SWAMPSCOTT BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES JUNE 10, 2015

The Board of Health meeting of Wednesday, June 10, 2015 was called to order at 6:05 PM. Attending were Martha Dansdill, Chair, Dr. Larry Block, Board Member, Jeff Vaughan, Director of Public Health and Robyn Januszewski, Director of North Eastern Massachusetts Mosquito Control and Wetlands Management District. Board Member, Marianne Hartmann, RN, arrived at 6:25 PM.

The minutes of May20, 2015 were amended and accepted. The minutes of May 5, 2015 were tabled.

On behalf of the Board, Martha Dansdill thanked Robyn Januszewski, Director of North Eastern Massachusetts Mosquito Control and Wetlands Management District (NEMMC&WMD), for sending the mosquito control activities report and attending tonight’s meeting to answer questions and concerns.

Ms. Januszewski stated that the NEMMC&WMD works with each Department of Public Works (DPW) to ensure that basins being treated are not scheduled to be cleaned. Swampscott has approximately nine hundred (900) storm drains. One third (1/3) of these drains are cleaned yearly on a rotating basis. Storm drains are being treated with Bacillus Thruingiensis Israelensis (BTi) and BS which has been formulated to last one hundred eighty (180) days. This product is applied at the beginning of the season and followed up with ninety (90) day and forty-five (45) day treatments. Studies show that the best results for mosquito control during cool and damp summers is with these methods.

NEMMC&WMD no longer marks storm drains that have been treated; instead the work is done by zones so as not to miss any basins. NEMMC&WMD staff uses GPS applications and mountain bikes for easier access.

The Board asked about a bill that was passed to allow Cities and Towns to treat the storm drains themselves. Ms. Januszewski explained that the person treating the drains must already be an employee of the town, must pass a test and must work alongside someone who has a pesticide license or obtain one themselves.

All schools are notified when catch basins are treated so the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan may be honored. Each school is required to have their own plan.

Although the NEMMC&WMD has recently lost an Entomologist and Executive Director, Robyn Januszewski, assures the Board that there will be no change in service to the community.

Ms. Januszewski was asked about organic and natural compound for mosquito and tick control. These products may only be used from dusk to dawn and not during the day as they hurt pollinators. It is a repellent which does not kill mosquitoes and ticks; therefore, it will not stop the spread of viruses associated with these insects. Director Januszewski spoke of Zenivex, a new more natural adulticide pest control. There are no Piberonyl toxides (PBO) in Zenivex. NEMMC&WMD wants to be sure that Zenivex will control mosquitoes with the same effect as Duet. If Zenivex proves effective NEMMC&WMD will transition to its exclusive use next season. NEMMC&WMD is constantly looking for newer safer treatment options.

Robyn Januszewski mentioned that NEMMC&WMD offers a tire pick-up program. She left at 6:40 PM.

The Board of Health will invite Swampscott Fire Captain, Kevin Breen, to the next meeting to discuss open fires on beaches.

The Leaf Blower Advisory draft was discussed. Newton, Massachusetts has written a proposed ordinance to ban leaf blowers as part of a Quiet Community campaign. The Swampscott Board of Health does not wish to ban these machines, but would like to advise the residents of environmentally safer alternatives to gas powered lawn appliances. Landscapers choosing to use electric power tools, brooms and/or rakes will be listed with the Board of Health Seal of Approval. The Board will review and revise the draft. The topic was tabled.

Jeff Vaughan mentioned that the reusable grocery bags purchased with the one thousand dollar ($1,000.00) grant monies from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) should be delivered to the Heath Department by June 17, 2015. It was suggested to insert informational flyers and distribute these at the Farmer’s Market. Martha Dansdill will contact Danielle Strauss, Recreation Director, to look into date availability.

Marianne Hartmann, RN, stated that she has contacted the State Epidemiologist requesting a speaker to give a Tick Talk to the residents of Swampscott. The State has been inundated with requests and stated that they are forwarding information to local Public Health Nurses in each community so that they can give the talks. Marianne Hartmann, RN has volunteered to do the presentation instead of putting the burden on Public Health Nurse, Roseanne Bruno, RN, EMT, who works ten (10) hours a week. Dr. Block suggested that Ms. Hartmann contact Dr. Peter Sheckman and Infectious Disease Specialist to gage his interest in speaking. The talk would need to be scheduled as soon as possible and be held in the Swampscott High School (SHS).

Health concern arose when it was noted that an international school is renting space in the SHS for the summer. The Health Department is working with School Administration regarding immunization records for these students.

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Martha Dansdill noticed yellow pesticide alert flags on the Little League field on May 23, 2015. These flags were not posted at the entrances as required. Further, the flags were removed before the seventy-two (72) hour window for posting. The field was treated with post emergent herbicide which is known to have at least three (3) potentially toxic chemicals. This product also did damage to the grass. Dr. Block will bring this matter to the attention of the Field Advisory Committee on June 11, 2015.

Jeff Vaughan, Public Health Director, will begin sampling beach water on June 17, 2015 through Labor Day.

The next two (2) meetings will be held on Wednesday, July 22, 2015 and Wednesday, August 26, 2015 at 6:00 PM in the 2nd floor conference room of the Town Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.