

TOWN OF LITCHFIELD

Mosquito Control District

May 20, 2010

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

Roll Call: Alfred C. Raccio, Chairman
John Latsha, Vice Chairman
John Poulos

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

MUNICIPAL PEST MANAGEMENT

Chairman Raccio asked that this be deferred until later. There was no objection.

HEALTH OFFICER

Chairman Raccio deferred meeting with Kevin Lynch until later. There was no objection.

Board of Selectmen Chairman Frank Byron entered the meeting.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Chairman Raccio talked about the various phone calls he has received regarding mosquitoes in Town. A lot of the calls were from newcomers and he suggested they attend a MCD meeting.

The parks and fields are full with activities so Chairman Raccio asked members to consider setting up a small table at these events on weekends and recommends that MCD members hand out literature. This was discussed. As to the cost of handouts and literature it was said this could be a joint effort between the State, Recreation Commission, Health Officer and MCD. It was also suggested handing out literature at the incinerator, schools, etc. as a public service gesture. Chairman Raccio will draft a schedule and distribute it to the members. Mr. Poulos will contact the State for available literature.

Another item is to update materials to send to the Cable Committee for viewing by the public. Mr. Latsha will speak with Mr. Pentheny, Cable Committee Chairman.

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MUNICIPAL PEST MANAGEMENT

Mr. Michael Morrison of Municipal Pest Management Services came forward. Mr. Morrison said the permit is in place and he now has the GIS maps of the Town. The maps will be provided to the Road Agent and the Planning Board. An article was placed in the Manchester Union Leader by Mr. Morrison regarding mosquito control.

Mr. Morrison said that it was a mild winter and the ground did not freeze so the melanora mosquito is more prevalent. His company will start trapping May 30th but Mr. Morrison said they do not expect to find a lot of adults in the traps. They have been monitoring the catch basin mosquitoes and because it has been warm lately they will need to be treated soon. He will be contacting the Road Agent. The roadside ditches are dry right now so the weather is in his favor. Mr. Poulos told the Board that where he resides, Old Stage Road, there are four vernal pools and the mosquitoes are worst than last year. Mr. Morrison said he would check the area.

Mr. Morrison talked about cattail mosquitoes. They are unusual because the larvae do not come to the surface so you can't treat them with the bacterium...they get air from the routes of the cattail plants. They have been trying to figure out a way to control them. They come out in June and they know their hatching period so they can apply the new application (agnique) to control them. Chairman Raccio asked that the chemical information be forwarded to him and requested that Mr. Morrison not do anything different until the information has been reviewed. The new application Mr. Morrison wants to use is called agnique and it is a new procedure. Mr. Morrison: No one is doing it in the northeast. It is a dangerous mosquito and EEE has been found in it many times and it feeds on birds and people.

Emergency spraying – Mr. Morrison: We did that last year and I though it worked pretty well. Thank you for your help and the fire department was a big help. Mr. Raccio: It was very successful.

The estimates provided by Mr. Morrison would allow for three emergency applications. One of the plans to be discussed is if treatment is deemed necessary if the town and school could share the costs then there would be an action plan in place. If the testing shows it is a necessity, the final decision to execute spraying would be the Board of Selectmen and the SAU.

Mr. Morrison told the Board that there are fifty towns in New Hampshire that are trapping and testing. Horses are not a good indicator any more because they are vaccinating horses now. So, light trapping is very important to tell us what is out there.

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Talk ensued. Mr. Poulos indicated that there is no money in the budget for barrier spraying so if the occasion arises, the Selectmen would have to find the money.

Chairman Raccio: One of the things in the Charter is we, as a committee district, have no responsibility for money other than the budget. The Board of Selectmen has the responsibility to take the recommendation from the MCD and judge against the Town's needs and I am sure they will find the mechanism appropriate.

