

SOUTH PORTLAND PEST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

7/2/18 (5-6:30 PM) – COMMUNITY CENTER

ATTENDEES

Residents / Taxpayers	MBPC-Licensed Professionals	Agronomist
Cathy Chapman Ann Morrill (Chair)	Justin Nichols	Jesse O'Brien
City Staff	Guests	
Fred Dillon (notes) Karl Coughlin	Andrew Capelluti	

1. May notes not available (will present at Aug. meeting)

2. Strategy for moving forward with CDBG park improvement project grant (Karl)

- CDBG folks really like proposal so we just need to keep showing progress
- Sandy Warren (CDBG lead) said that if the proposed project area was problematic we could pick another area in the CDBG LMI area
- Questions about permitting: DEP, Army Corps, City Planning Board
- Andrew created aerial videos with a drone and has given some thought to project; knotweed is predominant; MA DEP has tried switch grass; some folks have tried goats
- Need to do site walk: **Mon 7/9 at 5PM** – Justin (and Jesse) suggest finding the least invaded spot and starting there since \$15K won't go very far
- Are we looking to do all natives vs cultivars (maybe "nativars"): any kind of native will be better than what's there; nurseries don't generally have local natives – seed stock from elsewhere should still be OK (don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good); Pierson's Nurseries may be good source
- Don't forget about maintenance considerations! Maybe try to develop a "Friends of Yerxa Park"
- Parks Dept will be OK with more modest project but hopes to build on success of this project and request CDBG funds each year to continue invasive plant management in future years
- Suggestion to consider including a community garden in future years

3. E&O campaign status

- Review upcoming events for PMAC to attend (and review status of display materials): could City employees or interns help out? There's a "go-kit" for E&O
 - July 4th Extravaganza: maybe Addie (but prob not)
 - WillardFest: 7/14 - maybe Fred (and Addie) – need to confirm time

- Knightville Festival: 8/10 – need to confirm time
- Art in the Park: 8/11 – maybe Andrew
- Others?
- Demonstration project updates for Greenbelt and Bug Light: Karl is still working with Chip to figure out which areas are best for demo projects at Bug Light and Greenbelt
- Jesse on demo day for Wainwright Sat 9/8 – lawns have had a tough long summer – how to rejuvenate your lawn: Sat morning from 9-11 or 10-noon; need food and bathroom access; weekend after Labor Day
 - Core aerator; overseeder, etc. – Jesse will get vendors to show up (City could participate too)
 - Will need to make some signs / flyers in time for August events: Cathy does narrative and intern does flashy flyer
 - Check with Rick P or Karl C
 - Also check with Portland and Troy Moon
- Call for Sentry articles: series of articles on basic lawn care in the human interest / community resource section of paper. Cathy noted that Abby Huntoon (sp?) has already done a series; Julie will contact Abby and will also contact Sentry to see if they'll print Abby's articles (which Julie may already have)
- Call for photos: check with Julie to address questions / concerns about whether organic landscapes can be as beautiful as conventionally managed landscapes (Andrew)
- Other considerations
 - Signs / bumper stickers: Julie is working on them; hopefully will be ready soon
- Memorial Middle School will be redoing entire landscape: opportunity to work with LA to create sustainable landscape (check with Julie); there is an interest in having PMAC involvement to ensure outside is sustainable

4. Waiver requests and develop recommendations for dealing with grubs

- Waiver Wainwright request: denied because weeds along fence lines don't meet waiver conditions (Justin stepped in for Mike who has resigned from PMAC)
- Natural grub cycle: [UMaine has flyer](#) with organic alternatives – put on website
 - Jesse's images of various types of beetles / grubs – there's more than 1 grub
 - Identify grub "thresholds"
 - Let the skunks and crows dig them up – and then over-seed?
 - Org alternatives: milky spore only applies to Japanese beetle
 - Beneficial nematodes
 - Identifying grubs can be tricky
 - Need to use best science available

- Share UMass link that Jesse sent: success of organic approaches for high maintenance lawns is sporadic
- Japanese beetles with white spots on their heads indicate parasitic flies that will help control the beetles
- BT is used for caterpillars – 10 different kinds used for all kinds of different things
- Jesse’s handout of new protein-based product derived from BTG that claims it will address grubs – [Grub Gone! G](#)
- Ref to [Freedom Lawn](#): don’t grow things that attract Japanese beetles
- Need to be careful because there are different types of turfs
- Develop recommendations for proactive / preventative responses to grubs
- Experience using beneficial nematodes and/or milky spore
- Check with Julie on whether City is keeping a log for types of resident concerns
- There’s preventative and curative: former – attack grubs when they’re small (last week of July / 1st week of August – although it can vary depending on weather conditions); there’s no organic alt that’s curative
- Other considerations?

5. Replacement for Arborist

- Noah Tucker with Bartlett declined today; Jesse contacted Lucas and hasn’t gotten a response
- What are the qualifications?
- Fred will check with Davey

NEXT MEETING: Mon. 8/6 from 5-6:30 at the Community Center