

TOWN OF LITCHFIELD

Mosquito Control District

September 24, 2009

The Mosquito Control District held a meeting on September 24, 2009, at the Town Hall Conference Room.

Members Present: Alfred C. Raccio, Chairman
John Latsha, Vice Chairman

Absent: Joan McKibben

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

EEE VIRUS

Mr. Raccio: Before we get into our agenda, I would like to spend a couple of minutes talking about the past four weeks of activity that the MCD, as well as several departments within the Town - the Health Officer, the Office of Emergency Management, the Board of Selectmen, and Mr. Pinciario from the road department, have all chipped in as you know to address the urgency that we have been experiencing regarding the EEE virus in the adult mosquito population here in Town. The onset of the 275th Anniversary Celebration along with numerous Litchfield recreation activities such as soccer, ball playing, the ropes course, and the SAU of course contributing their time and efforts to help us spring the word out to utilize self protection. John and I can't emphasize enough what it means to continue to practice good anti-mosquito behavior, if you will. In all seriousness, don't let the cooler nights fool you; it takes two evenings of consecutive hard frost before the mosquito season really tailors down. One evening doesn't do it. Two consecutive evenings and these cooler evenings and afternoons you can't let your guard down. The statistics coming out of the State lab are still hard - two new cities just today were reported positive EEE virus. John and I continue, as well as Joan, continue to monitor very closely all aspects within our means of the virus and tracking it through the region through our bordering states as well as our bordering communities. This is still a very serious problem. We are teetering right now on a Level 4 elevation. If we come back positive, which we do not know yet, we will be transitioning with a recommendation from the Board to the Selectmen towards the next level. We will keep everyone posted as to when the next report from the State lab comes out. I was in talks today with Mr. Morrison from Municipal Pest Management and Mr. Morrison has stated that the State lab is running a little late due to the larger amounts of testing. Additionally, I was informed that the State lab will officially stop testing September 30th. To me, and as little as I know about this, seems a little premature even if the data comes back a week late, there is still potentially two to three weeks of season. No one can guarantee with certainty when those two consecutive frosts will come. Additionally, we have had a direction from the Board of Selectmen this past Monday evening to initiate an Action Team. This Action

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Team is basically designed to work with our surveillance prevention and response plan to enhance the level of granularity from transitioning from a risk level 3 to a risk level 4 or 5.

Mr. Latsha asked how many people would be on the Action Team. Mr. Raccio: Right now a series of no less than seven people and that would be representatives from public safety, office of emergency management, the SAU or the school board authority. There would also be a representative from the Board of Selectmen, a representative from the Fire Department and a representative from the Health Office. The department heads or the chiefs of the departments responsible have been notified to assign a representative to this committee per the Board of Selectmen's unanimous vote Monday evening. The objective of this committee is to develop initiation criteria - what would cause us to really bring this committee to action. Develop the definition of the functions; the functions for public safety, emergency management, the school district, the Town itself, the town proper from the Board of Selectmen's perspective and the Health Officer, and how serious a pandemic or an epidemic of this nature would bring about. Develop the resource plan and basically should we do this, what resources might we need from the conservation department perhaps, or from local industry; what resources from the Town - do we need additional funding for activities, and are there equipment that can be utilized, and then finally once those first three objectives are developed, the development of the action plan itself, and that would again follow suit to the State plan that we have filed. When we look at all of this, this basically comes as a model from the State Emergency Operation Plan and when we start to tailor these attributes to our Town's specific and unique needs, we can then forward up a skeleton for the Board of Selectmen to examine and whether they adopt it or not, this will start the framework for that.

Mr. Latsha: They will be reporting to the Board of Selectmen with their objectives?

