

**SOUTH PORTLAND PEST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTES
12/7/20 (5-6:30 PM) – ZOOM MEETING**

ATTENDEES

Residents / Taxpayers	MBPC-Licensed Professionals	Agronomist
Andrew Capelluti Alex Redfield	Todd Robbins	Jesse O'Brien (Chair)
City Staff	Guests	
Fred Dillon (notes)		

1. PMAC officially becomes LMAC today!

- Council approved proposed changes to Ch. 32 on 11/17/20 and the new Landcare Management Ordinance will take effect on 12/7/20 (tonight)
- Press release to go out early next week (ATTACHMENT)
- Council formally appointed Alex Redfield to replace Linden Thigpen
- Still need to fill Justin Nichols vacancy by advertising in City newsletter and posting on City website; suggestions for replacement also welcome
 - Must be NOFA-certified or licensed applicator? (Yes for NOFA and yes for MBPC licensed applicator)
 - *“Two MBPC-licensed landscape professionals, at least one of whom has experience in organic land care management and is accredited by the NOFA”*
 - Maybe Sweet Pea Landscaping Jason Batchelor (Jesse will follow up)

2. Review/amend/approve 11/2/20 PMAC meeting notes (ATTACHMENT)

- Accepted unanimously

3. Planning for ordinance implementation – tentative timeline

- Jesse’s refresher on the N cycle (ATTACHMENT)
 - Refer to Jesse’s slide – all about the availability of N and conditions for optimal plant uptake
 - Implications for what might be submitted for waivers – esp. for performance turf and new establishment
 - Will depend on having good growing conditions and perceptions of prospective applicants that organic fertilizers won’t work
 - 1st step in every waiver app must be a soil test – no waivers can be granted without it

- Soil test is a picture in time so need to pay attention to how recently it was taken
 - Address soil compaction / breaking up the soil
 - Spike vs core vs deep tine aeration vs hydraulic
 - Calcium is key too
 - Getting the right soil is key too: performance turf should be sandier
- Soil quality requirement for new development / redevelopment
 - If it's an older soil test then probably not valid
 - Ordinance requires sample collection for same year – must be comprehensive test
 - Question about timing of soil test results – if they don't come in a timely fashion can contractors provide at beginning of season? (Most already do this?)
 - Question about confirming that fertilizer has been incorporated to a depth of 2-3"
 - Important distinction between getting growth in bare spots of established turf – soil test required for fertilizers in these areas?
- Fertilizer ordinance outreach plan & BMPs (ATTACHMENTS)
 - Ref to Julie's E&O Table
 - Phase II: outreach to MELNA, dirt workers (DEP list), building contractors (Maine Association of General Contractors)
 - I get fact sheet together for developers/owners/contractors ASAP and run it by LMAC (describing how soil quality requirements must be met)
- Continue thinking about updates to GHSP website
 - Ref to Gary Fish's concerns with not considering compost as fertilizer – huge loophole – although lots of bagged composts do provide info on nutrient content
 - Use existing resources / references to greatest extent possible
 - Work with surrounding communities to greatest extent possible – do sooner rather than later

4. Other Updates

- Todd on recent PPH winter moth story in Cape Elizabeth
 - Cape tree warden – handles all budgets for trees in town spaces
 - Residential visits for risk assessments and ownership
 - Reports directly to public works director (Jay Reynolds)
 - Needs to be firm with residents: protect the people from the trees and the trees from the people
 - Certified in assessing tree risks
 - Part-time job – does it on his own time
 - Question about whether new tree ordinance will be responsibility of LMAC – not sure but FD will check with JR (seems like pesticides, fertilizers and trees might be too much for 1 volunteer committee)
 - Winter moth status: Cape was primary hotspot in 2011 affecting oak, maples, elm and fruit trees

- Canopies have taken quite a hit
- Forces trees to push out second growth in same season
- If it happens in multiple years trees can die (esp. oaks and maples)
- Encourage residents to seek non-pesticide forms of IPM (banding in fall and oils in spring)
- MFS release parasitoid flies (2014 & 2016) – may also have done this in Hinckley Park?
- Band trees around TDay to catch wingless females
- Not eradicating moths but suppressing to acceptable threshold
- Over past couple years they've noticed that the populations have spread to SoPo and Scarborough but have diminished in Cape so trees aren't completely defoliated
- Todd worked with CELT to observe effects of controls – no interventions this year so they'll see how it goes next year and apply bands & oil if necessary
- Fred on Yerxa Park knotweed management demonstration project (ATTACHMENTS)
 - Submitted info to French researchers on pilot project
- Fred on Town of Falmouth's efforts to collect pesticide and fertilizer samples
 - Fred will report back on outcome
- Jesse on working with neighboring communities to develop consistent messaging
 - See E&O above

