

TOWN OF LITCHFIELD

Mosquito Control District

January 22, 2009

The Mosquito Control District Committee held a meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Meeting Room.

Members present: Alfred C. Raccio, Chairman
John Latsha, Vice Chairman
Joan McKibben

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: All members present.

Chairman Raccio called the meeting order at 7:02 p.m.

MINUTES

Mr. Latsha **MOTIONED** to approve the minutes of November 20, 2008 as written. Mrs. McKibben seconded. Motion carried 3-0-0.

2009 BUDGET

Mr. Raccio informed the members that the MCD budget was not altered at the final sessions and has gone through with the final submissions from the Budget Committee. All the appropriate adjustments were made considering the acquisition of the materials late last year including the acquisition of the camera package, which was then removed, as you know the line item was reduced and moved forward.

Mrs. McKibben asked if the camera line item was reduced in 2009. Mr. Raccio said it was and the money was encumbered in 2008. The contract with Municipal Pest Management was approved unchanged.

Mr. Latsha said the Budget Committee took some money out of the web design line item. Mr. Raccio said he believes they altered the line item. Mr. Latsha asked if this will have a major impact on the website with the deduction. Mr. Raccio: It certainly curtails some of the activities for a design other than what Mr. Brunelle may or may not offer as services. A couple of other things I was not successful in justifying was the fact that the preliminary design and the links to the various control features and embellishments, we want the people when they log on not to just look at the website, we want features that attract them to self protection links that possibly even animate a small streaming video clips that demonstrates at parks, through our nature trails, Darrah Pond, etc. Those are the

TOWN OF LITCHFIELD

Mosquito Control District

January 22, 2009

type of things that make a website enhanced, those are the things that will make the kids want to look, animated clips about simple things like changing the water in the birdbaths, finding mosquito pools, etc. Those types of things in my humble assessment I want a four year old to see an animated clip at the home page. Those are the types of ideas that we need to discuss and then we can figure out if that is not in Mr. Brunelle's charter, then we have to consider do we want to hire him, do we want a design and then implement it, that is what that money will impact.

Mrs. McKibben questioned if there is a need to increase the line item at Deliberative Session. Mr. Raccio said he would contact Mr. Brunelle and ask his input.

ANNUAL REPORT

The Board reviewed the MCD submission for the Annual Report written by Mr. Raccio. There were changes to be added. This was discussed and the changes were made. Mr. Raccio will email the report and provided a CD.

Mrs. McKibben **MOTIONED** to submit, as printed with the two changes, the Annual Report for 2008 to the Selectmen. Mr. Latsha seconded. Motion carried 3-0-0.

MCD CONTROL PLAN

Mr. Raccio referred to the handout Arboviral Illness, Surveillance, Prevention and Response Plan. Mr. Raccio: I do not anticipate us voting, however, I want the minutes to capture the fact that we are fully engaged in a plan to move this forward as quickly as possible. A little background: Late last year in trying to close out the year for our reimbursable funds, it was uncovered that we had the appropriate information to file, however, we had no case at the State level. In order to comply with the State regulations for refund, the Town must adopt a plan and put the plan in place. Upon finding that out, I did the research and sent to the Board members a draft of the plan that still needs work. There are a number of sections in the plan that have been highlighted I left comments on so that I tried to capture the areas that the plan needs work. Referencing Page 3, paragraph 1 - Printed Materials: Fact sheets and information on the above topics are available at the Town Hall and on the MCD page of the town website. So, this particular comment asserts work needed on the town website. In order to draft the town website, we need it to include at a minimum the topics that we say up top Special information for schools, camps as an example, how to minimize mosquito breeding opportunities around the home and businesses. So, that is one of the first actions that we need. In the comment section, I have added a few notes. Paragraph 2 - the MCD page of the Town of Litchfield website, again, we need to authenticate this, serves as the central source for updates and information regarding West Nile and EEE. We will need to create the links in the comments and reports to accurately fulfill the statement or we need suggestions from

TOWN OF LITCHFIELD

Mosquito Control District

January 22, 2009

members whether they would like to change that.

Item 4 - Mosquito Control Ordinance: Mr. Raccio said the Board will need to craft the language and submit to the Board of Selectmen for approval or adoption. The ordinance reinforces what we say about individual responsibility for control and protection and a community-wide level...the community needs to participate in breeding controls. Violation of this ordinance is punishable by a fine not more than \$100 per occurrence and the Board, as a whole, needs to go back and make the recommendations.

Mr. Raccio said it is light on the penalties but it needs to be crafted and agreed upon and moved to the BOS.

