

Meeting Minutes  
Manchester Board of Health  
Thursday, June 10, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Members present:

Paula Filias, Peter Colarusso, Joan Cottler, Dr. Tonya Colpitts

Members absent:

Dr. Martin Hahn

Also in attendance:

Barry Noone, N.E.M.M.C.

Kelsey Liakos, N.E.M.M.C.

Kimberly Foss, N.E.M.M.C.

Frances Caudill, Manchester Stream Team

Lynn Atkinson, Manchester Stream Team

Eli Munkholm

Kelsi Evans

**2021 Meeting with Northeast Mass Mosquito Control "N.E.M.M.C."**

Ms. Filias called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

She stated that the Board of Health was gathering to review, with residents meeting participation, Manchester's 2021 Mosquito Control Plan. She asked that the mosquito control staff provide a summary of the 2020 season and present the 2021 plan information.

Barry Noone of N.E.M.M.C. provided a summary of the work the group completed in Manchester in 2020 including the following:

Completed in 2020:

2 culvert clean outs

1125 ditches checked or cleaned

676 catch basins treated with bacteria

58 habitat inspections

3 larvicides

1 property assist

7 adulticide requests

Completed in 2021 to date:

531 catch basins treated with bacteria

Noting that construction sites prevented the remainder from being treated, mosquito control will go back to those sites shortly.

Kim Foss of N.E.M.M.C. provided the following information:

Current drought has resulted in a decrease in mosquito collection

27 batches have been collected thus far, all negative for E.E.E.

In 2020 there was an 81% drop in trap collection of West Nile virus mosquitos.

In 2021, to date there are 4 light box collections vs. 68, attributed to the dry spring and no larvae.

The mosquito collection trap on Harrington Way has been moved to the abutting Mass D.O.T. site.

12 site inspections have been completed to date, no larvae found, no larviciding

Ms. Atkinson said that she was not aware that adulticide requests were now allowed by residents.

Ms. Foss replied that it is now allowed, that Xenovex E4 is used and that it is done ½ hour after sunset, after the bees are done foraging.

Ms. Atkinson asked when the allowance was made for adulticiding.

Ms. Foss replied that it was changed last year as the result of the 2019 E.E.E. changes.

She noted that property exclusions from spraying are also allowed to be filed by residents.

She also noted that requests decrease the virus in the area and that it is better for mosquito control to treat, versus a private company.

Mr. Noones added that mosquito control is safer than the private companies, which spray a product that kills adult flying mosquitos but does not leave a residual.

Frances Caudill asked what was the position of mosquito control on P.F.A.'s & P.F.A.S.

Both Mr. Noones and Ms. Foss explained that they are E.P.A. regulated, they use non fluorinated containers, and that Xenovex and all used are SRV and EPA approved and that mosquito control did a second round of testing on all products for P.F.A.'s.

Kelsey Liakos informed the Board that the N.E.M.M.C. website and municipal toolbox had been updated this year, including the posting of residential frequently asked questions. She also offered property assistance with cleaning culverts and disposing of tires during the Town's household hazardous waste collection day. She noted there were no changes from the 2020 to 2021 management plan.

Ms. Atkinson said she does not like the idea of her neighbors spraying at all. Ms. Foss said that it is better done by mosquito control than by a private company and that their trucks have the excluded properties right on the truck g.p.s. Mr. Colarusso stated that it was better for residents to go to mosquito control (vs. private companies) for safety and no cost. Ms. Atkinson said that that does not help.

Mosquito control said that the larviciding used is a bacterium specific to mosquitoes, black flies, and mosquito beetles. They also stated that there is the possibility that 2021 will be a West Nile virus year.

Ms. Atkinson asked about the catch basin treatment. Ms. Foss said that the basins are treated with Vectomax, a biological product. She said the treatment must be applied to clean catch basins and would then assist with the control of culex West Nile virus mosquitos. She said that larviciding is done using BS or BTI bacteria. Ms. Atkinson asked if residents could request those treatments, Ms. Foss replied yes.

Eli Munkholm and Kelsi Evans of 12 Morse Court asked for an explanation for the differences between the services of a private company vs. mosquito control. Mosquito Control repeated the information provided prior and added that their technicians can also come to a resident's home to check their site and provide feedback (reducing standing water, checking for mosquito larvae, etc).

Ms. Caudill asked if the greenhead boxes in the Kettle Cove area marsh would be returned for 2021, with the Board members and mosquito control replying yes.

Ms. Filias made a motion to adopt Northeast Mass Mosquito Control 2021 Management Plan for Manchester. Mr. Colarusso seconded the motion, with members unanimously voting:

Ms. Filias, in favor

Mr. Colarusso, in favor

Ms. Colpitts, in favor

Ms. Cottler, in favor

Ms. Filias made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:38 p.m. Ms. Cottler seconded the motion, with members voting unanimously:

Ms. Filias, in favor

Mr. Colarusso, in favor

Ms. Colpitts, in favor

Ms. Cottler, in favor

The meeting was adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

As submitted,

Ellen D. Lufkin

Administrative Assistant