

SOUTH PORTLAND PEST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES 2/11/19 (4:30-6 PM) – COMMUNITY CENTER

ATTENDEES

Residents / Taxpayers	MBPC-Licensed Professionals	Agronomist
Cathy Chapman Bret LeBleu Ann Morrill (Chair)		Jesse O'Brien
City Staff	Guests	
Fred Dillon (notes)	Andrew Capelutti	

1. Review, revise and/or approve 1/14/19 meeting notes (ATTACHMENT).
 - Added a bit of detail to bullet at bottom of page 2 (MBPC looking for a better way to gather applicator data).
2. Goat Ordinance Status
 - a. 2/19/19 Council workshop
 - Discussion about concerns with nutrients and erosion.
 - **Check with Julie** on whether PMAC should write letter of support.
3. Yerxa Park Planning Board Application Status
 - a. Upcoming Planning Board meeting where Deputy Director of Parks Karl Coughlin will present City's application. Approval expected before spring.
4. Fertilizer Ordinance
 - a. 2/22/19 Protect South Portland meeting
 - Julie and Fred will meet with PSP per Julie's request; Julie asked PSP to request ordinance through City Council.
 - PSP will ask Council put it on workshop calendar.
 - Cathy Ramsdell / FOCB will be attending as well.
 - b. Potential next steps
 - Refer to existing resources: states have developed BMPs and some regulatory approach.
 - Reach out to Cumberland County Cooperative Extension – could provide science-based aspect.
 - Consider involving Curtis Bohlen, Director of the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership, which is highly regarded and widely recognized as an unbiased resource for the latest research and science in the Bay.
 - Try to develop timeline.
 - Determine whether PMAC will have any role in either helping to develop or implement the ordinance.

- Critical to emphasize importance of soil quality in relation to promoting organic land care practices.
5. Summary of 1/29/19 Land Care Professional Roundtable
- a. Main themes / primary concerns
- Refer to notes from debrief meeting – some positive and quite a bit of critical feedback.
 - Could've been a little less contentious but most folks recognized that the organic trend is increasing.
 - Main concerns:
 - Grubs: need better tools than currently allowed by ordinance.
 - High performance turf / athletic fields: very challenging to maintain under current ordinance provisions.
 - Waiver process needs to be more flexible.
 - Lack of organic certification for land care professionals.
 - Retailer education and outreach should continue and be expanded.
 - Municipalities should be responsible for educating retailers about ordinance requirements – not the land care folks.
 - Consider allowing some “minimum risk” pesticides.
- b. Potential next steps
- Consider inviting Frank Rossi to future roundtable and identify potential target audiences including applicators and high expectation “yardeners”.
 - Next week’s meeting will help determine next steps.
 - Let three-year timetable identified in ordinance play out.
 - Keep open dialogue with applicators: also keep collaborating with Portland.
 - Be mindful of challenges faced by land care professionals in making transition to more organically based practices (e.g., don’t tell them to just pull up dandelions).
 - Education and outreach very important and must remain an ongoing priority. For example, continued emphasis on cultural practices such as returning clippings for better turf health, etc.
 - CCSWCD’s Yardscaping workshop on 4/9/19
 - Stay abreast of emerging alternative products.
 - Consider sending letter with info on ordinance to condo associations and large apartments on the west side. Assessor may have list of condo associations. (Check with Julie)
 - Consider more retailer outreach (Home Depot, Drillens, etc.).
6. Annual Reporting per Ordinance
- a. 2018 Annual Report (due to Council by March 2019).
- b. 2018 annual summary reports from licensed applicators on or before 2/1/19: target site, pesticide name brand, EPA registration number, total undiluted formulation (in lbs or gals), total area treated (including pesticides applied for waived activities?).
- Discussion about what info is annually required by applicators:
 - MBPC has several categories of applicators: Jesse has most of them.

- Need clarification / confirmation on what ordinance requires and whether it includes pesticides to avoid structural damage and control biting / stinging insects – refer to ordinance language.
 - Determine which applications apply and whether we need to send notification / reminder.
 - Maybe only applies to waivers that were granted?
7. Ordinance Evaluation by 5/1/19
- a. Pilot project results: Yerxa Park, Bug Light, others?
 - Jesse will meet with Chip on Bug Light; timing still up in the air though Jesse suggests fall seeding (turf type tall fescue).
 - Reached out to SMCC on having students help with Bug Light.
 - Considerable discussion about 2018 waiver request and whether increased flexibility is warranted.
 - Julie thought waiver was justified but PMAC concerned that organic alternative hadn't been tried.
 - Lack of site visit didn't provide a full picture of what was going on.
 - Consider allowing for site visits by PMAC or staff.
 - Also remember importance of soil quality during new development or redevelopment.
 - b. Reporting data: need to determine what to include.
 - c. Recommendations to Council & Sustainability Coordinator for possible amendments with in reference to 1/29/19 Roundtable meeting.
8. Maine Flower Show panel discussion planning
- Portland's Sustainability Associate Ashley Krulik coordinating upcoming meeting to discuss details; no action from PMAC needed.
9. Other Discussion Items
- NE Regional Turf Grass Conference (3/5-3/7 in Providence): Frank Rossi will be speaking – his expertise aligns closely with efforts to promote non-synthetic turf management.
 - Status of City Arborist
 - Ordinance requires staff position for agronomist, arborist, etc. Ask City to hire arborist.
 - Inquire about status of tree ordinance and city's donation of trees to anyone who wants one.
10. Adjourn

NEXT MEETING AT COMMUNITY CENTER ON MONDAY MARCH 4, 2019 5-6:30pm