

Manchester Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 20, 2023
Room #7 and Virtual by Zoom Platform

Members present:

Ms. Filias, Mr. Colarusso, Ms. Cottler, Dr. Hahn

Members absent:

None

Also, present:

Public Health Director Wendy Hansbury, Town Administrator Greg Federspiel

Mr. Colarusso, noting he would be chairing the meeting this morning, called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Board of Health Operational Protocols

Mr. Colarusso noted there were a few hiccups on the expectations and roles of the staffing. He said the focus now is to clear up misunderstandings. He noted that a good structure had been created in the Memorandum of Understanding “MOU” between Board of Health and Board of Selectmen, but there were issues with the health department job descriptions. But that understanding was there, that the agent runs the office and supervises the office and that he was here to make that clear. Further, that he took responsibility for not coordinating the job descriptions, thinking it was automatic. He said that all members apologized and that by getting together it was hoped that they could solve the frictions that have occurred. He said that all three positions would go through job description review, followed by a discussion to mesh. He noted Ms. Lufkin would have a chance for a union review, then it would go by both the Board and Town Administrator Greg Federspiel. Health Director Hansbury questioned who should work on the job descriptions, noting that she had not heard of employees working on them before. Mr. Colarusso noted the dual responsibilities related to the job descriptions. Mr. Colarusso asked if either Administrative Assistant Ellen Lufkin or Public Health Nurse Pamela Crehan had any comments. Ms. Lufkin had none. Ms. Crehan noted that the work needed to be done, should have already been done, but that you cannot go backwards. Dr. Hahn stated that a current job description was needed, and if there were no rewrites, that the areas of concern could be identified. Ms. Cottler suggested it would be helpful if one board member sat with each of the employees to review the job descriptions. She volunteered to do that work. Mr. Colarusso, noting that the documents were from a time of no agent, that there may be items to remove due to duplicate responsibilities. Ms. Cottler again offered to do the work. Dr. Hahn offered to assist her. Ms. Filias noted that there had never been a full-time agent, ever. And that while it had not been done perfectly, it was out of naivete, all have good intentions to do good work in a smooth manner.

Mr. Colarusso updated the Board on his attendance at the Town’s recent Governance meeting. It was suggested that board chairpersons meet quarterly to list both short-term and long-term work items. Selectmen Jacques clarified that it was hoped that sharing with other boards would be a check for duplication and eliminate redundancy on Town staff. It was suggested that the Board put together their own list in May. Mr. Federspiel explained the Town had hired former Select person Susan Beckman to help with the governance and that there would be a summit meeting in June for Fiscal Year 2024. Dr. Hahn asked if a five-year plan would be helpful. Ms. Hansbury reminded the Board that at

their March 7 meeting the Board started this process on short- and medium-term goals, including some for office staff and board members. Mr. Colarusso noted that the proposed water regulation was an example of a format being presented. Ms. Jacques suggested that Ms. Hansbury reach out to either Debbie Powers or Susan Beckman for information. Mr. Colarusso said that it was important to be concise and he welcomes other members to bring up work items. Ms. Hansbury offered to resent links provided earlier for board training under the Institute for Public Health.

Public Health Nurse Update

Nurse Crehan explained the North Shore Visiting Mothers Program to the Board, reading here written comments to the Board. She noted that the 2,000 cost to participate in the program is currently available through an existing program grant that ends in 2025. Also, there could be participation costs in the future. Ms. Filias asked for the length of the grant. Nurse Crehan replied that the current grant goes through 2025. Ms. Hansbury interjected that there are seven communities with the grant that were received prior to Covid. She said that both grants end in 2025 and would have to then be reapplied for. Further, the related Memorandum of Understanding would need a signature. She shared that the intent is to look for a new possibly different grant in the future. Ms. Cottler said that there were more births in Town and those should be tracked for a future grant application. Mr. Colarusso asked Nurse Crehan if she could do the work in her existing hours. Nurse Crehan replied that the training required, which was free, would take approximately 20 hours to complete. She added that while the birth numbers had gone up, it would be a mom's choice to participate or not participate.

Mr. Colarusso asked if there was a process for follow up with the program. Nurse Crehan replied yes. Ms. Hansbury said she had spoken to 2 people in Town, 1 here and 1 in Gloucester and they had shown interest in the program. Ms. Cottler noted issues with postpartum depression, for both mothers and fathers. She expressed support for Nurse Crehan's participation in the program noting the zero cost and ability for the work to fit in to Nurse Crehan's existing schedule.

Ms. Cottler made a motion to participate in the North Shore Visiting Mother's Program. Dr. Hahn seconded the motion. Members, by roll call vote were unanimous to approve the motion:

Ms. Filias, in favor

Mr. Colarusso, in favor

Ms. Cottler, in favor

Dr. Hahn, in favor

6:00 pm.

