

Mosquito Control District Meeting Minutes

February 20, 2014

The Litchfield Mosquito Control District conducted a meeting on February 20, 2014 at 7 PM in the main conference room at Town Hall.

Members Present: Mr. Al Raccio (Chairman)
Mr. Dave Tate
John Latsha (Vice-Chair)

Mr. Raccio called the meeting to order at 7:00PM

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Raccio wanted to remind the public that the meetings are always open and all are welcome to attend. These meetings in the early months of winter, are basically here so the Board can do the planning and strategic outlooks for the upcoming mosquito season. The public's input and concerns are truly needed early in the season so that the MCD has an opportunity to try and act on them. If we wait until the middle of July and August when we are deep into things, funding and opportunity, execution all become much more difficult. Given the budgets this year, any type of pre-planning needs to be put into consideration and addressed through the Selectmen and the MCD and action implemented or denied.

Al motioned to leave public input open through the duration of their meetings, in their intent to accommodate as many people as possible. No objection from the Board.

Town end of Year Report:

Al stated that he had passed to the Board what was submitted for the end of the year report and addressed what comments he could. The formats and content have been accepted and is in the process of being published along with the rest of the town documents.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Raccio stated that for a number of reasons, they are delinquent in approving their minutes of the last few meetings; due to personal work schedules, holidays, etc.

Mr. Raccio **motioned** to approve the December 2013 minutes as documented. Mr. Tate **seconded** the motion. Motion carried **2-0-1**.

Mr. Raccio **motioned** to approve the November 2013 minutes. Mr. Latsha **seconded** the motion. Motion carried **2-0-1**.

Mr. Raccio **motioned** to approve the January 2014 minutes. Mr. Tate **seconded** the motion. Motion carried **2-0-1**.

Mosquito Testing 2014 Planning:

AI mentioned that the Board has discussed the importance of the 2014 plan. The plan has not been significantly been revised or updated in quite a few years, although the State still has not resurrected the reimbursement program, which initially was the primary reason for the district to create the plan so that they qualify for the reimbursement; nonetheless the plan has served the Town well in the past years when they see instances of positive testing for EEE and West Nile. The plan provides the Town with guidance and direction as well as pre-defined trigger points for the Town's reaction. The plan covers a lot of information that is enhanced by Kevin Lynch (Health Officer) as well as being able to provide continuity and consistency through the Departments, with Police and Fire responding and of course the Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Raccio stated that it is very important that they continue to maintain a consistent level with the states recommendations so that the MCD can continue to provide the service to the community and also be in a position to readily accept reimbursement funds should they become available again. AI stated that the plan action that they need to take is significant and is reluctant to start to bring those issues up on the floor given that in their next meeting they will be voting on the composition of the Board in March. AI does not want to pre-set expectations of the Board without consideration of the new composition, should that change. AI would recommend that each Board member pull a copy from the web, review it and from the State you can easily access the departments templates and update and then come prepared in March because the Plan should be submitted in April.

Mr. Latsha asked AI if there was anything that they could do with their own State Representative such as write a letter or anything as far as trying to get the reimbursement back into the State as far as Mosquito Control. AI stated that you can always submit communications. AI also commented that was a good idea and thinks that with Mr. Byron being a State Rep and a Selectman and resident of this community, would not need us to light that fire, AI would think that as he weighs the significant issues that we are all faced with, it is balanced between what needs to be done and the priority of things and what potential are out there. Mr. Raccio gave Mr. Latsha his blessing to reach out to Mr. Byron and copy the Board, but believes that Mr. Byron is

doing everything he can to help them. John just wanted to state that the last few years there has been no reimbursement and basically just wanted to send a letter about their concern about getting reimbursed. Al stated that this time last year they didn't even know if they were going to have a testing program, let alone reimbursement and as the communities at large elevated that fact, the State found a mechanism to reinstate testing. Al stated that he thinks it would be a good idea to communicate with Mr. Byron.

Members Update:

a. Cable Committee

Al stated to John that he has always been active in soliciting the help from Dick and his team; we are coming up on the new season and thinks that from the Cable Committee if he could interface with them, they should be pulling down anything that references 2013 and if John would put together some thoughts on the upcoming season by putting together some thoughts and slides on what he might want to see coming up for this year so that they can start to work towards that.

b. Website:

Al asked Dave to touch base with Mr. Brunelle regarding their website updates and take a look at what he's got and if you Dave has any recommendations to copy the board to what he wants to see on the website as updated information or content changes in the pages.

Any Other Business:

Al stated that with election season comes their internal elections. Al stated that he is going to post that for the main topic for next months agenda along with some generic member updates, public input, but is not going to add specific items until they are clear to give the new Chair an opportunity to set the tone and pace. Al mentioned if the Board has any topics that they want to address to bring them and they will address them as a committee and team.

Al also mentioned that the laptop that was donated to them finally crumbled. Al talked to the donor of the laptop and he was very apologetic. Mr. Latsha mentioned about possibly going to the School District and asking for the use of a laptop.

John mentioned that with all the snow, he believes it is going to be a very busy spring with all the standing water. Al mentioned that last year during the survey, they identified a number of swales and runoffs that were in terrible shape (all good catch basins for mosquitoes).

Al mentioned that Stormwater management is now with the Town offices as opposed to the Planning Board. After elections, the Board may wish to consider inviting the Selectmen and or their representative to discuss how the stormwater management structure can help with the drainage and swale and mosquito pooling problems that they are faced with.

Mr. Tate **motioned** to adjourn. Mr. Latsha **seconded** the motion. The motion carried **3-0-0**. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Mr. Raccio stated that the Public's comments are always welcome and the door is always open, please feel free to contact one of the MCD members either through the Town website or contact the Town Hall.