Chairman Raccio asked Mr. Morrison about the refund program to towns declared EEE hazards and have plans on file. Mr. Morrison responded to say that they did file but no response if the state is going to implement the plan. He has not heard anything; it is in the books but he is not certain if the money is there. He will check on the status. Last year the State did not refund 100% of what they said they would.

There are things that can be done for storm water areas and keeping them free of mosquitoes through non-pesticidal means and Mr. Morrison will present those later. Chairman Raccio suggested having a meeting with the Planning Board, MCD and the Road Agent. Mr. Morrison to provide a time frame to implement the non-pesticidal means and maybe provide information on grants available through the EPA. There is a storm water center at UNH and he is going to meet with them.

Contract - Chairman Raccio talked about Municipal Pest Management contract and according to the contract a payment was due April 30th and then May 30th but the Board has not received an invoice. Mr. Byron pointed out that there is a payment schedule in the contract and thereby payments could be made accordingly with or without an invoice.

Talk ensued. Mr. Morrison further stated that EEE (Eastern Equine Encephalitis) has been here for eight years in a row. The old records of EEE is that it is around for a couple of years and it would be gone for thirty years. There was an out break in Exeter and then it was gone for 30 years but something has happened and the question is has the virus mutated into something else? Are there new species that never had it and now do? It is not known but it should not be in any place for eight years in a row. In most parts of the country, it is a very rare disease.

Mr. Morrison said that if they find melanora in the traps, they would larvicide. There are many perturban mosquitoes all over the northeast and it is a very common mosquito. Out of 18,967 mosquitoes captured for sampling taken 12,624 were perturbans. Last year the mosquito population was very dangerous. They still don't know where these mosquitoes are in the wintertime. Talk went on as to West Nile Virus. Mr. Morrison said West Nile is not big here because of a lack of a certain mosquito, culex, and culex is found more in city areas and catch basins and they are bird feeders.

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Mr. John Latsha indicated that a lot of people think that the program is eliminating all mosquitoes but it is basically targeting certain mosquitoes is that correct?

Mr. Morrison: Yes. They are spring mosquitoes that we find in the woods that are not really implicated as major players because EEE really happens later in the year and the spring mosquitoes are hatching now only live for a couple of months then they are gone. The mosquitoes that are around right now will not give anyone EEE. The earliest we have had a positive mosquito is July 10th or 15th.

With this, Mr. Morrison left the meeting.

PRE-SEASON PLANS

Last year the MCD went through a number of meetings with departments and the school for recommendations to the Board of Selectmen. This was discussed. Chairman Raccio felt this was very beneficial and suggested setting up meetings with various departments as a courtesy to discuss plans and actions to the upcoming season. The members had no objection to the meetings. Chairman Raccio will provide a schedule of proposed meetings for consideration.

MINUTES

Mr. Latsha **MOTIONED** to approve the minutes of March 18, 2010, as written. Mr. Raccio seconded. Mr. Poulos abstained. (not present at the meeting). Motion carried 2-0-1.

Mr. Raccio **MOTIONED** to approve the January 21, 2010, minutes as written. Mr. Poulos seconded. Mr. Latsha abstained. Motion carried 2-0-1.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Appointment - Mr. Latsha said that he would like to be reappointed to the MCD. Chairman Raccio will submit to the Selectmen a recommendation for re-appointment of Mr. Latsha to the MCD for a term of three years. It is not certain whether the memberships are re-appointed by the MCD or the Board of Selectmen. This will be checked and discussed at the next meeting. Members were in favor of Mr. Latsha being re-appointed.

Agnique - There may be a meeting in June to discuss the application of agnique to cattail marshes.

Signs - Since there is not a lot of money in the budget for signage, it was suggested if

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needed that local businesses could donate paper or whatever for printing. There are signs left over from last year that could be utilized. This was discussed.

There being no further business, Chairman Raccio **ENTERTAINED A MOTION** to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Poulos **SO MOVED**. Mr. Latsha seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Lorraine Dogopoulos
Recording Secretary