

**SOUTH PORTLAND PEST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTES
11/2/20 (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)	Alex Redfield	

1. Review/amend/approve 10/5/20 meeting notes (ATTACHMENT)
 - Accepted unanimously

2. Update on PMAC membership changes
 - Vacancy needs to be formally posted for any interested members of the public and Council needs to make formal appointment
 - 10/30/20 City newsletter included link to online application form
 - Unlikely there will be many applicants but if several people apply PMAC (soon to be LMAC) will make recommendations to Council for most appropriate replacement

3. Current status of [Land Care Management Ordinance](#)
 - 1st Council reading on Thurs 11/5/20 (not on Tues 11/3/20 due to election)
 - Key elements:
 - Tighter and simpler definitions: only include “organic” and “synthetic” (removed water-soluble, slow-release, etc.)
 - Added prohibitions section and limitations on organic fertilizer applications
 - Organic only for everything except performance turf and new development, both of which will require waiver requests
 - Charge LMAC with considering provisions for all other land uses within year 1
 - Send to PMAC (see link above)
 - Public comments will be accepted at 1st reading
 - Question about the need for a waiver for new development – really isn’t needed since there are alternative approaches available
 - LMAC charged with reviewing waiver apps and denying as needed
 - Concerns with loam removal on new construction sites
 - Soil quality requirement will hopefully discourage loam removal
 - New development in non-growing season is also a concern
 - Wait until temp is higher and mulch until then

- Since development happens throughout the year, there may be some resistance from developers/owners/contractors on this requirement
- E&O is really important and will be addressed through enhancements to [GHSP website](#)
 - LMAC will be closely involved in this effort
- Concerns with being able to establish provisions for other land uses (e.g., trees/shrubs, horticulture, veg gardens) within 1 year
 - Importance of acquiring hard data for misapplications
- Important to consider nuance of mulching / watering to get grass to grow – lots of room for improvement – can address on GHSP
- Concern with allowing performance turf up to 4 lb N/1000 sf/yr – usually 2 lb is enough except when there’s a disease problem
- Consider establishing waiver to apply 4# per year
- Lots of discussion about different N types and potential for runoff
- MA has a bill for soil health and has done a great job of sourcing soils for different regions

4. Planning for transition from PMAC to LMAC

- Tentative timeline / process for approving and implementing Fertilizer Ordinance
 - If Council approves ordinance on 11/5 then there will be a 2nd reading at the regularly scheduled meeting on 11/17
 - If Council approves ordinance on 11/17 it will become effective 20 days later (12/7)
- Begin thinking about additional resources for GHSP website
- PMAC becomes LMAC when ordinance becomes effective (most likely on 12/7)
- LMAC composition doesn’t include arborist in updated ordinance – check with Julie on whether this is intentional (turns out arborist isn’t mentioned in original version of ordinance either)
 - Check on status of City’s arborist and report back to PMAC/LMAC
 - Check on status of tree ordinance and report back to PMAC/LMAC
 - Find out if there’s anybody that assesses for risk
- Begin thinking about additional strategies for public outreach & education
 - Consider applying for grants to teach about soil health (very fundable)
 - Consider working with other surrounding municipalities ASAP
 - Social media presence really important to drive folks to GHSP
 - Webinars

NEXT REMOTE MEETING: 12/7/20 from 5-6:30 PM