

HAMILTON BOARD OF HEALTH

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2011

Members Present: Lindle Willnow, Karen Zagorski, and Susan Wilfahrt. Health Agent Leslie Whelan and BOH Administrative Assistant Nancy Stevens also present.

Meeting Opened: 7:34 p.m. at Hamilton Town Hall

Esteban Cuebas-Incle, North East Mosquito Control

Entomologist Esteban Cuebas-Incle spoke to the Board about mosquito surveillance services provided to the Town by North East Mosquito Control for \$42,943 a year based on an assessment and fixed formula defined by the state. Mosquito Control monitors mosquito species for 32 communities. Cuebas-Incle described what options are available to Hamilton if a virus is identified.

At the Mosquito Control's Plum Island lab, all collected mosquitoes are identified and community results are compiled from year to year. More than 1,000 pools of mosquitoes from participating municipalities were sent to the state this year for testing at a cost of \$25 per pool.

In Hamilton mosquito traps are located near the human population at trapping stations situated on municipal properties. Two collections of trapped mosquitoes are picked up per week beginning the first week in May and ceasing at the end of September. There are 50 species in the North Shore area of which 12 raise public health concern due to biting and potential to be virus vectors.

West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis are always present but may not be detected. At this time of year there are fewer mosquitoes so there is a greater chance that one could be carrying a virus. Nearly all WNV comes from birds and humans get the virus after a mosquito carrying the virus bites and takes a blood meal. Cuebas-Incle said the state does not test any birds. Dead crows are no longer tested since they are immune to the effects of WNV. Humans and horses do not transmit WNV or EEE viruses.

People under the age of 5 and older than 50 years old are more susceptible to WNV. Younger people are more susceptible to EEE although far fewer people are infected with EEE than WNV. But those infected with EEE may have long-

term medical issues and some die. There is no vaccine for EEE or WNV because it is not cost effective.

Northern house mosquitoes and cedar swamp mosquitoes are typically found in Hamilton where there are cattail swamps. Cuebas-Incle said the Northern House mosquito could carry WNV up to one mile, mosquitoes that become EEE vectors travel 15 miles and salt marsh mosquitoes that become vectors travel 25 miles (bacteria is sprayed on their larvae).

If a mosquito with a virus is identified in Town, Mosquito Control can continue to trap insects for an additional week, add more traps where the WNV is expected and near populations.

If more virus hits are discovered then spraying options are considered including at the trap sites, specific target sprays and Town wide. Contact persons from the Department of Public Health and Mosquito Control would work with the Town.

Town will decide whether or not it wants targeted truck spraying, possibly around schools. An integrated pest management plan for each school in Town as defined by the Child Protection Act has to be on file with the Board of Health and state related to schools' policy on spraying. Cuebas-Incle recommended Hamilton contact Mosquito Control for a sample of plan language.

Mosquito Control is also considering using another product that combines material with carbon dioxide that attracts the mosquitoes so they are killed immediately.

State law prohibits spraying where people are so it is done at night and usually not on the weekends. For effective spraying coverage conditions require temperatures over 50 degrees so mosquitoes will be flying, wind speeds less than 10 miles per hour and no rain.

In Revere where WNV is identified frequently, the city does pre-emptive spraying. A town wide spray was done in Methuen and it cost the community about \$4,000 for 20 gallons of material. Six ounces of atomized spray can be disseminated over 1 acre of land in 200' swaths. The chemical has a short half-life and breaks down in sunlight. Barrier spraying that is done on vegetation at a residential boundary lasts 10 days to two weeks.

Mosquito Control typically does neighborhood spraying in early to mid-July (this was done in Andover this year as well as adding traps and testing), in mid-August limited spraying is done and possibly town wide spraying. Spraying is not usually done in mid-September since the nighttime temperature does not stay above 50 degrees after sunset. A good hard freeze kills mosquitoes although many hibernate over the winter.

Discussion about when communities are notified prior to spraying, typically 48 to 72 hours. Also, that spraying is usually done for three to five hours (i.e., 9 to 11 p.m.). Cuebas-Incle said Mosquito Control often doesn't recommend that member communities notify residents when spraying will be done. He noted that the trucks are much quieter than in years past and that there is a remote chance the material would enter a resident's window and affect a person.

Any residents who want their homes exempt from any mosquito control including larvacide have to send a certified letter defining their restriction request to Town Hall by March 1. This information is entered into the Mosquito Control database and is noted during truck spraying so it can be turned on and off. Cuebas-Incle said this causes a logistical nightmare and impacts effectiveness of spraying.

