

**RYE MOSQUITO CONTROL COMMITTEE  
MEETING**

**Tuesday, October 15, 2019  
5:00 p.m. – Rye Town Hall**

***Present: Chair Tom Aspinwall, Commissioner Denis Lipman and Sarah MacGregor, Dragon Mosquito Control***

**I. Call to Order**

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

**II. Approval of minutes of September 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Motion by Denis Lipman to approve the minutes of September 17<sup>th</sup>. Seconded by Tom Aspinwall. All in favor.**

**III. New Business**

- a. Sarah from Dragon will discuss the EEE finding from Lafayette Road and how it could/may impact Rye and will discuss/put forward strategies to contain/combat the threat.**

Ms. MacGregor noted that a case of Triple E was detected this past Friday from a horse in Frankestown, NH. The virus has also been found in mosquitos in Candia and Portsmouth, near the Rye town line. She also noted this is the last week for State testing and today is the last day for trapping in Rye. There should be some word by Friday if there have been any positive hits.

- b. Approval of action plan re: EEE**

There was some discussion on notification to the residents. It was noted that mosquito activity is on the decline for the season and will continue to decline up to the winter frost. It is important for residents to just be aware at this time and take precautions, such as wearing long sleeved shirts and pants, especially in areas that might be subject to the virus.

Ms. MacGregor stated if they receive a notice from the State on Friday that Triple E has been detected in mosquitos from Parsons Field and the rec area, her company is ready to spray. She also stated they are planning to tick spray within the next week. Residents with concerns about their pets, should see their veterinarian, as there are many tick treatments available; such as, collars, pills and Lyme vaccine.

- c. State of green head traps**

Ms. MacGregor noted there are 162 traps that are in good condition with some needing minor repairs. There are 5 traps that will not last the winter and have been set aside to use as materials for repairs. The traps tend to need replacing after four or five years.

**d. Activity report summary by Sarah**

Ms. MacGregor submitted copies of the September activity report to the Commission for review.

It was noted that twelve human cases of Triple E, with four deaths, have been reported in Massachusetts. There have also been three cases of the West Nile virus reported in humans. It is anticipated that this will continue for the next two years. Ms. MacGregor noted that her company keeps a close eye on what is happening in Essex County Massachusetts, as it is close to Rye. The reports received to date have been from counties closer to the State of Rhode Island. She also noted those States have been doing a lot of aerial spraying.

Triple E is a virus that can attack any person, regardless of age and health. There are mild forms of the disease with flu-like symptoms. There are more serious cases that can cause brain swelling and neurological issues. It is important for people to take personal protected measures.

There was discussion about conducting street spraying early in the season, as a proactive measure against Triple E. Ms. MacGregor noted that street spraying would not be beneficial if it is done too early. The virus is usually seen in July, at the earliest. It was agreed that street spraying may be something the Town should consider for next year. The spraying can be done based on data and results from the first testing of the season. Ms. MacGregor noted the State issues a risk level to towns based on past activity. If the Town starts to fall into the high or critical risk level, she would be recommending street spraying. It was agreed that using new organic products for street spraying would be more acceptable to the community. It was also agreed that the Commission should have an idea of the ingredients used in those products as a way to help educate the residents in advance of the spraying.

**e. Receipt and approval for Dragon September invoices**

The Commission reviewed the September invoice for Dragon Mosquito Control submitted by Ms. MacGregor.

**Motion by Tom Aspinwall to pay the invoice from Dragon Mosquito Control in the amount of \$14,160 invoice #30665. Seconded by Denis Lipman. All in favor.**

**f. Other new business**

Chair Aspinwall noted he will be submitting the 2020 Mosquito Control Budget to the Budget Committee in the next few weeks. He will be submitting the same budget as 2019.

It was agreed that street spraying should be included in the budget in case it is needed.

**IV. Old Business**

- **Next meeting date November 19, 2019**

**Adjourn**

**Motion by Denis Lipman to adjourn at 5:45 p.m. Seconded by Tom Aspinwall. All in favor.**