

TOWN OF LITCHFIELD

Mosquito Control District

September 13, 2007

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

A Moment of Silence was observed in memory of Scott Innes.

ROLL CALL

Chairman called the roll: All were present.

REVOTE CHAIRPERSON

Chairman Latsha: It has been brought to my attention that at the last meeting there was a problem with protocol and from what I understand we have to do a revote for the chairman of the District Committee. A revote under the following rules: Any member may nominate any member without requiring a second to the nomination. Once a nomination is made a simple majority will rule. Any discussion from Board members regarding these rules is open to nomination.

Mr. Raccio: It was brought to my attention that this oversight between the Riggins Rules protocol and the actual protocols that articulate the rules of motions in your examples set bounds where a simple nomination not requiring a second followed by a simple majority has bound the boundaries. Mr. Chairman I would like to **MOTION** that you, Mr. Latsha, be Chairman of the Mosquito Control District as stated. There was no discussion. All were in favor.

MINUTES

The approval of minutes was tabled (see below).

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

TOWN OF LITCHFIELD

Mosquito Control District

September 13, 2007

GUESTS:

Mr. Latsha welcomed the following guests: Thomas Levesque, Sr. (Conservation Commission Chairman), Sharon Jones (Conservation Commission member), Sue Seabrook (School Nurse) and Kevin Lynch (Health Officer).

MINUTES

At this time, Mr. Raccio said Chairman Latsha needs to table the minutes to a date certain. Mr. Latsha Tabled the minutes until October 11, 2007, meeting.

MUNICIPAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Mr. Michael Morrison, President, Municipal Management Services, came forward to discuss mosquito control and the services the company provides. He is an anthropologist and has worked in mosquito control since 1979.

He went on to say that they have different programs available. One area they have been getting a lot of calls on is Lyme disease, which is on the rise, and so they are monitoring ticks, collecting them and testing for disease. He works with pesticides and vegetation control, poison ivy control, turf management, etc.

It was asked if he could provide a copy of the presentation. Mr. Morrison said he will provide a releasable piece of media. A power point presentation followed.

There are different ways to control mosquitoes. Adult mosquito larvicide is very effective and important because once mosquitoes are winged, it is a lot more difficult to destroy; they would rather destroy larvae in water. The stages of mosquito development were discussed. Mr. Morrison: The life cycle of mosquitoes is about a month and for some about two weeks. There is a new type of mosquito that arrived in tires into the US from third world countries such as Japan, North Korea, and these are cold hearted. Mr. Morrison said these new mosquitoes live in catch basins and they are out during the day; again they are very aggressive. He further stated that one tire can hold 150 mosquitoes. Some towns have actually instituted a tire ordinance.

Mr. Morrison said he has necessary insurance and the Town would be listed as an additional insured. He is licensed for different situations such as vegetation control, poison ivy control, etc. He also does wetlands projects dealing with plant control. Mr. Morrison went on to say it takes 120 days to get a permit; he has permits in 7 to 8 towns. He said that it is best to obtain a permit so it is in place in case of an emergency.

The first thing that they would do is a brief survey of the Town. The product they use, BTI, has been around for a long time. Mr. Morrison said that mosquitoes are opportunists

TOWN OF LITCHFIELD

Mosquito Control District

September 13, 2007

that will feed on other insects. The company will not kill all mosquito larvae. Mrs. McKibben is concerned with the use of BTI and the ramifications to the food chain for the rare dragonflies. Mr. Morrison: We can certainly stay away from the endangered species. He believes though that BTI does not affect the food chain. Mrs. McKibben: There is documentation that it does affect the midges; it affects the food chain and wipes out the dragonfly and that is why the Fish & Game prohibits it on their properties. Mr. Morrison: That issue is being addressed. There is a meeting tomorrow on that subject.

Mrs. McKibben mentioned that there are other areas where there is a huge variety of rare turtles, vertebrates, etc. How often do you do the application? It was said once a month; as season goes on, there are different mosquitoes in place.

Mrs. McKibben: You do not want to kill the food source for dragonflies. Mr. Morrison: Dragonflies do not only feed on mosquito larvae. Mrs. McKibben: That is not what Fish & Game says.

Mr. Morrison said that BTI is a living organism; it is not a chemical. All in all, they need to know where the rare dragonflies and endangered species are located.

It was said that the catch basins at the Griffin school do not drain and they overflow. Mr. Lynch added that the ditch lines are not maintained at all and said they should be maintained.

Mr. Morrison also stressed public awareness on TV as to clearing gutters, avoiding standing water; West Nile mosquitoes love people and pools. In the winter season, he works on water projects with DES when wetlands are frozen.

