



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE STATE RECLAMATION & MOSQUITO CONTROL

Plymouth County MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECT

Commissioners:

Cathleen Drinan, Chairman

John Sharland, Vice Chairman/Secretary

Michael F. Valenti

John Kenney

272 SOUTH MEADOW RD. PLYMOUTH, MA 02360

TELEPHONE (781) 585-5450 FAX (781) 582-1276

Stephen A. Gillett - Superintendent

Ross Rossetti - Asst. Superintendent/Pilot

Ellen Bidlack - Entomologist

Denise DeLuca - Administrative Assistant

COMMISSIONERS

R'S MEETING MINUTES

On Thursday, April 23, 2020 the Commissioners of the Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project held their monthly meeting remotely at 12:30 pm. Commissioners Valenti, Kenney and Sharland were present, along with Assistant Superintendent/Pilot Ross Rossetti, Entomologist Ellen Bidlack and Administrative Assistant Denise DeLuca. Supt. Steve Gillett, Chairperson Cathy Drinan and Community Liaison Dan Daly were absent. In chairperson Drinan's absence, Vice Chair and Secretary Sharland chaired the meeting.

Vice Chairman Sharland called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm.

Public Comment/Input - None

Administrative Assistant Update - There were no large one time expenses since the last meeting. Notes from Chair Drinan: Kingston resident on Elm St. asked for a larvae check. Project staff is getting the address. Expressed her gratitude for the way Ross handled his recent fever situation. (See Asst. Supt. Report below). A Facebook poster asked if mosquitoes carry the COVID-19 virus. She answered.

Project Administration

The minutes of the February 20, 2020 and March 26, 2020 meetings were distributed by email prior to the meeting. Both were accepted by unanimous vote today.

Commissioner's Report

Budget for FY 21 – postponed until Chair Drinan is present.

Educational opportunity regarding viruses – postponed until Chair Drinan is present.

Nothing to report from the commissioners present.

Superintendent's Report/Monthly Review

In the superintendent's absence, Ross reported:

The new replacement A-1 sprayer has arrived but the truck to mount it on has not yet arrived.

Approximately one third of the aerial larviciding work is done, which commenced on March 30. Weather has been a factor – high winds and rain have slowed the progress.

Based on feedback from some of the towns in the county, a dedicated email address has been set up for them to communicate with the Project: townrequests@plymouthmosquito.org.

Given that the Project's Wish List including a new airplane but that is not going to happen, Ross has started the process of issuing an RFP for a replacement of our 1973 Cessna AgWagon. A larger, turbo-prop plane, either at \$600k for a recent used one or around \$1000k for a new one is under study with the CFO of the Department of Agriculture and others. Surplus budget money would be used to finance the purchase. The AgWagon is approaching new engine time and that would be a cost of about \$60k. There is probably around a \$90k "value" for the AgWagon at time of purchase of a newer plane. The new type of plane would have a much larger capacity to carry and disperse granules as well as water based Bti solutions.

Since our last meeting, Ross had a fever while at work, so appropriate actions were taken in case it was the onset of COVID-19. The building was shut down and no work occurred for the equivalent of one work day. The building was deep cleaned and sanitized before staff re-entered under the previously described (March minutes) temporary work conditions but only after Ross's COVID-19 test results came back as negative. Commissioner's applauded Ross's initiatives and leadership in this situation.

Water Management – Larvae checks totaled 2,165. Hand cleanings and machine digging were minimal, as staff was switched over to the aerial larviciding and other larviciding activities. Tire collection is shut down for the season and will resume in the Fall.

Entomologist Report:

Pleased with larviciding results to date – efficacy at 80% in many cases.

Working with the entomologist at the Bristol County Project to prepare a study and report on the efficiency of methoprene granules getting into the cedar swamp crypts. Collaborating with Cornell University.

The Mosquito I.D. training at Cape Cod Community College will have to be switched over to an on line format.

Community Liaison Dan Daly Update

No report.

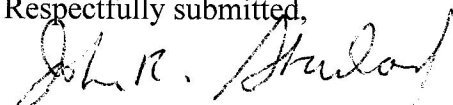
Other Business/Comment

None

Date, Time and Location of Next Commission Meeting – Wednesday, May 20, 2020 at 12:30pm at Plymouth Headquarters.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,



John Sharland, Vice Chair and Secretary.