Mr. Raccio: Yes. Once this team develops and executes these objectives, the final activity would be the presentation of a draft action plan, which includes everything that we talked about. The Board of Selectmen would then review that and take into consideration inputs from various department heads and make a determining action as to whether we finalize the report and adopt it and then submit it to the State; or whether we keep the report internal and have basically provisions of understanding for the Town. But in effect what it does is it compliments the transition of our existing State filed plan so that we have a course of action and when we start to elevate into the higher risk levels, time is absolutely critical. So, things like the Fire Chief with his office of emergency management hat on had a very excellent idea of developing a "memorandum of understanding" between the departments so when we make a determination that we are going to go door to door, we don't have to wait until the next Monday or call a special meeting of the Board of Selectmen, the action plan vest that type of authority.

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Mr. Latsha: What authority would the MCD itself have?

Mr. Raccio: We would be part of this action team.

Mr. Latsha: One representative, right?

Mr. Raccio: Right. The skeleton structure follows again the nymph's architecture. During an activity, an event of emergency management qualification there is one leader and that leader then, under the development of the initiation criteria, if we fall through all of that, that leader then makes a determination of deployment of the team, or not; or what elements of the team actually needs to be deployed. That person has been vested with those powers already because part of this review process is acceptance by the Board of Selectmen that in these conditions, very well defined conditions, one individuals may have limited power to go to Kinko's and get some copies for distribution and those funds would be predetermined either out of the contingency fund or out of the MCD, or the Health Office, but all that will be predetermined and predefined. So, that it makes it much easier than for example the applications that we did for the 275th (Celebration). That took a series of multiple steps and because everyone was responsive we were able to execute the night before, actually the afternoon. But if that is not the case, then this plan would facilitate those actions until the emergency has been determine to subside or the Board of Selectmen have convened and taken authority. So, again, very important stuff considering where we are the current season and clearly having this to file in conjunction with next year's plan to the State will only improve our abilities to collect any refunds that may be potentially available.

On Monday night the Board of Selectmen approved the formation of the Action Committee. Mr. Raccio said that he is waiting for a response from the department heads.

ELECTIONS

Mr. Raccio said elections are done once a year and it is past the September date for office elections therefore it was put on the agenda. Mrs. Joan McKibben has chosen not to request reappointment but there is one applicant under consideration. Also, the Committee agreed at the August 28th meeting to close the application process seeking a new member. There was only one resident responding to the advertisement. It was agreed not to reopen the application process and therefore Chairman Raccio officially closed the application process.

Mr. Raccio **NOMINATED** John Latsha as Chairman. Mr. Raccio stated that Mr. Latsha did an outstanding job as Chairman the first year inclusion of the Mosquito Control District. Mr. Latsha seconded for discussion. Mr. Latsha explained that his workload has changed and his time available has changed so he does not know if he would be able to

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give the time he did the first time around as Chairman. He went on to “thank” Mr. Raccio for all the time he has put in. Mr. Raccio: It is more than one night a month...there is a lot of work that goes on in the background as committee members and there is an inordinate amount of work and research that goes unseen. In consideration of your statements regarding our time, there is two of us, so, I do not know if we call a vote, and we close the motion properly then we can move on to another motion. Mr. Latsha: Can we table it? We close it and then table it until we get another member and we can vote then and wait till we get another member. Mr. Raccio: Yes, of course we can table it. We have tabled it quite a few times.

Vote: John Latsha as Chairman of MCD: Mr. Raccio voted yes. Mr. Latsha voted no. Vote is defeated due to deadlock.

Mr. Latsha **MOTIONED** that we table it until the next meeting October 15, 2009. Mr. Raccio seconded. Motion carried 2-0-0.

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

NEW MEMBER CONSIDERATION

The application form was properly filled out and turned over to the Board of Selectmen for consideration. Mr. Raccio assumes that the applicant will meet with the Board of Selectmen on Monday evening for an interview and appointment. Mr. Raccio will be attending that meeting. The MCD Committee at their August 28th meeting expressed a positive outcome for the applicant and endorsed the applicant. The new member term is for a three-year term replacing Mrs. McKibben.

EEE VIRUS

Again, Mr. Raccio warned residents to practice self-awareness and self-protection. Talk ensued. It was pointed out that there has been one human case in the State where an infant came down with EEE.

