

TOWN OF LITCHFIELD

Mosquito Control District

June 24, 2010

The Litchfield Mosquito Control District held a meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Conference Room.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Alfred C. Raccio, Chairman
John Latsha, Vice Chairman
John Poulos

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Mrs. Joan McKibben, Conservation Commission Chairman, came forward. Since the last meeting she has done some research and the more she thought about it, although she cannot undo what occurred at the meeting, she told the Board that she implicitly trust Michael Morrison (Municipal Pest Management Services). Mr. Morrison is an entomologist. She talked about the grassy pond area, which is an extreme pristine wetland area.

She went on to talk about educating the adult communities regarding mosquitoes and felt that they need to know that there are 42 species and not all of them carry EEE or West Nile. She suggested these adult communities should be made aware of precautions they should take when going outside such as covering up and using a small amount of DEET and that bat boxes are another way to control mosquitoes. Handouts were provided to the Board. This was discussed. She told the Board that she would discuss this matter with the Conservation Commission members. She will be meeting with her Commission on July 1, 2010 to discuss her intentions and bring back the recommendations to the MCD.

The MCD has started formulating its summer activity education plans through sports activities and school sponsored activities. Mr. Raccio: I would like to extend to our Committee the inclusion of any feedback that may come from the Conservation Commission in the dates we have already identified as supportable activity and allow this Board anything that comes up from Conservation Commission with regards to potential dates they may solicit in these community activities to be incorporated as part of our consideration for the resources that we can bring to support that. So, you can take that back to your Commission that we will be glad to sponsor what we can.

It was noted that Mrs. McKibben (former MCD member) helped write the charter and part of the charter is education.

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Mrs. McKibben's expectation is to have a meeting place at one of the adult communities for those interested in learning. She feels there are people who do not understand that mosquitoes are not such a threat as they think it is and then embracing the idea of bat houses, and not being afraid to go out at dusk. Talk ensued.

Mr. Poulos pointed out that if the disease is found in Town, is it incumbent upon us to take some steps. Mrs. McKibben said that the Fish and Game's policy is if the disease is found on their property and the mosquito tested positive, they will spray. They do not treat until they see a positive.

Mr. Poulos read an email from the State of N.H. stating that the Public Health Declaration made in 2009 was recently approved to continue into 2010. Chairman Raccio: Basically what the State has declared based on the number of active EEE cases, they continued their program to reimburse the towns that had active sitings and allows the State to enact Stage 5 of our plan, which is the critical stage and supercede the communities when there has been eminent danger to large population areas.

Chairman Raccio said he would be attending the Conservation meeting on July 1, 2010, as a citizen.

MUNICIPAL PEST MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Mr. Michael Morrison of Municipal Pest Management Services, came forward to talk about the program and Agnique application. He told the Board they did start the program but they only did three sites instead of nine because six sites were bone dry which is very unusual. He said that May was dry but that is a good sign and they also found the same thing in other towns. Mr. Raccio: So, that minimized the amount of chemical that may have been applied.

Mr. Morrison: That is very unusual; usually cattail marshes have water almost year round.

He thanked the Conservation Commission for organizing the sites. There were no issues applying Agnique. Chairman Raccio talked about the barrier application that was done last year.

Chairman: One of the things I would like to be able to do at the closure (Agnique) is corral that data and break it down similar to how we presented the data last year and be able to present to the community how much chemical was deployed and how much active agent within the appliqué...but until we get the empirical data from your team, we won't be able to break down the amounts.

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Mr. Morrison said that he would provide the information but it will be a very minute amount. Chairman Raccio asked Mr. Morrison to thank his team. The counts from the light traps were received. There were 531 total samples collected and of that none represented EEE carriers. The perturbans are down and there were 53% excrucians; it is woodland pool mosquito not a vector of West Nile or EEE. It was noted that 60% of mosquitoes are not biters or associated with disease. The perturbans are just starting to evolve but Mr. Morrison has never seen that many excrucians. Mr. Poulos pointed out that as we go through the summer different species emerge at different times so we are not out of the woods. Mr. Morrison agreed and predicts that the perturbans would still be the major mosquito.

Mrs. McKibben asked where Mr. Morrison was treating with BTI. Mr. Morrison: I do not have the exact sites...but at the edge of red maple swamps and only at the edges. I can get you the information because we have identified them on the GIS maps.