5. Other agenda items / discussion topics?

- Pesticide waiver process considerations
 - Concerns contractors are going to find process too cumbersome and just skip the requirements
- Let folks know about LMAC opportunity for Justin's vacated position
- Q about whether there needs to be a deeper aerator for performance turf
- Q about the animal grazing ordinance including sheep (it does)

6. Adjourn

NEXT REMOTE MEETING: 1/4/21 from 5-6:30 PM

Fertilizer Ordinance Outreach Plan

Action	Description	Who will do it	Timeline	Status
Phase I				
Press release	Announcement about new Fertilizer Ordinance	Sustainability	By December 7, 2020	✓
Phase II				
Letter to landcare companies & retailers	Letter to practitioners letting them know about the new ordinance	Sustainability, Fred Dillon, CCSWCD	By December 11, 2020	
Planning review process & permitting brochure finalized for new construction	Permitted projects will get a brochure; soil quality & compaction will be rolled into sediment control inspections for planning reviewed projects	Fred Dillon	By January 1, 2021	
Develop messaging/content	Finalize Fertilizer Ord education & outreach/BMPs + website changes	Sustainability, LMAC	January mtg – messages, February mtg – website	
Website changes	Review of GHSP website to add fertilizer content and any other updates	Sustainability, Kanner Kreative	By February 26, 2021	
Industry meeting	Hosted with Site One	Sustainability, Jesse O	In January, 2021	
Phase III				
Healthy soils campaign	Develop campaign that ties organic landcare and climate action together. (See outreach & education/best practices document for topics to cover)	Sustainability, LMAC, Portland Design, CCSWCD	March mtg – develop campaign	
Article(s) in Sentry				
Posters & brochures				
Workshops, trainings,				
Demonstration projects				
Retailer toolkit				
Postcards				
Other ideas?				

**NOTICE TO APPLICANTS FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
ON ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR SOIL QUALITY & FERTILIZER USE**

In November 2020, the South Portland City Council approved amendments to Chapter 32 of the City's ordinance. The new Landcare Management Ordinance includes minor changes to the existing pesticide use provisions, now under Article I, and an entirely new section for fertilizer use under Article II. All of these amendments became effective in early December 2020.

In addition to regulating fertilizer applications on existing lawns and turf, Chapter 32 also includes soil quality requirements for new development projects¹. These requirements include:

- Sub-soil compaction at the site must be broken up to a depth of at least 10 inches below the surface.
- The site must have at least 6" of topsoil containing a minimum of 5% organic material and a pH level between 6 and 6.5 for areas that will have turf, vegetation, and/or plantings.
- Any fertilizer applied to the topsoil in project area must be organic² and must be incorporated to a depth of 2-3 inches.

Soil compaction, topsoil depth and proper fertilizer incorporation into the topsoil will be confirmed by a City inspector. Applicants for new development projects will be required to cover these inspection costs through an escrow account administered by the Planning Department.

Fertilizer use provisions for new development projects include:

- Applications of organic starter fertilizer for new development may contain phosphorus without a soil test.
- Two fertilizer applications are permitted for one calendar year from the date of first application only.
- For each application, total nitrogen and phosphorus may not exceed 1 lb. per 1,000 square feet.

¹ New development projects are defined as any alteration of land for the purposes of construction or reconstruction that results in soil disturbance and/or compaction, vegetation removal, and/or regrading.

² There is a waiver process for the use of synthetic fertilizer under certain circumstances

A waiver may be granted to use synthetic fertilizer for new development, prior to the actual use of the synthetic fertilizer, if one or more the following conditions exists:

- The soil temperature is less than 55 degrees Fahrenheit and reasonable grounds exist to justify fertilizer use at that location and at that time.
- A suitable organic product that meets the nutrient needs of the soil while promoting plant growth is unavailable.

For more information on the waiver application process please visit the [Grow Healthy South Portland website](#) or contact the Sustainability Office at 347-4148.