

Sat, Aug 31, 10:16 AM

(1 day ago)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Emergency Meeting Held Saturday AUG 31, 2019 at the Annex 9 AM for those that could make the meeting - notification via distribution email..

Present: Mike Doyle, Dick Costa, Michele Shea, Paul McCarthy

briefly discussed the EEE situation from the perspective of the State notifications and the conference call summarized by jamie Terry.

SHOULD the level of risk be elevated to CRITICAL - the overall picture would not change as to the warning to close Town land etc. However, it may trigger a communication with the State to initiate local spraying perhaps.

The town has spraying information in the releases of late: in quick summary: the aerial spraying by the state is considered to be done. The weather etc are no longer conducive to effective spraying.

The Town is not a current member of the Mosquito Monitoring done by the State - there is a fee associated with this. Samples of mosquitoes are collected weekly and tested; there is a substantial cost for this - perhaps as much as \$80K per info from BOH.

We can look into this program and potentially looking for grants of funding options for smaller communities. To be taken up at a later time.

Discussed the level of public safety and the importance of **getting the word out**, as strongly suggested by the MASS Department of Public Health.

Website determined to have appropriate information to achieve this goal

*Discussed the potential value of **CODE RED***

The system had been used in other towns - this spawned a discussion of the use and abuse of the system. Given the presence of social media - the amplification of a Code Red digital distribution cannot be denied and, if the desire is to get the word out, Code Red would ignite discussion and this will undoubtedly reach more.

It was the opinion of the group that the use of Code Red should be re-evaluated for the future and that the ability to issue a Code Red should be made available to a larger list of Town Officials; in this regard, a discussion should be had to provide the ability to: Fire Chief, Police Chief, Board of Health, Highway, and Select Board as emergency types vary and access may be best to be more readily available.

There was a general opinion that this method of news distribution may be *under-utilized* though guidelines need to be in place. Also, using the method as needed - and NOT over using - would bring notice of the value to more and more people and get them to sign up.

It was the opinion of the group that the use of Code Red was justified AND that the future use of Code Red should be a topic of upcoming discussion.

ACTION: PMC to contact Highway/Zach to send out this AM

Discussed Flea Market as it relates to the the EEE threat:

PMC stated that the Operators were notified via Suzanne Collins/Flea Market Advisory

MD stated that some operators still had no idea.

Good idea to follow Flea Advisory with a notification from the Town.

ACTION PLAN: PMC to issue an email to the Operators email list

List available from office.

Electric sign setting up with appropriate message to visit the website ... maybe additional display thru Ryan - State. (MEMA), etc.

Positioning should be on the west side of Route 19 coming from the south to gain attention

Positioning of second at the west entrance to the Flea Market on Route 20 to gain the attention of those coming from the western side of Route 20.

ACTION PLAN: Mike Doyle on it; will contact Ryan Olszta

Official position of the State - will link specifically on the website.

ACTION PLAN: PMC

Notify the food vendors

ACTION PLAN: BOH - Dick - to contact food vendors.

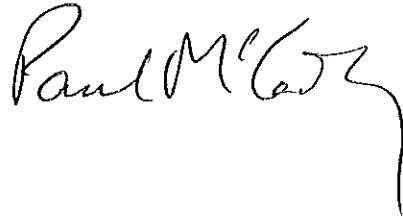
Future items to visit at upcoming Board meetings:

Code Red access.

Interaction of the Emergency system and BOH. needs to be better cooperation.

Meeting Closed

Paul McCarthy
Chair, Select Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul McCarthy", with a long, sweeping vertical line extending downwards from the end of the signature.