

**SOUTH PORTLAND PEST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTES
3/2/20 (5-6:30 PM) – WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT**

ATTENDEES

Residents / Taxpayers	MBPC-Licensed Professionals	Agronomist
Andrew Capelluti Cathy Chapman Linden Thigpen	Justin Nichols Todd Robbins	Jesse O'Brien
City Staff	Guests	
Fred Dillon (notes)		

1. Review, revise and/or approve 2/3/20 meeting notes (ATTACHMENT)
 - Unanimously approved

2. Preparation and contents of 2019 report to Council (due this month)
 - We're only in year 3 so we haven't yet seen some of the problems that are likely given Scarborough's experience
 - There's no flexibility built into the ordinance as currently written to allow for addressing grubs and crabgrass; high bar with not much remedy
 - Performance turf is not "natural" and is therefore not well suited to an absolutist approach
 - Some discussion of plastic / artificial turf – would obviate need for pesticides but also has associated costs and externalities
 - Suggestion that ordinance should be amended to allow for more flexibility in use of pesticides for specific situations as waivers are one time only applications
 - Importance of consistency and not setting precedents; also concerns with changes in PMAC composition which could result in different decisions and process
 - While ordinance allows for use of pesticides when "situation exists that threatens public health and safety and/or where invasive species pose a threat to the environment", no examples are provided for such situations. Consequently, waiver committee has to interpret on case-by-case basis with little or no guidance. Credible examples of situations threatening public health & safety and/or environment include:
 - Athletic injuries (and potential for associated liabilities) from turf in poor condition
 - Should the Council have to consider the potential cost for re-establishing athletic fields? Should it be included in capital budget – it's going to be more expensive to maintain athletic fields organically
 - Invasive plants pose environmental threat simply by virtue of being invasive; therefore using pesticides to manage invasives after having tried other non-chemical methods could be justified

- Find other locations with better soil conditions to establish new fields? Wainwright is actually about as good as it gets
 - These will be recurring issues so need to find some way(s) to provide more flexibility
 - Difference between residential lawn and performance turf (athletic field) – very different turf types
 - Consideration of event centers – do they have performance turf? Yes but maybe debatable
 - Though different from a public space
 - Also important to remember that the reason to request waivers is evolving and folks are likely to become more accustomed to process
 - It will stimulate conversations from year to year; need to know what’s changing and working (or not working)
 - Allow flexibility in ordinance to account for variations in life cycles of insect pests – can vary from season to season
 - How to handle pests in best way possible
 - One of the ways to measure is to trap insects
 - Lots of variations depending on particular pest
 - Discussion of least toxic synthetic alternatives: acelepryn vs. dylox vs. neonic imidacloprid (sp?)
 - Portland’s approach: Waynefleet applied for waiver and was denied; Portland’s fields can be treated until 2021; Hadlock will be exempt for foreseeable future
 - What would the ordinance amendment process consist of?
 - PMAC (in consultation with Peruzzi) makes recommendations to Sustainability Director & Council
 - Sustainability Director formally requests ordinance amendment from Council
 - Council goes through public process to consider public input before reaching decision
 - Include allowance for invasives – argument that invasives could be worse than synthetics to control them; needs to be part of the discussion / considerations
 - Consideration of staff capacity and need for additional guidance / support
 - Maine Natural Areas Program / Maine Invasive Species Network (Nancy Olmstead); also include MBPC
 - Review of waiver requests we had in 2019
 - Include something about budget
 - Include result of questionnaires to Council
3. Review 2019 Applicator’s reports and process (on screen at meeting)
- What to do about the non-responses?
 - Just make one more request via email to remind folks who did apply in SoPo to please send report ASAP; also important to emphasize inclusion of organic products too? (A pesticide is a pesticide)
 - Need to be consistent in how we report and how to handle the data and what will we do with the data

- How to interpret data – e.g., “cheap” pesticide that requires lots of volume vs. another product that is more potent than the cheap product – variable toxicities
 - “Apples to apples” comparisons are really very difficult and MBPC has struggled with this as well
 - Concerns with out of state companies that may not be familiar with ordinance
 - Concerns with privacy of company names for applicators’
4. Review resident pesticide ordinance questionnaire responses (on screen at meeting)
- Already provided previously
5. Fertilizer Ordinance Update (Jesse/Andrew/Linden/Fred)
- Still discussing whether to ban fertilizers on “all other turf”
 - Question about why other land cover types weren’t included (veg and ornamentals)
 - Has been discussed but hasn’t gone anywhere in FWG discussion
 - Might be worth considering?
 - Emphasis has been on lawns given it’s the greatest proportion of fertilized land cover but maybe consider others too?
 - Literature generally identifies turf and bare ground as potential sources of fertilizer runoff; some studies also state that well-established turf can be highly retentive of N
 - Every type of plant needs to be “fed” (i.e., fertilized) differently; could become really complicated and might encounter resistance – OR average homeowner won’t be concerned with it
6. Status report on Yerxa Park demonstration project
- Ground cover is down thanks to Dan Hogan
 - Leave it for 2 years (at least) and cut openings to install native plants
 - In the meantime, develop interpretive signs
7. Upcoming events / other items of potential interest
- 3/24/20: [Annual Meeting of Invasive Species Network](#) (Colby College)
 - 3/26/20: [Maine Flower Show](#) pesticide ordinance panel discussion @ 12:30 (Portland)
 - 3/26-3/27/20: [Landscaping for Water Quality](#) (Derry, NH)
 - 3/30-4/3/20: [National Green Infrastructure Certification Program](#) (Gardiner, ME)
 - 4/7/20: CCSWCD Trout Brook [YardScaping](#) Workshop including discussion on pesticide & fertilizer ordinances (South Portland)
 - 5/7/20: Piper Shores Yerxa Park / pesticide ordinance presentation
 - Others?
8. Other agenda items / discussion topics?
- Matrix developed by Portland PMAC: cultural practices and organic options for other types of pests – intended for point of purchase distribution
 - See if we can get it from Portland to include on our website and for distribution in hard copy

9. Adjourn

NEXT MEETING: 4/6/20 FROM 5-6:30 PM