

**Rye Mosquito Control Commission**  
**Tuesday, September 17, 2019**  
**5:00 p.m. - Rye Town Hall**

*Commissioners Present: Chairman Tom Aspinwall, Denis Lipman, Tim Sanborn*

*Others Present: Sarah MacGregor, Dragon Mosquito Control*

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Aspinwall called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

**II. Approval of minutes from August 20, 2019**

The following correction was noted:

- 1.) Page -1 correction from July 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.

It should read: It is called ~~Veteo Max~~, it contains BTI and Bacillus sphaericus. It should read: It is called Detcomax it contains BTI and Bacillus sphaericus.

**Motion by Tom Aspinwall to approve the minutes of August 20, 2019 as amended. Seconded by Denis Lipman. All in Favor.**

**III. New Business**

1. **Second aduenticiding for Rye Schools, the Recreation Area and Walking Trail TBD this week.**

Chair Aspinwall reported that the two horses in York County that had to be euthanized due to EEE, has triggered a recommendation from Dr. Snow for an extra aduenticiding for the Town of Rye at the schools, the recreation areas and Parsons Field.

Ms. McGregor reported that the spraying went well.

**2. Two more errant green head traps found at Wentworth Golf Course returned by Rye PD to DPW.**

Ms. MacGregor corrected this statement by saying that the Police Department returned the traps to the DPW. It is unknown where they came from. She explained that Ryan found three that somebody put out on the golf course. It was not Dragon because they were not staked and they were clustered together, so he removed them. A couple of days later, he was out there larviciding and found four more. It is not known where they are coming from. She added that her thoughts are that maybe when Mike had the contract, he gave Wentworth seven and they put them in their maintenance shed. People sometimes do not understand what they are collecting with the traps. People think they are bat houses or bird houses. No one was around at the maintenance shed to ask.

Ms. MacGregor recommended putting serial numbers on the traps in order to track them. She stated that they know how many traps came off the marshes; however, they do not know if someone went into the barn at Goss Farm and took some out and put them on the golf course, especially the last 4). She reported that every trap that was put out on the marshes came back and were accounted for.

**3. Horses in York County euthanized due to EEE. Mosquito testing has been held up by extra workload at state labs. Newton, NH the closest town with positive EEE mosquitoes.**

Ms. MacGregor reported that the two horses in York County triggered the risk level all along the New Hampshire boarder, which goes all the way up to Effingham. She does not know what towns were involved.

Commissioner Lipman expressed concern about the testing results being held up. He asked if the Town has received recent test results.

Ms. MacGregor confirmed that everything that was sent in last week has been tested. She explained that when the labs get human or veterinary samples, they stop all other testing and focus strictly on those. The mammals and the human testing takes precedence over the mosquito testing. So, right now they are caught up with the mosquitos. Nothing has tested positive for Rye. The most recent positive testing came from Freemont and Newton and a park in Litchfield showed West Nile.

**4. Retrieval of green head traps this month. Can we please have an inventory of viable traps that can be used for next season? How many are good, repairable and beyond repair.**

Ms. MacGregor reported that they took off 152 green head traps from the marshes, plus the two from the police department and four from the golf course. She is not sure that they have 158 because she is not sure if someone got into the barn. She reported that they retired one trap. The plan is to start the numbering system over the winter.

**Motion by Tim Sanborn to authorize Ms. MacGregor to number the Green Head Traps. Seconded by Tom Aspinwall. All in Favor.**

**5. Activity report summary by Sarah.**

Ms. MacGregor reported that the crew worked over Labor Day weekend. She added that the mosquito numbers have dropped because of the colder nights. The State will continue testing mosquitos until the middle of October.

Ms. MacGregor stated that it was a busy year for Massachusetts. They had 8 humans, 1 death, 8 animals (7 horses and 1 goat) and 412 mosquito batches. They had 1 human with West Nile reported. She explained that the prediction is that Massachusetts will be seeing this for another two to three years. She reported that they are spraying from aircrafts. Some towns have canceled all evening events. They are at a critical level with the public health crisis. It is cyclical, so every four to five years it will go back up. She is hoping that it is at the peak now and not next year.

Chair Aspinwall explained that it is not understood where the reservoir for EEE is; whether it is snakes, reptiles or bird.

Ms. MacGregor stated that one of the clades they found in Massachusetts came from Florida. They can now track the clades, which is the DNA testing. The clade that is here in NH are different from the ones found in Bristol and Plymouth County MA. This may explain why NH is not seeing the same kind of outbreak as Mass. New Hampshire has a different version of the virus. The prediction for New Hampshire is that it lags behind Massachusetts by a year. Also, with a high number of healthy *Culiseta Melanura* in the fall, it is an indicator of more EEE the following season. She confirmed that she is seeing this. So, unless there is a drought from now until summer, more of those species and more EEE will be seen.

Commissioner Sanborn recommended that this information be put into the summary report as a bullet item.

Ms. MacGregor agreed that it should be put into the end of the year report.

Chair Aspinwall asked if there is a vaccine for horses for EEE and why more people don't get it.

Ms. MacGregor confirmed that there is a vaccine. There are a number of reasons why people don't get it. One is that there is an age limit, the horse has to be a certain age. The vaccine does not mean the horse wouldn't get EEE, it just means that it will survive. A horse that survives EEE can be a very difficult horse after that. You can't ride it and it may be blind. Ms. MacGregor described humans and horses as a "Dead End Host". She explained a mosquito cannot pick up a virus from a human or horse, it can only pick up a virus from a bird.

Ms. MacGregor stated that she will be attending a three day conference on Mosquito Issues on December 9<sup>th</sup> through the 11<sup>th</sup>. She will bring back any new information that she receives. She stressed that public education is key.

**6. Receipt and approval of invoice for August services.**

**Motion by Tim Sanborn to approve the payment of Invoice #30587 from Dragon Mosquito in the amount of \$15,550. Seconded by Denis Lipman. All in Favor.**

**7. Other New Business**

Ms. MacGregor reminded the Commission about the tick spraying on the trails in October.

**IV. Old Business:**

- None

**V. Next Meeting Date: October 15, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. Town Hall**

**VI. Motion to Adjourn**

**Motion by Tim Sanborn to Adjourn at 5:44 p.m. Seconded by Denis Lipman. All in Favor.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Dyana F. Ledger*