Mosquito Control 2023 Review

Present for this discussion were Barry Noone and Kimberly Foss of Mosquito Control.

Mr. Noone introduced himself and gave an overview of the Northeast Massachusetts Mosquito Control and Wetlands Management Program, "NEMMC". He provided the following information:

- * Only BT and BS bacteria are used in the Manchester catch basins
- * Hand clearing for ditch maintenance
- * New tire collection and disposal program, available by resident request
- * Property inspections
- * Spray requests
- * Research and outreach

He also reviewed the NEMMC online "Municipal Toolbox"

Kimberly Foss of NEMMC summarized the 2022 district work in Manchester.

- * Dry year
- * Decrease in mosquitoes in 2022
- * Decrease in Eastern Equine Encephalitis “EEE” risk
- * Increase in West Nile Virus “WNV” risk, which goes with a drought
- * Six mosquito pools sent in for testing, all negative
- * Zero service requests
- * Zero larvicide requests
- * 2 site inspections
- * Catch basin treatments completed on 7/5, over 600 basins treated in Manchester
- * 36 property exclusions filed, noted as average normal
- * 13 residential service requests from 2 property owners, noted no increase in requests since available
- * 17 habitat inspections, no larvae found, noted NEMMC will recheck those sites
- * Almost no EEE mosquitoes found
- * June slight increase in mosquitoes

Ms. Foss noted NEMMC likes to follow up on resident calls with visits, with the ability to do ditch clearing and larviciding. Further, reminders are needed related to mosquito control.

Dr. Hahn noted that while the CS Melanora mosquitoes decreased district wide, there were increased numbers in Manchester. Same with cattail. Ms. Foss replied that while that is true, there was an overall decrease from the average. Specifically, that there was an increase from the prior year, but that the number was well below the historical average. Ms. Filas, noting there were service requests that were repeated, giving the example of a request made on both June 13th and June 20th, asked how long property treatment lasts. Mr. Noone explained that the treatments only kill what is flying at the time, that there is no residual, so the treatment knocks down what is flying at the time. He added that requests are typically allowed from June 1st to the 2nd week of September. Ms. Filas asked if weekly visits get most of the mosquitoes. Mr. Noone encouraged the Board to promote property visits to investigate, noting that larvaeciding works better. Ms. Filas asked if the larvaeciding harms other things in a vernal pool. Ms. Foss replied that BS and BTI are used at rate to kill larvae, that both are bacterium with zero harm to birds and mammals. She noted that NEMMC does not treat with larvicide unless there is a dip that finds hundreds of larvae.

Jessica Lamothe of the Manchester Stream Team addressed the Board next. She said she was concerned about the information just provided. She felt that adulticiding is the problem. She said that as chairperson of the Stream Team, the team is concerned about adulticiding. Specifically asking if more people are requesting, is there a check that the treatment is not near waterways. Ms. Foss replied that there is detailed information in the NEMMC trucks regarding waterways, that they do not spray near waterways, and that they are required to follow label laws. Mr. Noone added that each year the information layers on the trucks are updated, including the addition of a weather layer. He noted only two residents had requested adulticiding in the past 2 years. He encouraged getting in front of residents.

Lynn Atkinson of 62 Pine Street addressed the Board. Ms. Atkinson pointed out that the usage label on the product says that no aquatic setbacks are required. Ms. Foss replied that NEMMC defers to the

Mass Pesticide Bureau. Ms. Atkinson said she is happy with the BT treatment in the catch basins. She said she has only 1 issue, that being the change that allowed for adulticiding. It was noted that only 14 of the 32 NEMMC member towns allow resident requests for spraying. Ms. Atkinson stated her concerns for people walking pets, as there is a recommendation to not allow pets or children outside for 15 minutes following treatments. Mr. Noone replied that if a resident exempts their property, then NEMMC cannot spray that person's neighbor. He noted the NEMMC updated equipment and their transparency. He added good luck on getting information from the private contractors. Ms. Atkinson asked if the setback information on the NEMMC site is confusing, is the setback 150 or 300 feet. Mr. Noone explained that the setback is 150 feet on either side, for a total of 300 feet. Ms. Atkinson said that the Stream Team wanted to restrict adulticiding to response for health emergencies only. Ms. Foss replied just because there is no virus, does not mean there is not a medical or health issue. Mr. Colarusso asked Mr. Noone if there were any controls over the private contractors, noting that the private companies are more aggressive and work during the daytime. Mr. Noone, noting that NEMMC reviews weather information before deciding on any treatment, agreed with Mr. Colarusso and further, said questions could be directed to the pesticide bureau by email. Ms. Jacques asked both if BT is the same as mosquito dunks and if NEMMC does not spray by water bodies. Ms. Foss replied that BT and mosquito dunks are the same product, but with different make-up. Ms. Jacques asked what the definition of a water body was. Ms. Foss replied that the definition is different by agency, but that everything is not storm related. Ms. Foss stated that for a pond, NEMMC would check for breeding mosquitoes and if there were none, they would not treat the pond. She noted that her agency is looking for shallow waters, with 7-14 days of specific temperatures, with clogged and backed up waterways. She noted that NEMMC will assess and look at specific sites before making a determination, that they ask what can be done after looking at mitigation first. Both Mr. Noone and Ms. Foss pointed out that NEMMC has GPS accessible to them, that they have layers of information, review several layers, including mapping. Further, that they are reporters to both the federal government and the EPA reporters, that they are responsible to federal, state and local agencies.

