. There are all kinds of things that can disrupt the migration, such as development, climate change, drought, and pesticides.

4. Approval of invoices for July services. Invoice #30493 for \$14,450.

Chair Aspinwall reported that he has received invoice number #30493 from Dragon Mosquito in the amount of \$14,450.

Motion by Tim Sanborn to approve the payment of invoice #30493 to Dragon Mosquito in the amount of \$14,450. Seconded by Denise Lipman. All in Favor.

IV. Other Business

Commission Lipman reported that he has noticed a number of independent pest control Companies around town. He expressed concern regarding what these companies are using for chemicals. He asked if there is a way to monitor these companies in order to have information on what they are using.

Commission Sanborn asked if these companies regulated, and if so, by whom? He assumed that they are regulated by the State.

Chair Aspinwall stated that they are regulated by the State and must be licensed. However, there are some that are playing games with how many supervisors there are. Also, lawn companies are now doing treatments that they claim control mosquitoes and ticks. They are not always licensed for some of the materials they use.

Ms. McGregor stated that the State is coming up with another F2 license where they can get certified and use a certain type of product.

Chair Aspinwall explained that the State is trying to get everyone “under the tent”, instead of having some renegades out there, so it is a commendable thing to do. They have also changed the restrictions from five years’ experience OTJ. Before you could take the supervisor exam. Now it is one to two years but you still have to pass a very stringent test.

Ms. McGregor reported that there is also another license where all you have to do is take a seminar, a two-day class. However, they are going to restrict the type of products that you can use. She added that her concern with these companies is that they do not know the laws enough to follow them. They end up spraying too close to a well, beekeeper or to something that is

going to cause problems for all of us. The State complains that they spend a lot of time chasing these companies, because of complaints.

Commissioner Lipman asked if the Commission can do something about this.

Chair Aspinwall stated that it is beyond the scope of what this Commission is charged to do.

Ms. McGregor stated that her company keeps a list of the companies that they recommend. If a resident asks for a recommendation of a reliable company, they have something to guide them in their selection. The State Pesticide Division has recommended that if anyone sees any activity and/or company that is questionable, that it be reported to them and they will follow up.

V. New Business

Commission Sanborn announced that the Town of Rye Mosquito Spraying will happen Monday, August 26th, from 5:30 to 9:00; to take place at the Rye Recreation Area, the Rye Junior High, Parsons Field, and the Rye Elementary School. Residents should not be present during spraying.

VI. Old Business - None

VII. Next Meeting Date: September 17, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. Town Hall

VIII. Motion to Adjourn

Motion by Tim Sanborn to Adjourn at 5:43 p.m. Seconded by Denis Lipman. All in Favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger