



## Town of Boxford

### Meeting Minutes of the Board of Health

May 1, 2014

7:30 PM

**Present:** Richard Fahrner, Richard Taylor, Louise Kress, Kendell Longo

**Absent:** Malcolm Kinnaird

**Other Attendees:** Molly Sorensen, Robyn Januszewski (NEMMC), William Mehaffey (NEMMC), Natasha Grigg, Jessica Grigg, Tina Morris, Larry Morris, Judy Gore, Barbara Shane, Marty Jessel

#### Meeting called to order at 7:30 by Richard Fahrner

#### **Announcements, Minutes Review, and Bill Review:**

- **Fahrner** reminds public that mosquito season has started and for protection avoid being outside at dawn and dusk, wear protective clothing, and remove standing water from areas where it might be collecting.
- Tick tubes are for sale \$41.25 at BOH office.

#### **7:33 P.M. – Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control Presentation**

- Robyn Januszewski and Bill Mehaffey of NEMMC introduced.
- Overview of 2013 – Dry spring last year, collected 80K mosquitos compared to 49K in 2012. There were 3 cases of West Nile detected.
- 2014 – Difficult to predict what current year will bring. Have begun larviciding. There is potential for more activity if rains come later in season.
- New technology – GPS loaded parcel maps, opt-out parcels are flagged and highlighted. An area with significant opt-outs and wetlands would be ineffective to spray.
- As trucks are driving, an alarm goes off 100' before they reach the opted-out parcel and stops after they pass through
- Noted that the governor could call a state of emergency and override the BMP and opt-outs. BOH also can override if deemed necessary for safety of residents. This could happen if approximately 75-100 mosquito pools are found with disease in a local area/surrounding towns.
- Information about Duet and Zenivex pesticide efficiency. NEMMC currently uses Duet which has greater control and a less active ingredient, and is less costly.
- Two studies for Duet show there is very little to no effect on non-target species. **Januszewski** will email studies.
- Reiteration that NEMMC follows label restrictions on pesticide and will only spray at night. Brings up the point that members of public could spray their own land without consequences, where NEMMC must follow regulations and label restrictions.

- Economically, since 1998, \$778 million spent on health care costs related to West Nile Virus and millions are killed yearly by mosquito borne illnesses.

#### 7:52 P.M. – Email Questions Addressed – Additional Information – Questions from Board

- NEMMC was mandated by legal department to require a certified opt-out letter (333CMR13), letter sent to all BOH and town clerks in November to alert of policy enforcement.
- Menu approach to services available (listed on the BMP) - municipalities can decide how to utilize them, including adulticide, larvicide, tire cleanup, ditch maintenance, inspectional, etc.
- NEMMC gets notified by the Department of Public Health to alert them to virus in a town, NEMMC notifies the town and surrounding towns and BOH then notifies residents.
- Social media – NEMMC on Facebook, they will post the day of spraying, the town and street.
- The sprayer is calibrated for droplet size and pump output, this is done at the beginning of season per requirements.
- All catch basins treated and tested.
- **Taylor** raises question about product in catch basins and whether mosquitos can develop resistance. A growth inhibitor is used. **Januszewski** states a recent study found there appears to be no resistance to BTI worldwide and will email link to study.
- **Kress** wants to know about trapping locations. NEMMC cannot share these locations with the public for fear of vandalism. Traps types are BG, inverted New Jersey light, and are baited with CO2.
- **Constan** questions the radius for spraying if a trap has positive finding. If there is a positive finding, town can decide whether to do a town spraying or target area. Temporary traps can be deployed for an area that is further from permanent catch basins to track spikes in species. If certain species populations are increasing this can indicate a rise in the possibility of spreading disease.
- **Taylor** brings up questions about the budget, looking at FT payroll and curious about positions with annual salaries. **Januszewski** explains the assistant field tech position and that work is done in the winter including winter wetland management projects, locating breeding grounds, truck and vehicle maintenance.
- **Taylor** also asks about the results of an audit being done on the NEMMC and was informed that will be finished in July. **Taylor** requests notes on the partial section that was finished and presented to the commission at a previous NEMMC as part of an open meeting.
- **Fahrner** asks about services the town isn't utilizing and the discrepancy between what the town pays versus the hours spent in town. **Mehaffey** suggests using the tire recycling program. NEMMC can review new construction designs for potential breeding grounds and to ensure adequate drainage, they can do individual property inspections to determine where breeding grounds are and treat the crypts with larvicide if necessary.