Discussion about when Wenham had WNV identified this year, Health Agent Leslie Whelan and BOH Administrative Assistant Nancy Stevens were notified. Stevens spoke with Wenham's BOH chair Gerry Donnellan. Board noted that in 2006 football practices were cancelled when a mosquito virus vector was identified in Town and limited spraying was done.

Also mentioned was the importance of children proactively using bug spray and that up-to-date information on mosquitoes in Hamilton should be included on the Town's website. The issue has been covered in the local press.

Whelan and Stevens are the contacts to answer questions from the public related to mosquito control, virus identification and plans for spraying. Wenham did targeted barrier spraying when WNV was identified there. Cuebas-Incle said in this instance the cost of spraying is included in the assessment and that a community's assessment can be adjusted at any time. He noted that the state is taking less responsibility for mosquito control; Mosquito Control and municipalities are addressing it more.

In response to Whelan, who asked about a horse owner who had a dead crow on her property and wanted mosquitoes tested at the site, Cuebas-Incle said if the resident insists a surveillance trap could be set up in the area.

Also discussed was whether or not Mosquito Control would do targeted spraying if a resident requests it. This depends upon a Board of Health decision. Cuebas-Incle said spraying has to be done systematically to avoid promoting mosquito resistance to the atomized chemical. Also, there is a limited staff at Mosquito Control that is licensed to administer adulticide and larvacide.

Other services Mosquito Control offers include inspection of abandoned properties and public presentations about mosquitoes and ticks that can be done in concert with local public access television programming.

Variance Request – 22 Martel Road (Hayes Engineering)

At the Board's September 21, 2011 meeting, Board member Karen Zagorski disclosed that she is related to the property owner so the Board did not have a quorum to vote on this variance request until third member Susan Wilfahrt was in attendance.

Whelan said the plan had to come to the Board since it requests a variance to the property line and the affected abutter is the Town. Hamilton's DPW Director John Tomasz had reviewed the plan. Whelan has no issues with the plan that was revised to clean up details for two variance requests.

Lindle Willnow moved to approve the local upgrade variance request for 22 Martel Road. Wilfahrt seconded motion. VOTE: 2-0-1 with Zagorski abstaining.

Review – Board of Health Minutes dated September 21, 2011

Board discussed amendments to the minutes.

Follow-up discussion about 494 Essex Street resident not responding to Board's two letters and three phone calls made since June by Stevens regarding outstanding Keeping Of Animal/Barn Application payment for \$35.

Board had advised Stevens at September 21, 2011 meeting to speak to resident again and mention that Board has said to look into legal remedies. Stevens had called resident again.

Discussion was about Open Meeting Law 48-hour posting requirement relative to Board calling meeting to discuss potential truck spraying for mosquito control. Also, if there should be a designated person in Town who decides whether or not the Town would ask Mosquito Control to truck spray.

Willnow moved to accept the minutes as amended. Wilfahrt seconded motion. VOTE: 2-0-1 with Wilfahrt abstaining since she did not attend meeting.

Other business

Discussion about October 31, 2011 deadline approaching for Asbury Grove Camp Meeting Corporation to comply with Department of Environmental Protection requirements to ensure all cottages in Asbury Grove have Title 5 approved septic systems installed and functioning. Thirteen properties in the Grove have not replaced septic systems. The Corporation could be fined \$1,000 a day per system if compliance is not achieved by the end of the month.

Whelan will work with Zagorski and Bruce Taylor, Corporation business manager, to review list of cottages on file that have outstanding issues where septic systems should be upgraded or water to residences that may be uninhabited should be disconnected. Discussion on how some homeowners may not have been notified of compliance requirement. There are deed restrictions on all Grove properties with new septic systems.

Willnow agreed to make motion at Special Town Meeting for Article 2-1: Revolving Account that allows Town to collect insurance payment from flu clinic participants from other jurisdictions.

The Town will hold an upcoming flu clinic on Wednesday, October 26 and it has 210 vaccines and 110 flu mists. Hamilton received an allocation from the state but also purchased more vaccine.

Meeting Adjourned:

Willnow moved at 9:38 p.m. to adjourn. Wilfahrt seconded motion. VOTE: Unanimous. The Board's next meeting is on Tuesday, November 29 at 7:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

cc: Selectmen, Planning Board, Town Clerk, Conservation