Mrs. McKibben referred to the 4th sentence where it says “or any other artificial water receptacle or shall treat and maintain”. She has an issue with “shall treat” because she remembers Mr. Morrison saying you can’t even put those mosquito dunk things in without a license. Mr. Raccio: Treatment may be simply emptying the water and putting fresh water, or coy pools.

Mrs. McKibben: I have two pools in my back yard and I was a little concerned because there is a lot of water frogs...and I asked Mike Morrison to come over and test them and he said they are fine because they are three feet deep but even the action of the frogs jumping in is enough to disturb the water so the larvae won’t live...I just do not want everyone to think they can put those mosquito eating fish in every woodland pool or be treating with those mosquito dunk things.

Mr. Latsha: My feeling is do you think we should have a warning first and then a fine.

Mr. Raccio said to put it in an email and this will be discussed at the next meeting and then have legal review it. Enforcement of the ordinance would be the Code Enforcement Officer and Health Officer.

Section B 1. Dead Bird Reports – Mrs. McKibben said that Mr. Morrison said that the State is not collecting dead birds any more. Mr. Raccio said that it should still be reported. If the bird has been dead for a while, we will not do anything but the reason for the report must address all aspects and in this reporting the report is forwarded to the Animal Control Officer for bird pick up to the Health Officer to notify the laboratory.

Mr. Raccio: The balance of the report, the remaining pages talks about a phased response plan for West Nile Virus and a phased response plan for EEE. This is very similar to when we started the committee we said that we would apply reasonable control methods and that we would decide when and where those methods are applied until the point where the State overrides us and mandates things. These plans are an implementation of

TOWN OF LITCHFIELD

Mosquito Control District

January 22, 2009

that and they have suggested points where spraying or aerosol applications are trigger points for those types. We, as a Board, need to scrutinize these plans and make sure they are consistent with the objectives as a Board we set out to do because it won't be a matter of if, it will be a matter of when we are challenged with these events simply because we are in a wetlands area. So, once we get the legal part, I think we will spend a fair amount of work making sure we are comfortable at these and then I would suggest we bring in a public hearing and make sure the public actually understands what and when we depart from our very watchful eyes of our control mechanisms and may potentially what are the trigger events for aerosol and how are they constrained. We will take some time to dig down in that because that is the sensitive and trigger spots and we want to make we are consistent with our objectives and basically there is two iterations - the West Nile and a comparable plan for EEE.

WEBSITE

Mr. Brunelle was to meet with the Board this evening but he was unable to attend. He will be invited to attend the next meeting. Mr. Raccio said that the town plan relies heavily on links to various State organizations and CDC websites.

ACTION ITEMS

Chairman Raccio to contact Mr. Brunelle regarding his attendance at the next meeting and validating the budget expenditure.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Latsha referred to the minutes of November 20, 2008, regarding MCD meeting with the Planning Board to look at the software mapping. Mr. Raccio: That topic was in requesting the analysis that I sent everyone...the MCD had talked about the enhancements of these features and adding the technical data to continue to grow our maps. A few weeks ago I forwarded a message from Michael asking for data, I believe that links to that issue that Michael was asking for some GIS mapping information.

Joint Meeting - Mr. Latsha mentioned a meeting with the School Board. Mr. Morrison had indicated that he would like to go speak in schools during off-season. The other part is notifying them about light traps they could purchase for next year. This would be an informational exchange with the School Board. Mr. Raccio will contact Dennis Miller, School Board, requesting an hour of their time to bring Mr. Morrison and introduce the school to various options.

Mission Statement - At the last meeting, Mrs. McKibben had inquired if the mission statement still applies. This will be added to the next agenda meeting.

TOWN OF LITCHFIELD

Mosquito Control District

January 22, 2009

Letter of Appreciation - Mr. Latsha asked that a letter be forwarded and signed by the MCD Chairman, and BOS Chairman, thanking those businesses that helped distributing information about mosquito control. Mr. Latsha will prepare the letter with Mr. Raccio's help.

Signage - Mr. Raccio mentioned printing signs similar to the one used by the building department that are durable, sun and rain resistant, or signs similar to the conservation commission had made by Marshall's signs that are even heavier and more durable. Mrs. McKibben said that the Health Officer did put up signs for the winter to see if they held up. It is believed they are laminated signs.

Pest Management - Chairman Raccio said that Mr. Morrison should be attending the next MCD meeting and, hopefully, the Committee will have a solidified plan for March.

There being no further business, Mr. Raccio **ENTERTAINED A MOTION** to adjourn. Mr. Latsha **SO MOVED** to adjourn. Mrs. McKibben seconded. Motion carried 3-0-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Lorraine Dogopoulos
Recording Secretary