

Approved January 19, 2012

Mosquito Control District Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2011

The Litchfield Mosquito Control District conducted a meeting on December 15, 2011 at 7 PM in the main conference room at Town Hall.

Mr. Poulos called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM

Mr. Latsha and Mr. Poulos were in attendance. Mr. Raccio was absent.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

There was no public input.

Mr. Latsha **motioned** for approval of the November 17, 2011 MCD minutes and the **motion was approved** by a vote of 2-0-0.

Mr. Poulos introduced Kimberly Foss and Michael Morrison of Swamp, Inc. and Municipal Pest Management Inc, respectively. He then introduced Colleen Gamache of the Litchfield Recreation Committee and Joan McKibben, Chair of the Litchfield Conservation Committee. Mr. Poulos stated that the primary purpose of tonight's meeting was to have the contractors speak to mosquito and tick control around the playing fields controlled by the Recreation Committee and in concert with the requirements of the Conservation Committee.

Mr. Morrison started the discussion by distributing a handout on the subjects of mosquito and tick control. Mr. Morrison then spoke at length about possible control mechanisms for both pests and the differences based on the need as determined by trapping and testing results. He touched on the need for brush control around recreational facilities, spoke to the types of insecticides possible for use and mentioned the need to remove understory brush to improve the environment.

Mr. Morrison and Ms. Foss then spoke to the species of mosquitoes that typically reside in areas around recreational facilities. They spoke to the need to educate teachers on the dangers of insect borne diseases.

Then they talked about ticks' habitat and how it differs from that of mosquitoes. Because a tick can lay hundreds of eggs at a time after a blood meal, they are often clustered in areas that are primarily shrub or longer grass. They recommended that parks, playgrounds and schools should have a mulch bed separating them from tick habitat because ticks will not travel across open areas.

Colleen Gamache was then asked by Mr. Poulos if she was aware of any problems or complaints from recreation area participants. She stated that she was not aware of any but that she hadn't been a member of the Recreation Committee for very long.

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Mr. Morrison then gave examples of some things that he had done in areas to prevent pest spread. Ms. Foss then spoke to the time of year to be most aware of mosquitoes and ticks. They stressed the need to treat with larvicide breeding areas near schools, bus stops, etc. Ms. Gamache then asked if the town "sprays" for mosquitoes. Mr. Poulos said that we did not as a matter of routine but we did before the 275th anniversary.

Both contractors then spoke to the appearance of West Nile Virus in surrounding towns and the fact that Litchfield was lucky to escape it. The hurricane and the rain it brought with it caused a lot of standing water in wooded areas and the contractors had been called upon to treat a lot of towns.

Mr. Morrison then mentioned that Centers for Disease Control scientists were often coming into the area to try to figure out the origins of EEE and WNV but no definitive answer was forthcoming. Mr. Morrison and Ms. Foss were continually working with CDC entomologists trying to find origins of these disease strains.

Mr. Poulos then asked if it was recommended that we move traps to areas closer to recreational areas. Ms. Foss suggested that the 2 traps should be left there to help us determine the effectiveness over time of the larviciding. Ms. Gamache asked where the existing traps were located and was told they were on Nathan and Foxwood. She said that adding a trap might be possible but moving is not recommended because of the need to gather the historical data. Ms. Foss then detailed at length the need for this data concerning vector mosquito species' population density and changes over time. This data helps them to recommend to towns specific treatment approaches. Mr. Poulos then spoke to the yearly report provided to the MCD and the specifics of that report. Ms. Foss then explained the report to Ms. Gamache. Ms. Gamache then asked a number of questions about the report and the application of larvicide in town and Ms. Foss and Mr. Morrison responded.

Mr. Poulos then spoke to the rec fields off of Corning. The Road Agent, Mr. Pinciario, had contacted Mr. Latsha earlier in the year about the tremendous amounts of standing water behind those two ball fields and whether or not we would treat them. (It had been decided not to because the notification was made so late in the season.) Mr. Poulos suggested that we should consider adding a trap in that area next year.

Ms. Foss spoke to the need for an integrated approach to mosquito control, one that included education of people and treatment of environments where mosquitoes and ticks can thrive. She spoke to some of the things she had done while on the Maine Vector Disease Working Group and some of the education necessary to effectively inform citizens as to what they can do to improve the environment without applying pesticides. Ms. Foss then volunteered to attend a Recreation Committee meeting and she listed the materials she could provide as part of that discussion. Ms. Gamache then said that she would have to get back to her after talking to the Committee.

