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By Linda Amerighi at 10:19 am, Jun 25, 2021

SHARON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Draft until approved at the next regular meeting

A regular meeting of the Sharon BOS was held on June 22, 2021 at 5:30PM In-person and via ZOOM at the Town Hall. Present were the three Selectmen, Jeffrey Perotti, Mike Dudek, Bethany Heffer, Bruce Crumley, reporter Hawken and the secretary.

First Selectman Colley called the meeting to order at 5:30.

Mr. Flanagan made a motion to adopt the agenda as written, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

If anyone wants to speak on an agenda item, when the Board gets there, just let Mr. Colley know.

Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the 6/8/21 minutes as submitted, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor.

Jeff Perotti, Sharon's Tree Warden, spoke on the current problem with Gypsy Moths. He handed out some information (copy attached). He along with Richard Cole of the CT Agriculture Experiment Station looked at various sites. It is a judgement call on whether to treat the situation or not on the private level. The current situation should be coming to an end in the next few weeks. The big thing will be next year – will the trees re-foliate. Individuals could reach out to an arborist who could advise them on what to do as there are a lot of options on what could be done. He suggested individuals should be prepared to spray next year as this needs to be lined up for July 1. The State of CT is not doing any treatment to their properties. The Board thanked Mr. Perotti for coming to the meeting.

Tomorrow (6/23/21) at 3:00PM at Veterans' Field is the public information meeting about speed/speed humps in general. Melissa Evans, a Safety Circuit Rider with UCONN's Training and Technology Center will be there to address the resident's concerns.

The Sharon Day Care has submitted two requests – use of Town Roads and the Green for September 25, 2021 for the road race. They take care of traffic control. Mr. Jones made a motion to grant both requests, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor.

A driveway application has been submitted for 99 Lambert Road. As one of the site lines is under 200' the Ordinance requires the Board of Selectmen to either approve or deny the application. As this is not a well-traveled road, neither Mr. Colley nor the Road Foreman see any problem with the site line. Mr. Flanagan made a motion to approve the driveway application, seconded by Mr. Jones, with all in favor.

It is time to renew the Lease for the well located on Sally Jenkins property that provides drinking water for the Beach. This is a five year lease that the Town will be paying for the 2021 year $229.04. Mr. Jones made a motion that the BOS on behalf of the Town enters into a Lease Agreement with Sally Jenkins for a new five year lease, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor.

There are various re-appointments that need to be done by June 30, 2021. Mr. Colley read them. Mr. Flanagan made a motion to approve the re-appointments as read, seconded by Mr. Jones with thanks for the willingness to serve the Town, with all in favor. List attached.

Lynn Kearcher has submitted a letter of interest in being re-appointed to the Inland Wetlands & Water Course Commission. There is a vacant alternate position. Mr. Jones made a motion to appoint Lynn Kearcher as an alternate to this Commission, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor.

The Board received correspondence from Jonathan Aakjar concerning the continued facilitation of operation of the Sharon Valley Tavern. As the correspondence covers various topics, each will be looked into as much as the Board of Selectmen can do. Some go to other Departments. Mr. Flanagan offered that perhaps not all the residents in this area feel the same as Mr. Aakjar.

Community Update:

A main concern around Town is the Gypsy Moths, which Mr. Perotti addressed earlier in this meeting.

Parking on West Main Street is an issue but it is hard to monitor and address as this is a State road.

With nothing further, Mr. Jones made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Flanagan, with all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:11.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Pitcher, Town Secretary

From Johnson & Lyons / Insects That Feed on Trees & Shrubs

Gypsy Moth (Plates 61–62)

Gypsy moth, *Lymantria dispar* (Linnaeus), is a familiar name, especially to northeasterners. Probably no pest of trees has received more publicity or cost more to control.

In 1870 this announcement was made by a well-known entomologist: "Only a year ago the larvae of a certain owlet moth, *Porthetria* [*Lymantria*] *dispar*, were accidentally introduced by a Massachusetts entomologist into New England, where it is spreading with great rapidity. It happened this way. Mr. Trouvelot, then living at 27 Myrtle Street in Medford, Massachusetts, was in search of a silk moth that would survive in America. He brought eggs of the gypsy moth to his home where some larvae or possibly adult moths escaped" (256). The gypsy moth was known to be a serious pest of forest and shade trees in Europe, and Trouvelot apparently knew this because he informed local authorities of the moths' escape.

Nothing was done, and within 12 years the insect became a serious nuisance to those living on Myrtle Street. The local residents assumed it to be a native pest. The personal testimonies of residents of Myrtle Street in the early 1880s were a preview of things to come. One woman stated: "I went to the front door and sure enough the street was black with them [caterpillars]." Another resident who was out of town for three days in June of 1889 related: "When I went away the trees in our yard were in splendid condition and there was not a sign of insect devastation on them. When I returned there was scarcely a leaf upon the trees." Another resident testified to having collected 4 quarts of caterpillars from one branch of his apple tree. Another said that the caterpillars covered one side of his house so thickly that it was impossible to tell the color of the house. Many people disliked going outdoors because the caterpillars dropped from the trees onto them. Streets and sidewalks were slippery in places because of the crushed caterpillars.

