

Minutes Hadley Mosquito Opt-Out Committee

March 1, 2022 Zoom 3:00-4:00 PM

Zoom Meeting convened at 7:00 PM by Toni Lyn Morelli, Vice Chair

Present: Toni Lyn Morelli, Michele Morris Friedman, Bobbie Kamen, Jane Nevinsmith

Absent: Shel Horowitz, Michael Docter

Assignment of Toni Lyn Morelli as clerk. (Bobbie proposed, Toni Lyn seconded, all voted Aye).

Old Business

Minutes from the December 9, 2021 and Jan. 13, 2022, were accepted (Bobbie proposed, Toni Lyn seconded, all voted Aye)

New Business

No one has received information from other towns on their applications, so none to review.

Bobbie got in touch with Christopher Craig from the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District (PVMCD). There was some confusion about whether Hadley had paid their PVMCD dues. Bobbie found a vote (motion made and seconded) that the town authorized the Select Board to join the PVMCD for monitoring only and to execute contracts therein at Spring 2018 Town Meeting. Still waiting to see whether we have paid. We discussed who we should check with and what we should do to confirm there aren't unpaid bills. We further discussed that we are here to explain the bill when it comes in. Jane volunteered to check with the Board of Health to check if they've received a bill since 2018.

New application has not come out yet. We have been tracking Mosquito Control for the 21st Century committee but that might not be locally relevant this year for us – it seems to “be in parallel but not in sync”. Michele went to a meeting a few weeks ago; seemed like a noble effort but that the group is moving slowly with a lack of consensus on the details. Bobbie had a similar sense about their efforts.

Department of Public Health (DPH) shared some outreach materials with Bobbie: brochures for tick and mosquito prevention; handouts for protection from mosquito bites; protect yourself from mosquitoes. Jane suggests we put the posters in the town buildings and ask

Superintendent Annie if they can be put in the HPS classrooms. Bobbie will get materials to Jane.

We are interested in handing out materials at the Climate Change Action event on April 23. Michele suggested that we help sponsor the clean up on the morning of April 9 as well (along with the Mother's Club event that morning), stressing that the public should focus on reducing mosquito habitat.

Senior Center will be hosting a question and answer event with Jo Comerford will happen @3:00-4:00 on Friday, March 4. We would like to encourage Representative Comerford to encourage the mosquito opt-out application to come out sooner rather than later. Ask if she can share applications or information from other towns that successfully opted out in the past. Ask about how the work/recommendations of the Mosquito Control for the 21st Century committee will roll into this process and regulations.

Group discussed working off of last year's application format so that we can get a start against the 2022-2023 application comes late. Michele and Shel will ask other towns that got approved for their applications. Bobbie will send around the 2021 application again. Toni Lyn will start a Google Doc so that the Hadley MOOC members can start to fill that out.

We will need a certified copy of the opt-out vote for our application; Bobbie has asked Jennifer for that.

We discussed including in the application trying to reduce tires in town (act as mosquito breeding grounds), for example, we can get a discount rate (\$1 instead of \$5) if you bring a dumpster to a site and fill it with tires. Michael Doctor could potentially help with reaching out to the farmers.

We also could note the DPW activities about cleaning the drainage ditches; Jane will get that information from DPW.

Bobbie has access to our MOOC website and will post pdfs of meeting minutes, links to state mosquito prevention materials.

Committee reports were due February 18. We've been told we have until March 15. Bobbie volunteered to draft an annual report – discussed just putting together a paragraph or so to communicate our

mission and what we've done so far. Toni Lyn will create a link for that in Google Docs.

Old Business cont.

Strategic Plan update (see attached)

Timelines were updated. Jane will put us on the agenda for the Select Board meeting on April 6 at 6 pm to discuss our 2022-2023 application (if it is ready).

Future Meeting Dates: Tentatively March 22 @7:00 pm and Monday April 4 between 1:00 and 4:00 (need to check with Shel)

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 PM.