Chairman Raccio: The treatment progress report is what I was looking for and to be able to communicate to you I would like to get the final assessment of deployed chemical at the end of the period.

At this time, Chairman Raccio handed information to Mr. Morrison from a citizen.

Catch basins: Mr. Morrison said that the catch basins are starting to heat up and they are finding larvae so they should start treating. He will coordinate with the Road Agent. He pointed out that the middle of July is when they find positive EEE in light traps.

Chairman Raccio: One of the things we did, we originally had a year long plan for this committee was meetings every other month...since our treatment session two weeks ago and the activity again, we have moved forward to monthly meetings. Keeping us informed as best as possible will help us regulate our expenditures. We have a limited budget. At the next meeting 7/22/2010, we will start our budget preparation and the Selectmen have requested budgets be turned in at the end of August...we need contract information for the budget for 2011 season.

Mr. Morrison will provide the 2011 contract. Mr. Poulos asked about sampling invertebrates before and after applying the Agnique application and he is looking for that information. Mr. Morrison said that they did collect invertebrates and he would have the information for the next meeting. With this, Mr. Morrison and Mrs. McKibben left the meeting.

EXTENDED MEETINGS

The biggest expense with extended meeting is the recording; the budget will be close to

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zero. If the Town qualifies, there would be the State reimbursement and hopefully the Committee would not have to go to the Selectmen for money. Mr. Latsha: I do not think that the Selectmen or Budget Committee would second guess a public safety issue which this Committee is all about...if we had to go to the Selectmen for an emergency, my feeling is everybody on the Selectmen board will always look out for the public's well being and if the budget is over-expanded, I feel we would be insured that we would be getting that money.

Mr. Raccio: My concern is we discuss the decision...and we do not present a portrait to the Selectmen or townspeople that we are irresponsible with the allocations that they have given us. Yes, I do believe that the Selectmen in an emergency to public safety would authorize reasonable means to address that...I would not overspend without letting them know. How are we going to pay for this - it is with our existing budget and compromise in other areas within the budget.

Chairman Raccio **ENTERTAINED A MOTION** to implement the budget with the board's consent. Mr. Poulos **SO MOVED**. Mr. Latsha seconded. Motion to implement the extended schedule of June 24th, July 22nd, August 19th, September 16th, October 28th, November 18th and December 16th. Motion carried 3-0-0.

Kevin Lynch Health Officer was present.

PUBLIC EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

The MCD had discussed setting a schedule to work with school and see where the events are and moving out to educate the public.

COLLECTION EFFORTS

The sample report was received for this year and Mr. Raccio is starting to break down the samples into charts and mapping with the archive samples from last year to lining them up and look at collected history. The current sample lot was 531 tested samples; 308 were exrucians and 122 were perturbans...canadensis were 48 and other 10 species collected in the light traps and analyze by the State and none were positive.

2011 BUDGET

The Selectmen have requested a budget that represents a 5% reduction in the numbers from last year's default budget. Chairman Raccio: The Mosquito Control District has consistently reduced its budget every year and now on top of that asked to look at a base line of a 5% reduction from a reduced budget last year to this year and the budget we put in for last year that we are operating on this year, I believe would demise the Committee.

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We would not be able to function as a committee. It would be incumbent upon us to show that rationale when we present what budget we come up with to show them we have been on this down slope since we have been in existence and to base line us again another 5% reduction would basically not comply with our charter and not comply with the minimal essentials to operate.

Mr. Raccio will provide the members by email the work sheets to fill in and this would be discussed at the next meeting. As to the contract with Pest Management, there may not be any concessions because it was reduced last year.

MINUTES

Mr. Poulos **MOTIONED** that we accept the May 20, 2010 meeting minutes as submitted. Mr. Raccio seconded. Motion carried 3-0-0.

Mr. Raccio **MOTIONED** to approve the June 10, 2010 minutes as written. Mr. Poulos seconded. Mr. Latsha abstained. Motion carried 2-0-1.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Website updated - Chairman Raccio noted that the website needs to be monitored and email the Committee and John Brunelle as to changes to bring the website up-to-date. Mr. Poulos said that he would do it.

There being no further business, Chairman Raccio **ENTERTAINED A MOTION** to adjourn. Mr. Poulos **SO MOVED**. Mr. Latsha seconded. Motion carried 3-0-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Minutes approved 7/22/2010

Lorraine Dogopoulos
Recording Secretary