Mr. Latsha: A couple of years ago when I was trying to get the MCD into this Town, the last line I said in my speech to the residents was, “we will leave no stone unturned and we will have no regrets” and I honestly believe that that statement has come true through your efforts Mr. Chairman, and your efforts alone. Like I said, you have done an exceptional job here with everything as far as the barrier protection, the schools, our soccer fields...you have done an excellent job from start to finish. I have seen the emails - there have been probably 20 to 30 emails, all the work behind the scenes, the work with

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Mr. Morrison, the work with the Health Officer, all the way through is 100%...you deserve all the credit.

Mr. Raccio: I have to rebut that.

Mr. Latsha: Let's put credit where credit is due here.

Mr. Raccio: It is the Mosquito Control District; we are a team and all of us put these plans into place.

Mr. Latsha: But what I am saying is as soon as those test results came back with EEE, the reaction was very quick. You worked with the Fire Department in some instances, the Police, all the emergency personnel, with the Board of Selectmen, everything went perfectly and I think you deserve the utmost credit for doing that and I appreciate it very much. Thank you.

Mr. Raccio: Thank you Mr. Latsha. We acknowledge the fact that extenuating circumstances brings this Town together. It is through cooperation with the Board of Selectmen and the Health Officer (Kevin Lynch), the Office of Emergency Management (Fire Chief Tom Schofield), Police Chief O'Brien and his staff, and clearly Dr. (Elaine) Cutler and the School Board, Tony (Schaffer) and the Recreation Committee - we attended meetings with them. It is all of us together understanding when it is time to protect the citizens of this community that is exactly what we do and fortunately the district had the plans in place that helped facilitate all of those actions. Thank you for your kind words John.

MINUTES

The approval of the September 4, 2009, minutes was tabled and will be approved at the next meeting.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Action Item List - Mr. Raccio said he added a number of action items to the list as indicated from the last meeting. He did not have a printout this evening. At the next meeting, the committee would decide whether or not to continue with the action list.

Video Production – Chairman Raccio talked about continuing work on visualization as well as small limited productions. Mr. Raccio: As I see the plan coming into play and all of the additional education that the Town would benefit from as we continue to transition. When we sit the full board we are going to need to get more serious about executing those skits, or scripts, and looking at the current surveillance prevention and response

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plan and tailoring it for the 2010. We have to file this every year so we are going to have to tailor this again for 2010 year and with the completion of this work, we would be able to better define the levels in the execution of the risk level. So, those two things will continue to ducktail and as we are fully staffed again, the work on the plan, the work on the Town action team and the ultimately skeleton structure for the emergency operations will come together a lot quicker.

2010 Budget - Mrs. Linda Langille had provided a report of the budget and of which 24% is remaining in the budget. Mr. Raccio mentioned there were unexpected expenses for printing signs and stakes for posting the signs and because of the money returned, the budget would be over-expended by \$100 to \$150. Mr. Raccio asked if the Board should re-evaluate some of the line items such as minor tools and supplies in the 2010 budget. Mr. Latsha agreed. Mr. Raccio will review the budget and forward it to the members adding \$100 to minor tools and supplies line and double the printing line to \$400.

Action Team - Once the team is formed, Mr. Raccio will notify all of the members as to when the first meeting would take place and copy members with any general communications regarding the team formation. He welcomes any type of input regarding initiation criteria, definition of function, the resource plan itself and the development of the action plan. He further stated that if any member would care to, there is, under Office of Emergency Management at the State level, there is a link to the State of NH Emergency Operation Plan Draft 2 that is currently under consideration at the State level. "This is the plan that we are going to use as a guideline and tailor the process to allow us to at least draft a structure for the Board of Selectmen's consideration. That is available on line".

There was no further business, Mr. Raccio **ENTERTAINED A MOTION** to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Latsha **SO MOVED**. Motion carried 2-0-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Lorraine Dogopoulos
Recording Secretary