



TOWN OF SALISBURY

BOARD OF HEALTH

JOHN W. MORRIS, DIRECTOR

SALISBURY TOWN HALL
5 BEACH RD.
SALISBURY, MA 01952

TEL: 978-462-7839
FAX: 978-462-4176

DANIEL RICHARD
RON LAFFELY
SUE RING
DENISE PETERSON

November 5, 2019

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES

7:00 PM Salisbury Town Hall

Board Members Present:

Ron Laffely, Sue Ring and Denise Peterson

Staff:

John Morris-Health Director

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM.

Minutes

July 2, 2019 Minutes to be approved

Denise Peterson makes a motion to approve the April 2, 2019 meeting minutes as written. Sue Ring seconds the motion. 3 in favor, 0 opposed. Motion carries unanimous.

Old Business

None

New Business

Rich Berube Introduction and Update – Rich is the Director of Public Health in Billerica. Upon his retirement in Billerica, Rich will join Jack part time in the Town of Salisbury Health Department in 2020. Rich is currently working on all of Salisbury's Title 5's.

Mosquito Control Update – Robin Januszewski, Biologist, with the Northeast Mosquito Control Robin: No EEE or West Nile reported in Salisbury this year, however, there were reported incidents in neighboring towns. Treated 280 more catch basins this year than last year. Relative to Salisbury, there was an increase in mosquitos trapped and sent out for testing of 746%. Of those, there was an increase in EEE mosquitos of 4243% and an increase of West Nile mosquitos of 1882%. They anticipate that EEE will increase in the next few years. Services offered: surveillance, salt marsh spraying, catch basin treatments, and requested residential adulticide sprays. There was an increase in residential adulticide spraying this year from 268 last year to 328 this year. No calls for Larviciding or tire removals.

Ron: Is there any correlation between mosquito population and the phragmites growth that we have in Salisbury?

Robin: Not necessarily, however, the increased phragmites make it harder for them to treat the salt marsh. They are currently looking at system of mowing and herbisciding phragmites to be able to stunt the growth where they will not grow back, this is a 3 year process that is still in the developmental stages.

Jack: What species of mosquitos carry the West Nile virus?

Robin: Culex pipiens, they are the human biters, they primary breed in polluted water which is found in the catch basins. The catch basins are treated at larvae stage and they have seen a large decrease in their population due to the treatments.

Ron: How far will a mosquito travel?

Robin: It depends on the species. The salt marsh mosquitos will travel up to 25 miles. Other species will not go much more than a ¼ mile. Culiseta melanura, which transmit EEE, will travel up to a mile.

Jack: Can you explain the process for response time 15:19

Robin: We trap on Monday and Tuesday, we send the samples out to the state lab on Wednesday, and receive our results on Friday between 11:00am – 12:00pm. Department of Public Health would contact the town if there is a positive test and then they would contact us and we in turn contact the town to give our recommendations dependent on the species, location, weather and the time of year. Department of Public Health has a protocol in place based on elevated risks of EEE and West Nile that depends on number of mosquitoes, what type of biters, mammals and humans that have come down with either EEE or West Nile. Then there is risk levels associated with that, would prohibit sports or outdoor activity at a certain time, there would truck and air spraying.

Ron: If we didn't have this program, what would the natural course of mosquitoes be, if we didn't spray at all?

Robin: We already see the virus's in the towns that do not allow residents to call for a spray. The towns that the residents are calling for a spray, we are reducing the mosquito population so we are not seeing the virus's. Without a mosquito control program, especially on the salt marsh, people would not be able to enjoy their yards in the summer. This could also affect tourism in the summer. There is also a possibility that there would be a virus increase. Since implementing the program the salt marsh mosquitos caught in traps went from 97% to below 3%.

Ron: Do you have any products that you use for ticks along the marsh?

Robin: No we are strictly mosquito control, but we also manage the green head fly program.

Jack: Salisbury is one of six communities that participates in the green head fly program.

Sue: Do the green head flies carry any diseases.

Jack: I do not think that we have ever detected that green head flies carry disease.

Robin: No, at this time there is no evidence that they carry diseases, they are just a nuisance on the salt marsh.

Denise: When you make the decision to spray, what type of alert goes out to notify the public, if any?

Robin: It depends on the town. It is up to the town to get the word out. Some towns have a reverse 911 so that residents who request notification will receive notification via telephone or cell phone, some towns will email residents who have opted into this form of notification, and some towns will post the notification to the town website.

Ron: When you have private companies spraying and mosquito control spraying, is there ever a time when there is too many chemicals or residue that reduces the effectiveness of the mosquito control spray?

Robin: Cannot comment on what private industries use as far as chemicals, the products that they use degrade within 4 hours and degrades down to oxygen and water. We continuously looking at newer products, as they come out, to find the safest for the environment and for humans.

Health Nurse Quarterly Report to the Board

July 1, 2019 – September 30, 2019

Health Officer Report

July 1, 2019 – September 30, 2019

Ron: How do people with rental properties know when they need to renew their certificate of habitability?

Jack: We send them rental renewal notices.

Ron: How do we track the Airbnb's in Salisbury?

Jack: We are working on receiving a list of people that have registered under Airbnb's and merge the list with the current rental renewal list.

Ron: Do the Section 8 rentals have their own inspectors?

Rich: Yes, they have their own inspectors, however, sometimes complaints from the tenants are filed and resolve through the municipality rather than Section 8.

Jack: Our next project is to get a complete list of Airbnb's and add them to the rental list.

Denise: Is there a registry for rental units where we can see how many rental units we have in Salisbury?

Jack: Yes, we as a town do, we have approximately 1500 units in our program, approximately 1150 are rentals and the remaining have filed Home Owner Affidavits.

Ron: How do problems that are in the news such as lead in drinking water get resolved, are they actually getting resolved?

Jack: I went to a seminar last year for Triton School in regards to lead in the drinking water.

They have a program in place for someone to come in test and log the levels in the water and to flush the systems. It is always good practice for everyone to let water run for a few minutes before drinking it. The problem hasn't gone away and may never go away.

Correspondence

None at this time

Public Comments


None at this time

Adjourn


Susan Ring makes a motion to adjourn. Denise Peterson seconds the motion. 3 in favor, 0 opposed. Motion carries unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM
Next meeting scheduled for January 7, 2020.

Date: 2/4/20


Dan Richards


Ron Laffely


Sue Ring


Denise Peterson

Respectfully submitted by Kate White

 12/2/2019
Kate White Date