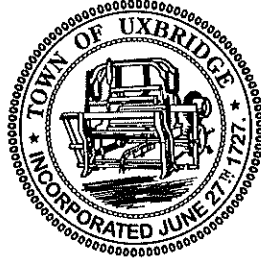


Michael Morrisette, Chairman
Dr. David Tapscott, Vice Chair
Dr. Joann Lindenmayer, Member
Nancy Centrella, Administrative Assistant
Dr. Kristin Black, Health Agent



**TOWN OF UXBRIDGE
BOARD OF HEALTH**
21 South Main Street, Room 204
Uxbridge, MA 01569
508-278-8600 ext. 8
boh@uxbridge-ma.gov

Minutes of the Uxbridge Board of Health Emergency meeting held on Monday, August 26, 2019 at 2:00 pm in the Board of Selectmen Meeting Room, 21 South Main Street, Uxbridge, MA

Present: David Tapscott, Vice Chair and Joann Lindenmayer, Member Michael Morrisette, Chair (absent)
Also present, Nancy Centrella, Admin. Assistant

Meeting called to order: The time being 2:00 pm and the meeting duly posted with a quorum present, Vice Chairman Tapscott called the meeting to order.

Discuss restriction of outdoor activities at town and school owned properties and recommendation for private properties due to the critical risk of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in Uxbridge

The board met to address the many concerns of the public. To date, the MA Dept of Public Health has reported 4 human cases including 1 fatality, and 3 equine cases. Because one of the horse cases was located in Uxbridge, the Town was designated as "critical" by the DPH. This designation means that all of the Town will be sprayed from the air. The aerial spraying that was supposed to begin Sunday evening (August 25th) was postponed due to low nighttime temperatures, and has been tentatively rescheduled to Monday evening (August 26th). The spraying will continue until all affected communities have been covered, but communities will only be covered once for this initial spraying round. A second round may or may not be needed. The Board of Health website has a link to the DPH map which indicates which areas were sprayed on the previous night. Large bodies of water will be excluded, but ornamental fish ponds and bee hives should be covered.

Horses are highly susceptible to EEE and should be kept in their stalls after dusk. It is also a strong recommendation by the board that all horses be vaccinated in the spring. The best protection for humans is to keep all skin covered, use DEET products, and remain indoors after dusk and before dawn when possible. Also, everyone should empty all standing water on their properties and repair holes in window screens. The aerial spraying offers another layer of protection but is not a substitute for these personal protection measures.

Peter Hechenbleikner, Interim Town Manager, thanked the board for their prompt attention over the weekend. He recommended that we follow the dusk to dawn calendar from MDPH. The board has mixed feelings and in the end, they based their decision on what is best and safest for public health. Due to the climate change, there is a very slim chance that we will see an early frost this year and the mosquito population is continually growing. The following were factors considered in making this determination:

1. The increasing number of human cases of EEE in the state. It is now up to 4 with one being fatal. We are still early in the EEE season. There is a bumper crop of mosquitoes this year with high numbers of them carrying EEE.
2. The fact that two bordering towns—Sutton and Northbridge—have designated 6:00 PM as the time after which no activities would be permitted on town property.
3. Other towns are using the designated time of dusk, which is 7:30 this week. This becomes earlier with each succeeding week. It will be 7:15 in two weeks, 7:00 the following week, and 6:45 the following week, etc. 6:00 will be the designated time of dusk for the week of October 20th. There is likely to be confusion about which time to follow depending upon which week you are in.
4. The time of dusk is based on the path of the sun, and does not account for many variables. A designated time of dusk does not apply to all areas. For instance, there may be mosquito activity well before dusk in shaded areas and/or areas near water. This includes some town fields and parks.

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Motion: *David Tapscott moved to restrict all activities on Town and School owned outdoor property between 6:00 PM and 8:00 AM until further notice. Joann Lindenmayer seconded and the motion was passed unanimously with a vote of 2-0-0.*

This decision will be posted on the town website and David and Peter will send out an email to inform the School and Recreational Depts. to get the word out quickly.

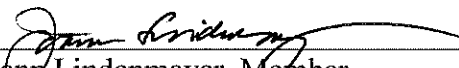
ADJOURNMENT 2:35 pm

Motion: *Joann Lindenmayer moved to adjourn the meeting. David Tapscott seconded and the motion was passed unanimously with a vote of 2-0-0.*

Michael Morrisette, Chairman (absent)



David Tapscott, Vice Chairman



Joann Lindenmayer, Member