It was said that there are also grants available.

Mr. Morrison said that some communities have introduced dragonflies to areas, which is not a good idea. He talked about introducing fish to communities and this is a good idea but it has to go through Fish & Game process. Also some people believe certain plants give off a chemical to ward off mosquitoes but there is no significant data on that either. Same with ultrasonic devices, there is no evidence it works. He said that mosquito dust does work but you need a permit.

Mrs. McKibben mentioned Litchfield has a large organic farm, the largest in the State. Mr. Morrison said that is one of the first things they look at in any town and they talk with them and inform them what they intend to do.

TOWN OF LITCHFIELD

Mosquito Control District

September 13, 2007

It was said that 90% of their program is larviciding. An emergency measure is truck spraying but they do not do it very often; only when EEE in people is found. Truck spraying needs to be included in the permit in case it is needed. They take care of the

obtaining the permit, they notify the public, and they want to know where the beekeepers are located. He said that there are not as many bees due to a mite and an unknown disease worldwide that is destroying them. Mr. Lynch said he has received a lot of calls regarding ticks.

Back to spraying when they do spray it is usually done early in the morning about 4:30 a.m. Talk went on about mosquito surveying and trapping.

Mr. Raccio: The Mosquito Control District has no power to implement. We, as a Board, carry the power to recommend to the Board of Selectmen. The Board of Selectmen has the power to act on it. This Board collects data of the features, formulates an opinion to the Board of Selectmen. Our recommendation will include funding, recommended levels of control.

Mr. Lynch: I understand the process let's get on to the presentation and then back to the discussion.

Mr. Raccio: I am sitting as a Mosquito Control District member and that is all I am representing. I am talking about the way this Board moves information.

Mr. Lynch: That is the process; we can discuss that later.

Mr. Raccio: I **MOTION** that we close public session and continue the presentation.

Mr. Latsha: I want the information to get to the people; I do not want any closed doors. To shut the door on the public is wrong.

Mr. Raccio: We talked about rules and regulations. I respect your opinion. I still want to call the vote.

Vote: Motion failed 1-2-0.

At this time, Mr. Morrison showed a graph of the different species. He said he would drive around the community for a few days at no cost. Talk ensued as to labor cost, etc.

There was no further discussion with Municipal. Chairman Latsha thanked every one for coming.

DRAGON CONTROL

TOWN OF LITCHFIELD

Mosquito Control District

September 13, 2007

Mr. Latsha said that Dragon Control is scheduled to meet with the Board on October 11, 2007.

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Raccio: Tonight was a classic example of an out of control meeting.

Mrs. McKibben: Can you explain that?

Mr. Raccio: Yes, I can. First of all, when we opened the meeting we did not officially open it to public comment while the Board engaged in several instances of public comment. The point of drawing out a one hour presentation to two hours that itself is not terribly unruling.

Mr. Latsha: Michael while giving his presentation said if anybody had questions they could ask him. I gave that some leeway to allow everybody to ask questions and I know we have questions and answers on the agenda. I figured if anybody had any additional questions, they could answer them.

Mr. Raccio: I had no objection, although, as the Chairman, you did not announce the meeting to be opened to the public while Mr. Morrison did, you did not. What I take exception to is rudeness from the audience directed to the conduct of the Board, when the audience suggested that I was representing the Board of Selectmen and not the best interest of this Committee. I am a member, I take exception and it was out of order. When I challenged the individual, he did not respect the authority of the Board and continued rebuttal. That is what I take exception to. That is why I want to get on the agenda for Rules of Conduct for this Board because, as a Board member, I will not tolerate being spoken to or being challenged to the authority invested in all of us.

Mr. Latsha: Well, the Chair recognized that you requested everybody to leave the meeting.

Mr. Raccio: I did not require everybody to leave the meeting, sir. What I stated was we close public comment and allow the gentleman to continue to closure of his facts and then re-open. Never did I ask the chambers to be cleared. Ask Joan.

Mrs. McKibben: No, I heard just public input. We need to take into account where the comment is coming from and not get that upset. I think it was the process; you were just saying what this committee's role was.

TOWN OF LITCHFIELD

Mosquito Control District

September 13, 2007

Talk continued. Mr. Raccio went on to talk about the budget. The Committee needs

funding for a recording secretary. He suggested that Mr. Latsha meet with the Board of Selectmen to ask for funding.

There being no further business, Mr. Latsha **ENTERTAINED A MOTION** to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. McKibben **SO MOVED**. Mr. Raccio seconded. Motion carried 3-0-0.

Lorraine Dogopoulos
Recording Secretary