- **Constan** poses a question of how well the Boards of Health are notified when a horse comes down with EEE. They are notified through DPH.
- **Constan** asks about the accuracy of the GPS, spraying, and speed of trucks. This is manually controlled by the truck operator who turns off the sprayer when the alarm sounds within 100 ft. of a no-spray property. The spray is calibrated for a speed of 5-25 mph. Trucks go about 15 mph. This information is all recorded and a printout will show the time of spraying and the speed of vehicle.

#### 8:43 P.M. – NEMMC Open to Public Questions

- **Nancy Merrill** – mentions that tires were picked up last year after a BTA horse jumping event. Would like to inquire if Kelsey Arboretum could use NEMMC to spray instead of using private Mosquito Squad, as well as clear areas near railroad bed since these are areas of public use. This could be petitioned by town to NEMMC and then NEMMC would come and look and make a decision of action.
- **Natasha Grigg** – has concerns about toxicity of products to fish and invertebrates and side effects. Suggests that larviciding and cleaning out ditches are a better alternative to the adulticiding spraying. NEMMC reiterates that they follow label restrictions and only spray and night when bees are not active. The products break down in sunlight and have an approximate 4 hr. active life. They do not spray over water bodies and all ponds and wetlands are labeled on GPS system. **Taylor** mentions that Boxford is mainly wetlands and that the materials used can last longer than 4 hours.
- **Longo** asks how NEMMC should be contacted for individual residences and learns that residents can contact them directly or through BOH. Bigger projects would need the BOH to petition them and prioritize as NEMMC can only do one project at a time.
- **Laura Sapienza-Grabski** comments that spraying only covers a small range. Suggests possible mosquito magnets program or larviciding individual properties. **Mehaffey** says spray is about 300 ft wide (150 ft on each side) and gets about 10% coverage.
- **Kress** mentions that street side spraying is only a small portion of mosquito control, and that monitoring is very important. Street spraying helps to knock down mosquito population and protect the population and **Constan** states that street side is beneficial for kids waiting for the bus and active residents along the roadways.
- **Constan** asks about infected species migration patterns. This depends on the species; some can fly 25 miles, others only ¼. This is why the surveillance aspect is important.
- **Jessica Griggs** – suggests a public poll on whether or not fields should be sprayed. **Kress** states that spraying will only be done if there's a virus detected. It will be a barrier spray, not directly on the fields.
- **Larry Morris** – questions why only 4 towns (Gloucester, Rockport, Lawrence, and Essex) out of 32 in Essex County are out of the NEMMC. Essex has a vote on it, Rockport and Gloucester have the benefit of the coastal breeze, and Lawrence is more of a financial issue. Mr. Morris expresses gratitude to the NEMMC for being more transparent.
- **Marty Jessel** – states that he overheard before an NEMMC meeting that Boxford was singled out for causing difficulty in enforcements of opt-outs.

- **Taylor** questions why the certified mail regulation is enforced when other parts of regulations aren't being enforced, such as marking property with surveyors tape. This regulation was from 1996 and new GPS technology has made the surveyors tape not as necessary. Discussion was with legal about how NEMMC should be notified for opt-outs because they could not effectively keep up with the number of opt-outs district wide.
- **Constan** makes closing comments and mentions that there has only been one spraying since 2006. He thanks the NEMMC for the information and the activities that the town can take advantage of. He sees benefit in the programs they provide.

**9:30 P.M. – Adjourn**

- On a motion made by **Kress**, seconded by **Constan**, the BOH voted **unanimously** to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Molly Sorensen  
Minutes Secretary