

**Town of Heath - Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
September 9 2019**

PRESENT: Betsy Kovacs, Armand Clavette, John Palmer, Henry Godek, Susan Gruen

ALSO PRESENT: Claire Rabbitt- Town Nurse, Mary Sumner- BoH Clerk, Tim Lively, Shelia Litchfield, Lisa White- Regional Nurse, Greg Lewis- Commissioner of MCD

Meeting was **called to order** at 5:30pm

Betsy introduced Greg Lewis, Commissioner of the Mosquito Control District (MCD) and reviewed that due to Heath's critical risk status for Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) we are having this meeting to educate ourselves about the Mosquito Control District and the benefits and cost associated with the District so we can decide if we want to recommend joining the District to the Town.

Greg reviewed how he began seeing communities including mosquito control in their emergency preparedness programs and became involved in creating a Mosquito Control District for the Pioneer Valley. With the Zika outbreak new funds were released and a group was able to establish the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District. Greg noted the EEE is listed as a Homeland Security concern and is the deadliest of all mosquito borne diseases in the world.

The Pioneer District is two years old; they have purchased equipment to set the District up and can provide mosquito trapping and testing services; they do not provide spraying.

What the district offers:

1. Membership fee is the same for every town: \$5000.00 annual fee
2. The fee provides for three trapping sites in the Town for the mosquito season (mid-June to the first hard frost); trapping sites are determined by DPH.
3. Reports on the sites are provided weekly.
4. District has created flyers, calls and templates for member Town's use.

A question was asked about what testing does the State do: The DPH does randomly test communities throughout the mosquito season across the state, but you do not know if your community will be tested. If Heath joins the District, they will know they will be tested.

Discussed why EEE threat is getting worse: birds are migrating in new patterns, weather changes, EEE may have evolved as a virus.

Discussed how to educate our Town about EEE and the District: letters, posters, Annual Town Meeting (ATM) or Special Town Meeting (STM).

Betsy will arrange for Carolyn Shores Ness to come talk to the BoH about South Deerfield's experience with the District.

Adjourned at 7:34pm

Submitted by Mary Sumner, BoH Clerk