

## **Mosquito Control District Meeting Minutes**

**April 18, 2013**

The Litchfield Mosquito Control District conducted a meeting on April 18, 2013 at 7 PM in the main conference room at Town Hall.

Members Present: Mr. Raccio (Chairman)  
Mr. Latsha  
Mrs. Valerie Hardy

Mr. Raccio called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Raccio started the meeting by taking a moment to give thanks and blessing to the citizens of our community that was in attendance at the Boston Marathon over the past week and to the friends, family and relatives of the injured and the deceased victims of that tragic moment.

Mr. Raccio also announced that they have two members in the audience that have joined us from Boy Scouts of America as they start to understand how our Government issues work. Mr. Raccio explained to the Boy Scouts that they are a classic example of a committee to the Town that administers and makes recommendations. They are a non-authoritative Committee, we are a advisory committee and in the committee we are by State RSA a District. They are the Mosquito Control District as voted by the Town's people and authorized and funded by the Town's people through taxation and have been in existence for approximately 7 years officially and still have to their great advantage Mr. John Latsha, who actually eight years ago started the original petition letter to the Town to get on the ballot for us to be able to formally convene this district. John Latsha, the founder. Mr. Raccio stated he had the honor to join John in this district to help the district develop and grow into what they have provided the town today. Mr. Raccio stated that they have had 3 members since then and their newest member Mrs. Valerie Hardy has joined them about 4 months ago and they still continue to provide the same level of service for the same cost of their service contract to the Town and unfortunately the State has cut their funding reimbursement program. Mr. Raccio thanked the Boy Scouts for being there this evening.

**Public Input** - Mr. Raccio stated they have an open door and website policy, and have numerous ways the public can communicate with them upto and including joining them here publically. Mr. Raccio stated that they have a resident and member of the Budget Committee, Boy Scouts of America and our Health Officer joining them tonight.

Boy Scout Gabriel Desjardins from Campbell High School came forward to ask the Board a question. Gabriel asked the Board how often they meet to discuss the Mosquito problem. Al stated that the Committee officially meet once a month, every third Thursday at 7:00 pm in public forum. Al stated that depending on mosquito activity in the summer they meet as frequent and often as needed. They post their agendas and meeting notices regularly. They communicate amongst themselves quite frequently. The topic of mosquitoes and mosquito control and infectious disease monitoring primarily up and down the cost is really the main source, the center for disease control and the DES is another source as well as our health officer. The Board of Selectmen is who the Board answers to and takes questions from them and do research for them and make a lot of recommendations to them. Valerie explained that she was on on a committee in Concord that was for National General Relations and they would vote on the budget and the people who does the budget is the Budget Committee and then they bring it forward to them to vote on or not. Valeries stated that she was in Concord for two years. Valerie explained that there are a lot of things going on up there, and one of the things that really interested her was the bill that some people with lyme disease wanted to put through in the state and they had a video called "Under the Skin" and they showed it to the State House and she was really floored by what lyme disease does to a person. Valerie mentioned that she lives in a over 55 Community behind the Library and took the video to them and told them that they needed to see this video because they need to be aware how bad this affects a person. Valerie stated that if you find a tick on yourself, get care right away. The funding to the Lyme and Health Center did not get voted in and she was upset about this, because she sat next to a woman who had lyme disease. Mr. Raccio stated that not only do they address mosquitos, they address the general infectious diseases that are transmitted by mosquitoes and ticks, this is their primary mission. Working with our Health Officer, these are the things that truly impact any member of the community, because it is such an everyday occurrence. Al thanked Gabriel for his participation.

Dan Vaillancourt of 1 Fallon Drive in Litchfield came forward to say he lives right near the new ball fields so he is glad to sit in on this meeting. Dan had a few questions: 1). For public warning, how much notice and how far an area out of these ball fields and recreational areas need warning and how much notice. Al stated that regarding public notice, they do not censor or target specific areas of Town, they get the word out through the Fire Department, Police Department, Kevin has all the contacts from the Health

Department, full coverage. As soon as we or the Health Officer gets reports from the state and they get reports from their contractor on mosquito testing, if Kevin and the Board get the report, the State will come down and give you an announcement. The earliest warning they have are from their weekly test pools that come from their contractor, so in that are all the samples. While those samples are not chemically tested for the disease, there is only a handful of species that transmit the disease. Mr. Raccio stated that as they get these reports, they highlight how many different species you have. When they come out and say they have found one of our test sites that has 17 sets or 50 mosquito individuals or more, that have tested as a vector carrying, then they notify Kevin or the Board quickly, then they immediately put their Town response people on notice, Al sends communications to the Selectmen, those are announced so as soon as we know the Town knows. It is posted online, on a board, etc. If it is park, we do the parks and the public lands and the Schools. If it is parks it will go immediately to the Rec Committee directors, if it is a park next to any of our schools, it will go to the Rec Director and to the Superintendent of Schools. Kevin mentioned to Dan that the Town has entered into what is called a Code Red system for any type of emergency event. This is something new. You can sign up for this Code Red, which is for any type of emergency. Kevin stated that if we get a tested pool that comes back with west nile (which will be the later part of the summer), they get them from Manchester all the time, they found 7 in Manchester, 4 in Londonderry and 2 in Merrimack. They notify us. If we start getting more hits inside the community, we have these events, the rec fields and everything else, the group will make a decision where they may do some barrier spraying around that. We do not do private land or anything like that, you need permission which is a separate issue. This group here has been very proactive in the barrier side of it and the precaution (testing), there are certain places in town where they test because they know there are good pools and bad pools, each week we get a test report done. Al stated that it is monthly by the State but it is weekly by their contractor. Kevin stated that if it comes down to where we have a higher risk of west nile or we get into EEE, the State is going to say use personal protection, the kids are not just in the ball fields they are in their backyards. Kevin stated that it is only the deer tick that creates the issue, there are many different types of ticks. Kevin stated that it is not how often they do it, but it depends on what comes out of the year; a dry year or a wet year. Some years we have nothing in Town, but surrounding us for example Manchester, has a colony of them that comes out every year only in the same spots, and they do the same thing we do here, they call up and take care of the public spaces, the recreation areas. If the Schools want to come on Board have to give them permission to do it or they chip in as well to do it from their budget. Al stated that they have had a very good relationship with the school district. Mr. Raccio mentioned that on line the Mosquito Control District developed the adversarial plan for the Town. It is registered with the State and updated every year. and that is a direct input from this committee to the State and sanctioned by the department heads; Fire,

