

IPSWICH SELECT BOARD
Meeting of Monday, May 10, 2021

The Select Board participated in this meeting remotely utilizing Zoom in accordance with the Governor's March 12, 2020 Order suspending provisions of Open Meeting Law and to promote public health and social distancing.

Board Members present: Linda Alexson, Chair; Dr. Tammy Jones, Vice Chair; Kerry Mackin; Nishan Mootafian; William Whitmore

Also present: Anthony Marino, Town Manager; Eileen Page, Recording Secretary

With a quorum present, Ms. Alexson called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Welcome/Announcements

Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 15 at 9 AM under a tent at the Middle/High School.

The next Select Board meeting is May 17. Town Elections will be held on May 18.

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) will hold a special meeting to discuss the Essex Pastures Development on May 19 at 7 PM.

Citizen Queries

None.

Discuss/Vote to Opt Out of State Aerial Mosquito Spraying Program

Colleen Fermon (Director of Public Health) reported that May 28, 2021 is the deadline for municipalities to opt out of aerial spraying conducted by the State Reclamation Mosquito Control Board. Ipswich has a successful history with their independent mosquito mitigation plan and can opt out of this new program if they so choose.

Mr. Marino stated that a question had been raised regarding whether regular testing for EEE would still be conducted. Ms. Fermon responded that it would, under Ipswich's existing mitigation plan.

Mr. Whitmore asked if there would be an opportunity to opt back into the program if EEE was detected later in the summer. Ms. Fermon responded that she has asked the State twice with no response, however, she believes the decision will be permanent for the duration of the summer.

Ms. Alexson asked how neighborhoods would be informed if the Town opted to use truck spraying. Ms. Fermon responded that reverse 911 calls have been made in the past, and truck spraying typically only targets neighborhoods at an increased risk for an unusual mosquito population.

Susan Hubbard (Board of Health, Chair) reported that opting out of State spraying was discussed at the most recent Board of Health meeting, and the consensus was that Ipswich has a plan in place that has been largely sufficient in previous years, and there is no desire for the Town to become a test ground for State operations.

Dr. Jones stated that the plan currently in place seems to be healthier for the Town overall.

Amanda Donovan (Board of Health) stated that public outreach and education will be increased as well, as outlined in Ipswich's current mitigation plan.

Dr. Susan Boreri (Board of Health) stated that there were 35 cases of EEE in Massachusetts in 2020, which was up from an average of seven in past years. Dr. Boreri believes this was largely due to an increase in outdoor activity due to COVID, and that preventative measures will be key in keeping the rates low, such as minimizing outdoor activity at dawn and dusk, covering skin during outdoor activities, and wearing bug spray.

- *Vote: Dr. Jones moved to opt out of State aerial spraying activities based on the public meeting held on May 10, 2021, in consultation with the Board of Health, with the option for public comment. Mr. Mootafian seconded. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.*
- *Vote: Ms. Mackin moved to adjourn. Mr. Whitmore seconded. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.*

*Respectfully submitted by Eileen G. Page
05.17.2021*