

**SOUTH PORTLAND PEST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING NOTES  
8/3/20 (5-6:30 PM) – ZOOM MEETING**

**ATTENDEES**

Residents / Taxpayers	MBPC-Licensed Professionals	Agronomist
Andrew Capelluti Cathy Chapman Linden Thigpen	Justin Nichols Todd Robbins	Jesse O'Brien (Chair)
City Staff	Guests	
Fred Dillon (notes)	None	

**UPDATES**

- Jesse: industry is staying very busy
  - Linden's reference to Portland's tree ordinance – letter from Portland resident that's very critical of ordinance – 10 concerns that she felt needed to be addressed
    - SPCC met with Karl Coughlin about ordinance through zoning; Karl is writing an ordinance – check with Karl
    - PPH article about “heritage trees” – oak, maple, pine or spruce
1. Review / amend / approve 7/6/20 meeting notes (ATTACHMENT)
    - Change from Zoom meeting to Bug Light
  2. Additional discussion on possible ordinance changes for Sept Council workshop
    - Pesticide ordinance changes will be considered with fertilizer ordinance
    - Pesticide ordinance changes:
      - Some relief for homeowners with grubs
        - Tough one because it's preemptive – don't want Dylox
        - Only viable option – annual application of Acelypryne (chlorantraniliprole)
        - Different from performance turf because it's a public resource
        - Reference to grub threshold and damage done by foraging critters
        - Doesn't happen every year – only once in a while
        - People get upset about lawn damage
        - Potential for big backslide – undermines principles of ordinance
        - Advocate for organic approach – maybe consider establishing a fund if there's enough public pressure for relief (though pretty unlikely)
          - Animals can actually help with more minor grub problems if followed up with raking and reseeding
        - If folks don't get relief they're just going to apply synthetics themselves – hard to quantify

- Some relief for homeowners – maybe consider putting together a pamphlet – allow for the use of the synthetics if it’s a chronic problem for 2-3 consecutive years
  - Resources on how to deal with white grubs – we’ve talked about it for a long time – FD will have SW Intern work on it
  - Majority of grub damage occurs in weaker part of the lawns – indication of how / where to improve things
- Enforcement – or lack thereof
  - Concerns with pitting neighbor against neighbor – better to take softer non-punitive approach
  - Have had very few waivers and complaints
  - People generally want to be organic
  - Anonymous hotline to report potential concerns – similar to Portland’s SeeClickFix (SoPo has online tools for [reporting SW violations](#) or [public service requests](#))
  - Maybe consider escalating enforcement process
- Preemptive applications to performance turf for white grub complex and annual grassy weeds
  - Chip’s suggested synthetic treatments are occasionally justified
  - Exemption or waiver?
    - Exemption preferred so PMAC doesn’t have to spend time on it – similar to golf
    - Maybe enough for PMAC to provide oversight – but need to define what this would be
    - Can do it organically if money is no object, e.g., sodding
- Waiver committee composition: 2 vs 3 members? OK to continue with 2 for now
  - Committee has been in agreement – generally works OK and with only 2 members there’s no need for a publicly noticed meeting; also allows for quicker turnaround time
- Appeals process not including manager: aggrieved folks can take us to court (per Corp Counsel)
  - Agree that it shouldn’t be for Manager to decide - scientific / site specific expertise needed; maybe Sustainability Director could be person to decide appeal
- Allow licensed applicators to apply synthetics for invasive plants
  - Should be case by case and don’t want to open it up too much
  - Examples include bittersweet, knotweed, depends on situation
  - May not need to change ordinance – “invasive species that pose a threat to the environments” language may provide enough discretion / flexibility to Waiver Committee to decide
  - Ref to Nancy Olmstead / MNAP guidance
  - Consider adding economic and aesthetic impacts to ordinance
  - Site review criteria – have committee actually conduct site visits

- Were net negative of invasive plants to ecosystem weren't considered when the ordinance was initially drafted?
- One clear allowance for newly introduced invasives should be justified
- All invasive plants are a threat to the environment by definition
- Maybe reference [most current MNAP invasive plant list](#)
- There are many formerly invasive plants that are now naturalized – generally much less problematic than invasive woody vines and shrubs – esp. in disturbed forest ecosystems
- This is a huge subject – we don't have the capacity to reinvent the wheel; MNAP scientists are good resource
  - Concerns with changes to MNAP staff and lack of organic orientation
  - Potential conflict of interest and CoSP tends to be much more strict than state
  - Embrace the invasive – there are different views on impacts from invasives
  - SoPo is pretty built out and not many natural areas at risk like in more rural areas
- How to deal with neighboring properties that don't have same level of concern: can we set criteria to prevent spread from neighboring property?
  - Depends on type of invasive plant

### 3. Upcoming workshops / webinars

- [YardScaping: Healthy Lawn Care Webinars](#) – (will include announcement in City's next E-newsletter and post on GHSP website)
  - Wed 8/12 5:50-8PM - \$15
  - Thur 8/20 5:50-8PM - \$15
  - Tues 8/25 5:50-8PM - \$15
- Others?

### 4. Continue education & outreach efforts

- More targeted work with retailers – “end cap” displays, flyers, brochures, etc. (ref to ordinance for specific types of info)
- Consider including additional practices in anticipation of fertilizer ordinance (check with Julie)
- Anything more for homeowners?
- Anything more for land care professionals?
- Improvements to GHSP website or Sustainability FB page?
- Others?
  - Steal stuff from Portland's website – Roger / TOH

### 5. Demonstration Project Status / Updates

- Yerxa Park

- Bug Light Park – status? FD to check with Karl
6. Other agenda items / discussion topics
    - Portland got a StonyField grant too
    - MA has 2 bills – healthy soil bill and soils as integral part of development – nice to be in Maine legislature
  7. Future agenda topics
  8. Adjourn

**NEXT MEETING: 9/14/20 from 5-6:30 PM**