

LFICD Board Meeting
January 2, 2024
Virtual Zoom meeting

Draft Minutes:

1. Call to order: 5:31

Present: Christine Chapline, Bob Cluss, Dinah Bain, David Zarowin, Gary Rodes, Judd Markowski, Craig Zondag

2. Approve December 5, 2023 minutes:

The minutes from the December 5 meeting were approved.

3. Approve Treasurer's report:

Cash forward: \$78,712.28

Cash received: \$41,443.39

Total cash for month: \$120,155.67

Total Disbursements: \$6,244.44

Cash on hand: \$113,911.23

Total Accounts payable: \$0.00

Total Accounts receivable: \$0.00

Net Current assets: \$113,911.23

The Treasurer's report was approved.

4. Report on NMCA meeting (Craig) and FAA drone pilot course

Craig attended a Remote (drone) Pilot Certification course sponsored by the University of Massachusetts Amherst in early December. He reported that the drone training was disappointingly taught and disorganized. To become certified, remote pilots are required to know a lot of aviation information that does not pertain to the LFICD or to flying drones.

Should Craig be putting energy into becoming certified as a remote pilot? We need to know from the VAA what their direction and plans are for obtaining and operating a drone for the purpose of larviciding in the mosquito districts. Does the VAA plan to use State employees as drone operators?

NMCA meeting:

Craig attended the annual Northeast Mosquito Control Association meeting in Mystic, CN from December 4-6, 2023 and supplied the board with a synopsis of each of the attending States' reports. The major take away from the meeting was that the mosquito season is growing longer and the diversity of mosquito species is expanding in all the Northeastern States. All the States reported higher numbers of mosquitoes in the 2023 season.

5. Select Board meetings:

Bridport:

Judd and Craig attended a December Bridport Select Board meeting to defend including the LFICD in the town budget. Tom Vanacore also attended to express his view that the LFICD should be dissolved. Judd reported that there was fluid conversation; good, thoughtful discussion and questions from the Select Board members. The Bridport Select Board decided to put funding the LFICD up to a voice vote at town meeting. Not funding the LFICD will not dissolve the LFICD or remove Bridport from membership in the district. According to the Formation Agreement, a town wishing to withdraw from the district will need to hold a duly Warned town meeting for that purpose. If a majority of the voters agree to withdraw, the

withdrawal is effective one year after the vote and the town is responsible for financial obligations due the district during that year.

Cornwall:

Bob Cluss attended a December Cornwall Select Board meeting to answer any questions they might have about the LFICD as they prepared their budget. He explained to the Select Board that Craig and the interns did surveillance all summer and small treatments were done, but the past season was an outlier and that the LFICD is pursuing a conversation with the VAA to figure out the best way to move forward. The Cornwall Select Board was receptive and appreciated the difficulties the season presented. The Board members suggested putting an additional \$6,000 in the Cornwall budget so that we could do 2 aerial treatments if needed.

6. Draft the LFICD report that is needed for Town meeting reports:

The LFICD yearly report for Town meetings will continue to be drafted off-line. The report is due mid-January for Bridport and by January 18 for Cornwall.

7. Designate a second person for the LFICD debit card account:

Since David Dodge has resigned from the board, the board voted to replace him with another second member on the LFICD bank account, including the debit card.

The board voted unanimously to appoint Christine Chapline to replace David Dodge as the second signatory (after Dinah Bain, Treasurer) on the LFICD bank account.

8. Future Direction of the LFICD: not specifically discussed.

9. Address Tom Vanacore letter's concerns:

An email from Tom Vanacore was sent to the LFICD board members on December 22, 2023. He expressed these concerns:

-He would like an amendment to the November minutes to include that there had been a discussion of board autonomy. Chris will amend the November minutes to state:

“The question of whether or not the LFICD board has the power to treat the floodplain without the consent of the VAA was discussed. David Dodge pointed out that our Larvicide Application Permit, which is issued by the VAA and allows us to aerielly treat with approved larvicide products, states:

“Applications of any of the products in Condition 2 shall only occur if the conditions set forth in the grant agreement, based on biological assessments for mosquito larvae/pupae populations in which larvae or pupae populations warrant treatment, unless otherwise approved by the Vector Management Program. Prior approval must be sought for each individual application.” The board agreed that the terms of the State’s Larvicide Application Permit are clear that aerial treatments require prior approval by the VAA.”

Our grant agreement states that “Larval threshold requirements may be waived upon implementation of an IMM program, submitted to and accepted by the State.” We look forward to working with the VAA to implement an IMM based treatment program in 2024.

-Tom V. believes that the LFICD annual budget hearing in November was not properly Warned and he would like the Board to schedule a new budget hearing. The Board will not schedule another public budget hearing, as the Budget hearing agenda and Zoom link were sent to each of the Town clerks.

10, New Business:

We need to make a list of topics for discussion with the VAA, including:

Discussion of any State plans for the purchase and implementation of a larviciding drone
Discussion of State taking over nuisance mosquito control and what are the State's intentions for mosquito control across the State, particularly given the potential for public health impact.

IMM plan for the 2024 season

We also need to make a list of topics to discuss with legislators

11: Adjourn: 6:45

Next meeting: February 6, 2024 5:30 PM via Zoom