

SUDBURY BOARD OF HEALTH

Minutes of **Emergency** Board Meeting September 8, 2019

Attendance: Board Chair Carol Bradford, Board member Susan Sama, Board Member Linda Huet-Clayton, Health Director William Murphy, Admin. Beth Porter, Selectmen Janie Dretler and Jennifer Roberts.

Meeting commenced at 12:00 pm.

12:00: Opening comments – No Public Comments Chair Carol Bradford calls Emergency meeting to order.

12:01 Emergency Response to EEE: Mr. Murphy - Sudbury Health Director updated the Board on the timeline of when the EEE threat began to present.

- Spring: East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project – East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project (EMMCP) conducted helicopter and catch basin larvicide treatments and began surveillance. Targeted truck mounted spraying occurred, as needed throughout summer.
- Mid-summer: EEE confirmed in mosquitoes in various counties in MA. Animals and human cases follow. MDPH and MDAR began to prepare an organized response. Health Department staff updated town website with public notifications and information as the primary way to inform the public.
- Late August, Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, in collaboration with the Department of Public Health, initiates aerial spraying of high-risk areas in central MA region. State defined these areas and mapped spray a zone. A section of southwest Sudbury is included in this zone. Sudbury had been identified low risk to moderate risk at this point. State was not releasing spray schedule due to last minute weather changes and new case mapping. Many calls from concerned citizens received, some advocating for spraying and others against. Communication between the State and municipalities became challenging as State responding to larger crisis over multiple areas and more human cases.
- Sept. 3rd The Health Department officially notified thru the MAVEN communicable disease reporting system that there was a case of encephalitis reported in a Sudbury Resident. The resident was being tested for EEE and they would notify us of the results as soon as they received them.
- Sept. 6th MDPH confirmed that EEE was the cause of encephalitis in Sudbury

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resident. Sudbury now considered by MDPH a “critical” risk community. Mr. Murphy notified all stakeholders including but not limited to the Acting Town Manager, Maryanne Bilodeau, school superintendents Brad Crozier and Bella Wong, Board of Health Chair, Carol Bradford, EMMCP, police, fire and others. At the suggestion of Bilodeau, Mr. Murphy, through Police Chief Scott Nix, coordinates public news conference and press release with John Guilfoil public relations firm. Press conference with multiple news agencies occurs live at 6 pm.

- Mr. Murphy, throughout Saturday September 7th, coordinates town-wide adulticide mosquito spraying with EMMCP for Monday, September 9th and Tuesday, September 10th. Emergency Board of Health meeting called for Sunday September 8th to discuss response.
- Sept. 8th. Reverse 911 call to go out to residents about truck mounted spraying to be done by EMMCP on Monday the 9th and Tuesday the 10th.
- EMMCP to begin Truck Mounted street spraying Monday Sept. 9th (North Sudbury) and 10th (South Sudbury). Spraying to begin at dusk.

Board discusses response and VOTES the following:

Vote to endorse Sudbury adulticide spraying by EMMCP to reduce risk of EEE:

Conduct town-wide truck mounted mosquito spraying to reduce the mosquito population as an effective measure to reduce EEE risk. This action is supported by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) and will be conducted by the East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project.

Motion made by BOH Member Susan Sama, seconded by Chair Carol Bradford Motion passed 3-0-0.

Vote to support the Massachusetts Department of Public Health’s

recommendations and guidelines to reduce risk of infection: Continue advising residents to adhere to all MDPH recommendations and guidelines that can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/guides/eee-in-massachusetts>. These guidelines are continually being revised and residents are encouraged to visit the site frequently.

Motion made by Carol Bradford Chair, seconded by Susan Sama and Linda Huet. Passed 3-0-0.

Vote to give the Health Director authority to make emergency decisions based on current data and information from EMMCP and the Department of Public Health:

Prioritize continued evaluation of current relevant data on EEE and response, including spraying. The Director must continually advise the Board until the threat is diminished and take appropriate action to protect public health.

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Motion made by Linda Huet-Clayton, seconded by Susan Sama. Motioned passed 3-0-0.

Vote to support Sudbury Health Director in practices that benefit the safety of

Sudbury's general public: Instruct the Director of Public Health to continue an educational campaign utilizing the town website and MDPH websites as primary methods to distribute information. The Board instructed the Health Director to prioritize EEE response and to attend all town meetings to support Boards and committees.

Motion made by Carol Bradford, Chair, seconded by Susan Sama. Passed 3-0-0.

All boards, committees, and staff are contributing to a unified response.

Selectwomen, Jennifer Roberts and Janie Dretler initiated points to be brought up for discussion:

- Do we need to seek out professionals who can communicate critical information to the general public (within legal constraints and limitations) using all modes of media and social media?
- The schools should be allowed to make decisions that impact students and families directly.
- Schools have Integrated Pest Management (IPM) systems in place. The schools should review these plans for emergency response to EEE.
- The schools should update scheduling and review locations of activities in order to prevent putting students at risk.
- The town must update procedures and contacts for future critical public health risks/outbreaks?
- What role should other Sudbury departments/boards play in critical risk situations?

These points were taken under advisement and no decisions were made.

Meeting Adjourned 1:50 PM