Ms. Filias pointed out that the Town had lost a wonderful town's person to a mosquito bite. Also, that she thinks there is a balance, that there is a threat out there and that a wonderful person lost their life. Dr. Hahn said that he was all for larvaeciding and pushing that to avoid adulticiding. He suggested a push to the public, reminding people that with climate change and increased temperatures, vigilance is important. Mr. Colarusso stated that NEMMC, even if requested to spray, that they do not automatically spray until they confirm the need for same. Mr. Colarusso asked if anyone had any questions.

Ms. Atkinson said that she had no objection to spraying in response to a virus. She said that the resident requested sprays are different, and that she does not think those are assessed. Ms. Foss replied that there are times that NEMMC cancels due to either weather or that there are no mosquitoes. She cited 2022 as an example, noting as there were no mosquitoes that NEMMC canceled all sprays 3 weeks earlier than was scheduled. Mr. Noone noted that if there were a cluster of requests, the agency would go investigate to see what the problem may be before following up on the requests.

Ms. Hansbury noted that public health is intended to prevent and preempt, including the allowance for resident requests. She said that NEMMC makes sure all considerations are made. Also that this is all to insure that we are never caught unaware. She pointed out the NEMMC larvaeciding and ditch clearing. Mr. Noone pointed out that in terms of the resident requests made, 7 of those were from 1 property. Ms. Hansbury replied that it does not mean that the property was sprayed every one of those times. Mr. Colarusso informed the Stream Team that the Board understands their concerns.

Mr. Colarusso made a motion to end the discussion and to adopt the 2023 Mosquito Control Management Practice Plan for Manchester. Ms. Cottler seconded the motion. Members, by roll call vote were unanimous to approve the motion.

Ms. Filias, in favor
Mr. Colarusso, in favor
Ms. Cottler, in favor
Dr. Hahn, in favor

Ms. Foss and Mr. Noone informed all participants that they can call them with any questions that they may have.

Minutes

Ms. Cottler made a motion to approve the minutes of 03/23/23.
Ms. Filias seconded the motion. Members, by roll call vote, were unanimous to approve the motion.

Ms. Filias, in favor
Mr. Colarusso, in favor
Ms. Cottler, in favor
Dr. Hahn, in favor

Health Director Report

Ms. Hansbury provided the Board with the following updates.

Systems under review or construction

10 Tuck's Point Road
36 Proctor
10 Forster Road

Septic system withdrawal of approval issued prior is now resolved.
Ms. Hansbury said that with the addition of her, the Board will have more conversation regarding this work.

Online permitting

Work was continuing with the online permitting; she thanked the Newton Board of Health for sharing their online permitting forms.

Animal Permits

Applications have been sent out.

Manchester Athletic Club

New operators have had their pool inspections completed

Manchester Little League

Sweeney Park concession inspection next week

Camp Applications

Ongoing

Black Earth Compost

Have completed State permitting process

Ms. Cottler asked if Allies' Beach Street Cafe had closed. Ms. Hansbury replied that new operators had visited the office but had not yet filed their application with the office.

Office intern

Ms. Hansbury informed the Board that a school intern in the Board office had not worked out but did identify future possibilities.

Bedroom Count

Ms. Hansbury shared that she had reviewed a court case finding regarding bedroom counts, specifically that the total number of rooms, regardless of configuration, is used for the purpose of determining bedroom counts. Ms. Cottler asked about the open space floor plans. Ms. Hansbury agreed to provide a summary for the Board. Ms. Filias suggested that the Board work on coming up with written information (on the Board's process for reviewing bedroom counts) for architects and septic system designers to reference in future.

There being no further information to come before the Board, Ms. Filias made a motion to adjourn the meeting to 6:57 pm. Ms. Cottler seconded the motion.

Members, by roll call vote were unanimous to approve the motion.

Ms. Filias, in favor

Mr. Colarusso, in favor

Ms. Cottler, in favor

Dr. Hahn, in favor

As submitted,

Ellen D. Lufkin

Administrative Assistant