Mr. Poulos then spoke to the need for budget money for the MCD to help provide this education but that the budget was continually cut. Ms. Gamache asked for the cost to do some of this education. Ms. Foss then stated that she would do it at no cost to the Rec Comm. Mr. Latsha then asked Ms. Gamache to give us information about the new soccer fields. The new fields are on 6 acres of cleared area off

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Albuquerque. They are projected to be used by the Fall of 2012. Mr. Latsha asked about night activity possibilities and Ms. Gamache said that lights were being considered but nothing is firm yet. A discussion then ensued about when use was expected so that they could plan pest control is necessary.

Mr. Latsha then mentioned the possibility of a dog park and Ms Gamache stated that was simply a possibility, not a given. Mr. Latsha then asked if the contractor for landscaping could be asked to discuss with Mr. Morrison and Ms. Foss the best way to landscape to mitigate exposure to insects. Ms. Gamache said that she would check with the committee and let them know. Again, that consultation would be no charge. Mr. Latsha then stated that he wanted to make sure that Ms. Gamache knew that we were not trying tell the recreation Committee what to do but we were offering additional services at no charge to them in order to help them out. Ms. Gamache assured Mr. Latsha that she knew that wasn't the case.

Mr. Latsha then asked Ms. McKibben about her opinion about anything she has found that we should be aware of. Her answer was essentially no but a short discussion ensued about the landscaping. Mr. Latsha then spoke to the increasing tick population and Ms. Foss mentioned that there are newly emerging tick-borne diseases which indicated further the need for education of the public. A short discussion about the lifetime of ticks and their survival over the winter ensued.

Ms. Gamache asked about the most effective control mechanism for ticks and was told that, while some insecticides are effective, landscape management was best. Mr. Morrison then spoke to the method that entomologists use to determine tick populations and how those populations might dictate the best method of control. Ms. Foss mentioned that both chemical and non-chemical approaches are the norm.

Mr. Latsha then asked if the new fields would be set up in such a manner as to prevent balls from being kicked into the woods. Ms. Gamache stated that she wasn't sure but that a ball would have to be kicked very far if that were to happen so she wouldn't see it as a frequent event. Ms. Foss suggested that she could provide signage at the periphery that would help inform people as to what to do if they had to go into the surrounding area.

Ms. Foss stressed that parents should check their children for ticks every day and that that was the best prevention of Lyme disease. Mr. Poulos suggested that Ms. Gamache get access to the materials for education of the Rec Commission and laying out subsequent plans for furthering the knowledge about prevention.

Ms. Gamache then stated that she is taking from this meeting that she go back to the Committee and inform them of the possibility to get more educated on the dangers and preventive measures. A short discussion about GMS then took place. Ms. Foss reminded the MDC that any citizen who had any question about controls could contact them directly and they would answer any questions asked. If a citizen had a question about their land the same applied.

A discussion about "Mosquito Magnet" devices then took place. The contractors then said that they consulted on location of these types of devices on a number of occasions. "Bug zappers" were discussed and their use discouraged as they are really ineffective. Ms. Foss then provided some materials to Ms.

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Gamache. The MCD chair then recommended that people continue to follow the instructions in the slide show on local TV about bite prevention.

Ms. Foss then provided Ms. Gamache with some on-line sites that would help in educating children in particular on the dangers of bites. Mr. Morrison stated that he would provide free time to help the commission get the message out.

Ms. Gamache then asked about the difference between EEE and WNV. Ms. Foss and Mr. Morrison went into detail on the differences and the physical effects of each once a person is infected.

A short discussion about the effectiveness of specific repellents took place. It was recommended that parents go to the CDC website and follow their guidelines. Google search CDC to find the web site.

Mr. Morrison then informed us that his company was effected by a new federal law that caused them to do more reporting to the degree that they had an additional cost of \$3,300 over and above the existing contract. That entailed an additional 110 hours of their time. Mr. Poulos informed them that the budget was already approved at the same level as last year as had been agreed to previously. He would approach the Board of Selectmen through the Town Administrator but he didn't think that the budget could be increased at this time. Ms. Foss and Mr. Morrison stated that they understood that and that they would honor that commitment if additional funds were not available.

Ms. McKibben then asked some questions about the federal requirements as she was concerned about impact to the Conservation Committee. Her questions were answered to her satisfaction.

This additional effort was seen as being something that would be included in subsequent years' contract so the price will increase going forward.

Ms. McKibben asked if Mel's was spraying and she was told that they hire a contractor to do so. She also asked about Derry and Londonderry and if they had mosquito controls. The answer was yes to both but Municipal Pest Management, Inc. was not involved.

A discussion about involving biology or science teachers in developing lessons about mosquitoes and ticks as part of their curriculum took place. Mr. Poulos agreed to follow up on this possibility with the School Department.

There being no further business, Mr. Latsha then **motioned** for adjournment, the **motion** was seconded. All were wished a happy holiday period. Mr. Poulos then stated that the next meeting would be on January 19, 2012 and the meeting was adjourned.