

SOUTH PORTLAND PESTICIDES MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

10/2/17 (5-6:30 PM) – COMMUNITY CENTER

ATTENDEES

Residents / Taxpayers	MBPC-Licensed Professionals	Agronomist
Cathy Chapman Bret LeBleu Ann Morrill (Chair)	Mike Hughes Justin Nichols	Jesse O'Brien
City Staff	Guests	
Fred Dillon (took notes)	None	

1. Reviewed 9/11/17 Meeting Notes; no changes suggested.
2. Review charge & role of PMAC
 - Committee must implement ordinance as written but can establish “parking lot” for issues that arise during implementation phase for future consideration.
 - Suggestions for more connections to industry:
 - Contact condo associations using land care professionals
 - Upcoming meeting for Maine Arborists Association – panel discussion about concerns with local ordinances (not sure City staff / PMAC can attend)
 - January MELNA meeting?
 - Develop strategies for contacting “unaffiliated” land care professionals
 - Master Gardeners through Maine Cooperative Extension’s Amy Witt (consider inviting Amy to upcoming PMAC meeting)
 - Southern Maine Landscape Forum Facebook page – put posting on page
 - MPBC / Megan Patterson – see if they can send notice
 - Other outreach ideas
 - “Pesticide Free Zone” lawn signs in public parks
 - Waiver Review Process
 - What to do about invasive insects not included on MFS list (e.g., winter moth)?
 - Consider putting list of pests on City’s website
 - Concerned that PMAC will lack capacity to respond to volume of requests; may need to consider City staff position or contractor – review with Julie
 - Consider pre-emptive waiver process for major infestations (example: brown tail or winter moths)
 - Need to identify pest and determine threshold for using least toxic pesticide available; also consider proximity to other constraints
 - Consider developing waiver packet that includes index card for professionals to make id

- Concerns with homeowner ability to make accurate determinations of threshold exceedances that trigger waiver requests
 - PMAC should try to anticipate types of waiver requests to be as prepared as possible
3. Update on Beyond Pesticides / review of fact sheets
- Fall Lawn Care Practices: some concerns with accuracy of item 4 on overseeding; Jesse will clarify & suggestion edits
 - Questions to Ask Lawn Care Company: looks good
4. PMAC Display and Upcoming Events
- Wellness Fair on 10/3/17 at Community Center
 - Maine Flower Show in late March 2018:
 - Cost to set up display
 - Must register soon (now)
 - Need to commit to staffing display for entire event
5. Other Discussion Topic(s)
- Parking Lot: ordinance doesn't seem to address fungal diseases, pathogens or viruses – all of which can be issues. Review Dept. of Agriculture's approach and possibly consider something similar for South Portland.
6. Next meeting Monday 11/6/17 from 5-6:30 at Community Center
7. Adjourn

SOUTH PORTLAND PESTICIDES MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

11/6/17 (5-6:30 PM) – COMMUNITY CENTER

ATTENDEES

Residents / Taxpayers	MBPC-Licensed Professionals	Agronomist
Cathy Chapman Bret LeBleu Ann Morrill (Chair)	Mike Hughes Justin Nichols	Jesse O'Brien
City Staff	Guests	
Julie Rosenbach Lucy Brennan Fred Dillon (took notes)	None	

1. Reviewed 10/2/17 meeting notes; no changes suggested.
2. Update on Webpage Development & Branding Efforts
 - Web development will be done mostly in-house in conjunction with local web designer.
 - Also working with local marketing firm on designing logo and “brand” for ordinance implementation.
 - Goal is to have all outreach materials fully developed by March 2018.
3. Preparations for 11/16/17 Retailer Meeting
 - Developed contact list of retailers in the greater Portland area (and beyond) along with invite letter and general survey.
 - Also Included MBPC licensed applicators.
4. Quick Overview of USM’s Community Planning Workshop to Assist with Ordinance Implementation
 - Rebecca Schaffner’s students will work on developing pre- and post-implementation questionnaires to identify knowledge level for residents and businesses
 - They will also work on developing branding and marketing strategies to enhance ordinance implementation.
5. Review of Waiver Process
 - Need to decide on process and application form.
 - In addition to Ann (PMAC Chair), waiver committee composition to include different “experts” depending on type of waiver requests (i.e., Mike for trees, Jesse for turf and Justin for landscapes).
 - Process won’t include site visits.
 - Require photos to identify pest severity and justify use of synthetic pesticides.
 - Process should consist of following:
 - Ann (Chair) primary point of contact for receiving and responding to waiver requests.
 - Invasive insects on MFS list are exempt.
 - Waivers will apply only to invasive plants and to address public health & safety issues.

- How to treat for pests:
 - Can't endorse particular products but can suggest particular active ingredients.
 - Waiver application form will be critical in providing sufficient info to make well-informed decisions.
- We may need to consider use of experts to certify evaluation has been done properly; considerable discussion about need for professional assistance and developing list of certified service providers.
 - Ordinance doesn't currently require use of professional service providers to confirm exceedance of thresholds that might justify use of synthetic pesticides.
 - This could be a very important consideration as it would potentially reduce the overall amount of pesticides used for approved waivers (e.g., DIY vs. professional recommendations).
 - Might be good to bring up at 11/15/17 MELNA meeting.
 - Also consider contacting Jim Dill, head of IPM at UMaine Cooperative Extension.
 - Without City arborist or horticulturalist, implementing the ordinance will be more challenging.
- Waiver application should also require map to document affected area and proximity to neighbors and nearby water resources.
- We need to be careful about not making the waiver application process too onerous (e.g., uploading applications could be difficult for less tech-savvy residents).
- Important to recall that primary driver for ordinance was to address pesticide use on turf since this is where bulk of pesticides are used.
- Two-person waiver committee may prove to be challenging given the potential for ethical considerations.
 - All PMAC members were appointed by Council so waiver committee has authority to make decisions based on Best Professional Judgement (BPJ).
- Waiver process should also carefully consider timing of pesticide applications (e.g., applying pesticides for Japanese knotweed can only be done at certain times of year).
- Waiver requests can have 3 following types of decisions:
 - Approve
 - Approve with conditions
 - Reject / deny
- Waiver applications should address the product and amount of pesticide proposed for use to control which specific pest(s).
- Also consider cut stem applications.
- Develop workshops for "top 6" issues with accompanying fact sheet.
- Waiver review process should also include a response form with PMAC's decision that is sent back to applicants.
 - Staff will develop and send to PMAC for feedback.
 - Staff will also investigate development of online application form.

6. Other Discussion Topic(s)

- Current issues: what to do about grubs at SMCC and fence lines at Wainwright?

7. Next meeting Monday 12/4/18 from 5-6:30 at Community Center

8. Adjourn