Placed in an environment devoid of its natural enemies, the gypsy moth multiplied and spread so rapidly that today it is a pest of trees in over 518,000 sq km (200,000 sq miles) of northeastern forestland. Despite strict quarantine regulations and chemical eradication and control programs, which have undoubtedly helped control the gypsy moth's activities, it continues to occupy new territory. (Automobiles and camping trailers often transport the gypsy moth's eggs, and sometimes other stages of the insect.) With the present ban on the use of persistent insecticides such as DDT, the insect appears to be spreading even more rapidly. It has been found with increasing frequency in the Carolinas, Kentucky, Michigan, Wisconsin, Colorado, Idaho, California, British Columbia, and Ontario. In Oregon (1984) gypsy moths defoliated Douglas-fir. In 1991 moths of the Asian race were discovered in Tacoma, Washington, and Portland, Oregon. Whether the species will spread throughout all of the United States remains to be seen.

Adult gypsy moths are rather large. The wingspan of the female is about 5 cm. The male is dark brown (Plate 62E), and the female nearly white, with wavy, blackish bands across the forewings (Plate 62D, E). Eggs are deposited on tree trunks, branches, fences, buildings, or other suitable places in masses of 100–600 or more, and are covered with a dense mass of tan or buff-colored hairs (D). The individual eggs are pelletlike and range from brown to black.

The larvae hatch from early April to late May, the peak hatching period coinciding with the flowering of shadbush. The tiny larva often remains on the egg mass for several days before climbing the tree to feed. It then spins a silken thread, suspends itself from a leaf, and is swayed back and forth by light breezes. If the wind velocity is great enough, it may become airborne. In a wooded area the wind may carry a larva several hundred yards. In open terrain larvae are reported to be transported several miles. The larva at this stage is hairy and basically dark. When fully grown (Plate 62G), it may be up to 5.5 cm long.

As the caterpillar (larva) matures, its feeding habits change. It feeds at night and descends from the tree to take refuge in shady places. On a heavily infested tree it may continue to feed throughout the daylight hours.

Larvae feed on a number of hosts. Preferred are leaves of apple, alder, basswood, hawthorn, oaks, some poplars, and willows. Less preferred hosts include elm, black gum, hickories, maples, and sassafras. A few larvae from a massive population may occasionally feed on beech, hemlock, white cedar, pines, and spruce. Ignored or only rarely fed on are ash, balsam fir, butternut, black walnut, catalpa, redcedar, dogwood, holly, locust, sycamore, and tuliptree.

Oaks suffer from the gypsy moth's attack more than other species. Most deciduous trees can withstand one or two consecutive years of defoliation before severe decline or death occurs. Conifers will die after one complete defoliation.

The larval stage lasts about 7 weeks. After it has completed feeding, the larva finds a sheltered place and pupates in a brownish black pupal case. Pupal cases are often found on the bole of the host tree in clusters accompanied by molted "skins" of the last caterpillar instar.

Moths begin to emerge about the middle of July, males appearing several days earlier than the females. The female does not fly; she crawls to an elevated place and emits a liquid substance called a sex attractant (pheromone), which volatilizes and is carried in the air. With the proper wind conditions, the odor will be detectable and attractive to a male moth for a distance of about 1.6 km (1 mile). The sex attractant has been synthesized, and the synthetic pheromone is used as a survey tool to determine the presence of male moths. After mating and depositing eggs, the adults soon die without feeding.

Control has been effected by human manipulations as well as through a number of natural factors. A bacterial pathogen called *Bacillus thuringiensis* kills larvae. Now prepared commercially, it is effective against *L. dispar* and certain other caterpillar species. Important parasites and predators from Europe and Asia have been reared and released, with some success. The major parasites are *Ooencyrtus kuvanae* Howard, an egg parasite; *Blepharipa pratensis* (Meigen), a fly parasite of the caterpillar; and *Calosoma sycophanta* Linnaeus, a large and colorful predatory beetle. The wasp shown in Figure 60 (accompanying Plate 83) is a parasite of gypsy moth larvae.

The fungus *Entomophaga aulicae*, a control agent for gypsy moth larvae in the Orient, has good potential for use as a microbial insecticide in North America. Another fungal insect pathogen, *E. maimaiga*, has been a factor in gypsy moth population crashes in the Northeast. In general, transmission of fungal pathogens to insects and subsequent population control require long periods of moist weather. About 10% of natural populations of gypsy moths harbor a latent virus that becomes lethal when activated. Infected gypsy moths pass the virus on to their offspring. If the virus could be activated through human manipulation, injurious populations could be controlled.

In outbreak areas there have been numerous reports of human allergic respiratory and skin reactions from an abundance of airborne wing scales and other tiny fragments from gypsy moth larvae, adults, and molted larval skeletons.

References: 181, 193, 256, 573

entomophaga maimaiga or EM

A. A hillside in the Hudson Valley of New York. The trees at the top of photograph were defoliated by the gypsy moth, *Lymantria dispar*.
B. Egg masses on the underside of an oak limb.
C. Gypsy moth larvae on partly devoured oak leaves.
D. Close-up of egg masses. The small pinholes mark exit holes of egg

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Edwin Yowell, Alternate member, term to expire June 30, 2024

SEWER & WATER COMMISSION

Elizabeth M. Rybczyk, Regular member, term to expire June 30, 2026

INLAND WETLANDS & WATER COURSES COMMISSION

Robin L. Zitter, Alternate member, term to expire June 30, 2026

Lynn Kearcher, Alternate member, term to expire June 30, 2023

HOUSATONIC RIVER COMMISSION

James Saunders, Alternate member, term to expire June 30, 2024