



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE STATE RECLAMATION & MOSQUITO CONTROL BOARD



PLYMOUTH COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECT

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Commissioners:

John Sharland, Chairman
Ann Motyka, Vice Chairman/Secretary
Michael F. Valenti
John Kenney
Thomas Reynolds

Ross Rossetti – Superintendent/Pilot
Matthew McPhee - Asst. Superintendent
Ellen Bidlack – Entomologist
Denise DeLuca – Administrative Assistant
Cathleen Drinan – Community Liaison

COMMISSIONER’S MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 18, 2021

On Thursday, November 18, 2021, the Commissioners of the Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project held their monthly meeting in person at the Project building. Present were Commissioners Sharland, Motyka, Valenti, Kenney, and Reynolds. Also present; Ross Rossetti, Superintendent/Pilot, Matt McPhee, Assistant Superintendent, Entomologist Ellen Bidlack, Administrative Assistant Denise DeLuca, and former Community Liaison Dan Daly. Community Liaison Cathy Drinan attended via Zoom.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sharland at 9:31am.

Public Comment/Input- Pine DuBois from the Jones River Watershed attended via Zoom. She informed us that the efforts to keep the Blackwater Swamp from further development passed in Kingston’s Town meeting held the Tuesday before. Ms DuBois is hopeful that the swamp will be restored to help alleviate mosquito populations. She also had questions about the Project’s adulticide spraying in environmentally sensitive areas. Superintendent Rossetti fully explained how the GPS system, located in the field tech’s trucks, recognizes no-spray areas and alerts the driver to shut off the sprayer until clear of the area.

Vote to approve October, 2021 Minutes- The minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Administrative Assistant Update- Denise presented the most up-to-date expense report. She had no further news to report.

Commissioner’s Report- Commissioner Sharland noted that tires were located at a now closed auto shop in Bridgewater. He will be looking into the situation with hopes that the tires may be removed by the Project.

Assistant Superintendent’s Report- Matt reported that the crew collected 10 tires from last month’s report. Hand cleaning and brushing totals were 11,805 feet. The machine digging crew worked on sites in Bridgewater and Marion completing a total of 810 feet. Matt showed pre and post pictures taken from the work site in Bridgewater. Commissioner Reynolds asked if there are any conversations taking place with the town’s agencies regarding future maintenance of work done by the Project. Matt will have further information, going forward. Entomologist Doug Bidlack from the East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project, planned to give a detailed presentation on identifying poisonous plants for future reference. There will be a site visit to Pratt Farm in Middleboro to identify Sumac in the field.

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Superintendent's Report/Monthly Review- Ross received a schedule from BID-Plymouth regarding the starting and subsequent dates of the random drug testing. Two employees will be randomly selected in January; 2022 and another 2 in July; 2022. The Project is waiting on the delivery of a smaller hydraulic sprayer to update a much older model. Two backpack sprayers have been ordered.

As required to be updated every 5 years, Ross has submitted an application and is awaiting for a general permit from the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), an organization of the EPA.

The Project and the town of West Bridgewater's BOH and Conservation Commission are collaborating to remove brush and restore flow to the nearest river, the Matfield River. It has been discovered that there is a beaver dam present that is causing this blockage.

Ross reports that the various subcommittees of the Mosquito Control Task Force have been meeting 2 to 3 times a week. The full Task Force continues to meet one time a month. A public listening session will take place sometime after January 14, 2022.

The Project accepted the resignation of employee Brandon Gillette. Administration will evaluate future Project needs regarding additional staffing with intent to determine when and if any job postings will be needed.

Entomologist Report- Ellen is spending time making sure that all of the data collected over this last season is accurate. She has been spending a great deal of time updating the Project's ever-improving website to include new employees, updated equipment, and showing photos of recent projects that the crew has completed.

Community Liaison Report- Via Zoom, Cathy continues to look for groups to visit in person. She received an invitation to appear on PAC (Plymouth Area Community) TV to discuss what the Project is doing throughout the year. PAC TV provides public, education, and government access and covers many of the Project's local towns including Plymouth, Kingston, Duxbury, and Pembroke. Cathy has contacted Pembroke and Plymouth's COA programs. She would like to create a presentation that demonstrates what the Project does during the fall and winter months and present a photo gallery of all of the town's pictures lining the walls at the Project. Cathy attended a Plymouth Chamber of Commerce meeting on November 10. Her short presentation, similar to the COAs previously mentioned, gave the attendees an idea of the Project's work during the winter months, including ditch work, hand and machine digging, and tire reclamation. The Boy Scouts have expressed interest in the Project's work but Cathy said that would take place more toward the spring and summer.

Other Business/Comment- There was no new business or comment.

Date, Time, Location of next Commission Meeting- Thursday, January 13, 2022, at 9:30am. Meeting will be held at the Project headquarters, 272 South Meadow Road, Plymouth. It will also have a ZOOM option.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:17am

Respectively submitted,

Ann Motyka
Commissioner/Vice-Chairman/Secretary
Plymouth County Mosquito Control Project