Safety and Health. Al stated that we do not engage in aerial or aerosol approaches for mosquito control, however the Board reserves the right in the public interest to present to the Board of Selectmen a case that says we now need to contract aerial spraying from our licensed vendor and here are the reasons why , we have meet the states adversarial plan criteria and we are recommending fully that the Board of Selectmen and announcing that it is time that we must do aerial spraying. Al stated that to date they had 1 year (the year of the 250th) that week leading up to that event was severe and they immediately all acted together as a united front an barrier sprayed and treated the public paths that most of the parade would be going down. This happened primarily because of Kevin Lynch, the Mosquito Committee and their contractor who has been beside them for a long time and it didn't cost the Town a penny, their contractor stepped up and provided the barrier spraying and his staff, trucks, chemicals and his time. Al stated that tick control on an open field can be somewhat contained with a simple 2 foot perimeter of bark mulch between the wood line and the open space. Question 2). Who sprays, how long does it last and does it kill the mosquitoes and the larvae or does it just keep them away from those areas? Al stated that they don't spray, they only use barrier application. Barrier application is our contractor has a truck, this application does not spray it on the ground, we spray it across the tree faces at the tree line. Thats puts up a vapor barrier which is done at night so it dries, so that in the morning if the kids are playing they are not getting anything. It is effective for about 48 to 72 hours depending on humidity, rain, sunshine. It is a short term measure to protect an immediate group of people without being long lasting and intrusive to crops and things at that sort, it biodegrades cleanly. Al stated what they implement in town in called larviciding, it is very targeted to specific pools in areas that they dip test. The larvicide chemical is genetically targeted to the vector species only. The larvicide does last long, what it does is that the mosquito larvae eat it and they never mature into adult mosquitoes.

The Board thanked Dan for coming forward this evening.

**Announcements:**

Al spoke with the Jason regarding their budget which was a big concern of theirs last month with the current financial position of the town. Al mentioned that in their discussions, he was very vocal about their concerns on cutting their contract value as well as for the past two years their vendor has been working with them and they requested last budget year, when the feds upped the taxes for the licenses on the contractors, and they were able to negotiate with them without costing the town. This year they actually put it in their budget and because we had a defeated budget, we are forced to live within the constraints of last year's budget as well as trying to make up for automatic increases, so we were asked to submit on how we would cut and their budget is cut to the bone anyway. It is basically the

contracted services. When he talked to Jason, he informed him that his recommendations going forward to the Selectmen would be to preserve their budget as is and he is fully aware that there is two years that they have been trying to get this in place and that there is no postage, no surplus tools, no place else to cut, so Jason is recommending that the Board of Selectmen take their budget as the contract value as submitted. Jason understands and Al stated when this does come up he we certainly be at that meeting to answer any questions that the Board may have and everyone is invited to attend as well as the general public. The service that they do because they are a very small unauthoritative district, goes pretty much well unknown and is not until people ask questions on how and what they do and the importance and significance to the Town that their volunteer group moves forward and to cut that contracted value out would be counterproductive to the seven years that they have provided.

#### **Potential New member Update:**

Al mentioned that the update on Dave's application process, he has been informed that the Board of Selectmen would like to meet Mr. Tate this Monday evening and we will get a set time for our proposed candidate to meet the Board of Selectmen. Al will draft a note addressed to the Board of Selectmen as well as Jason stating that it s the recommendation 3-0-0 of this committee and district that Dave Tate be adopted as a new member and sworn in.

#### **Approval of Meeting Minutes for March 2013-**

Mr. Raccio **motioned** to postpone the approval of the March 2013 minutes until the next meeting. Mr. Latsha **seconded** the motion. Motion carried **3-0-0**.

#### **Members Update:**

1. Cable Committee- Al mentioned that he did send communications to Dick Pentheny regarding their 30 second lead ins for the upcoming season, which goes along with educating the public. Mr. Latsha came up with a great idea with just doing 15 to 30 second spots that they would air just before the Selectmen and the Budget Committee meetings and after those meetings so that as these important committees and groups meet, they are tuned in and they have put an educational message. Al will call Dick. The website is still looking fairly reasonable.

#### **Any Other Business**

Al mentioned that last year they had pepsico. Pepsico was a great town activity, sponsored a lot of town participation and people felt good about the event. One of the lessons that Al learned from that was that there are a number of large corporate assets available to support town activities, as we get into the season and get some of their

technical issue settled, AI would like to start to look at way they can optimise their interfaces with those people, in short they should be looking to exploit whatever corporate assets are out there to help them; whether it is providing repellent that they use during these events, sponsorships, maybe one of corporations through our areas may want to provide signage, or sponsor awareness. They need the resources but they do not want to tax the people to get the resources.

**AI opened up Public Input:**

No members of the public had any further questions.

Mr. Latsha **motioned** to adjourn. The motion carried **3-0-0**. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.