

**SOUTH PORTLAND PEST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING NOTES  
4/5 & 4/12/21 (5-6:30 PM) – ZOOM MEETING**

**ATTENDEES**

Residents / Taxpayers	MBPC-Licensed / NOFA-Certified Professionals	Agronomist
Andrew Capelluti Alex Redfield Cathy Chapman (absent)	Addie Smith-Reiman	Jesse O'Brien (Chair)
City Staff	Guests	
Fred Dillon (notes)		

1. Review/amend/approve 3/1/21 PMAC meeting notes
  - Add Dave Palm is the other instructor
  - Addy is ED for Portland Society of Architecture
  - Approved as amended
  
2. Additional agenda items / discussion topics?
  - What's the status of the tree ordinance
    - SPCC will be talking with Milan about it
    - Jesse was on Zoom call with Milan to discuss with contractors – ref to Doug Tallamy's [Bringing Nature Home](#) (also see [Homegrown National Park](#))
  - Grub complaints – Ocean House Place
    - Important to document how often it happens
    - Suggest pilot study to try alternative products; Fred will check with Jesse for suggestions
    - Perhaps City could put some funding towards grub alternative pilot project? (check also with Rick Perruzzi for Wainwright plot)
    - Grubs can come to any lawn regardless of condition and identifying them is really critical since there are about 7 different types
    - Suggestion to do a “grub spotting” geocaching to help identify extent of problem
    - The simple fact of having a lawn will be an attractant for grubs regardless of its condition

**INTERNET OUTAGE AT APPROX. 5:25PM ON 4/5/21 – MEETING HAD TO BE RESCHEDULED  
NOTES BELOW FROM RESCHEDULED MEETING ON 4/12/21**

- Interest in presentation on current tree pests on 5/3/21 (could be followed by emerging tree pests at future LMAC meeting)
  - Colleen Teerling, Maine Forest Service Entomologist and Karen Coluzzi, State Pest Survey Coordinator

- Invite folks from surrounding communities: Portland, Scarborough, Falmouth, Yarmouth, SPCC, SPLT, etc.
3. Replacement suggestions for Todd Robbins' position
- Noah Tucker (Bartlett Tree) or Jon Hanisko of Lucas – Jesse and Fred will follow up
    - Would also need to be commercial applicator
    - Have previously asked both Noah and Jon and both would prefer to serve on Portland given they do more work there
  - Others?
    - Will check with another Noah Gleason-Hart who works for MOFGA
4. Implementation status of Fertilizer Ordinance Education & Outreach Plan (share on-screen)
- Article series: 1<sup>st</sup> one on ordinance basics [just published in Sentry](#) and 2<sup>nd</sup> one on importance of soil done and ready for publication next week (thanks Alex!).
  - Staff currently working with web designer and copy editor on GHSP website update; will be ready for LMAC review / feedback at next month's meeting.
    - Make sure to include social media component – FB, YouTube, Instagram,
    - Lots of potential – keep them “short and sweet”
    - Question about whether SoPo has communications social media person
    - We need more social media presence
    - Reach out to other communities on sharing resources
  - Brainstorming on outreach to retailers (review documents on-screen).
    - Retailers need more training on alternative products since the pesticides ordinance outreach didn't seem to work very well (organic products were pushed to the back of the store)
    - Question about how to measure success – would be useful to develop key metrics
      - Determine how much detail to provide and the increments we want to use
      - Determine whether a macro or micro approach is preferable (maybe both, though micro makes it simpler)
      - Question about StonyField Farm – think it's not making much progress – need more funding
        - Take signs down until we're able to do something
        - It's not very good advertising for organic turf
      - Determine how to measure behavioral shifts
      - Provide LMAC email address to respond to and track questions
      - Determine if there's a way to track PoS retail data
      - Concept of healthy competition between neighbors – who can have most sustainable yard
      - Investigate whether there are any apps that could help with data collection, e.g., map app for sustainable behavior
      - Reference to Doug McKenzie Mohr / [Community Based Social Marketing](#) as potential info resource

- Pretty significant effort – not a simple matter of just handing out brochures – can be painstaking
  - Try to use as many existing resource as possible to not reinvent wheel
- 5. Update on Fertilizer Ordinance soil quality provisions
  - Need to amend ordinance to explicitly include administrative process for inspections, payment and consequences for non-compliance (fines and withholding of occupancy certificate).
  - Council agendas backed up until 9/7/21 so we'll inform developers that soil quality provisions will become effective later this year following ordinance amendments.
    - Determine if there's anything we can do in the interim? **Check with Julie/Milan...**
    - Notify developers and contractors...Planning may already be doing this
    - Partner with ASLA and/or E2 Tech – lunch and learn
- 6. 2020 PMAC report status: will be ready for review for next meeting (was due by 3/31/21)
  - Measuring the amount of pesticides is more difficult than it seems; MBPC recently starting to collect data electronically but not by municipality
  - Data isn't normalized and doesn't address toxicity
  - Really hard to compare usage given different units and thoroughness of reporting
  - Is there any way to partner with someone like The Nature Conservancy to help with a grant to do something similar to what VT is doing (assuming what they've done is comparable)
  - Portland's applicators reports have increased by about 20% from last year – which doesn't necessarily represent an increase in pesticides but just in reporting
  - **Question about whether a bare spot left by a tree in public ROW will they use compost for re-seeding**
- 7. Legislative proposals – lots related to pesticides, fertilizers, soil quality, etc. (on-screen)
  - [An Act Regarding the Application of Certain Pesticides for Nonagricultural Use](#)
  - [An Act To Establish the Maine Healthy Soils Program](#)
  - [An Act To Require Schools To Submit Pest Management Activity Logs](#)
  - [An Act To Protect Children from Exposure to Toxic Chemicals](#)
  - [Directing the Board of Pesticides Control To Prohibit the Use of Certain Neonicotinoids](#)
  - [An Act To Amend the Membership Requirements of the Board of Pesticides Control](#)

Jesse's summary:

- Neonic bill – passed out of committee will prohibit use by homeowners; only commercial applicators can use
- Ban use of older chemical (not sure of name) for only a couple insects; expected to pass
- School grounds bill passed out of committee
- Ban all pesticides other than ag uses; has yet to be heard
- Makeup of BPC

- MOFGA bill – soils bill – DACF placeholder for federal funding to Coop Ext.; ag/horticultural orientation

8. Adjourn

**NEXT REMOTE MEETING: 5/3/21 from 5-6:30 PM**

- Presentation from Karen Coluzzi on emerging tree pest threats or someone from MFS on current tree pest problems (Maine Forest Service Entomologist Colleen Teerling ended up presenting and Karen will present instead on 6/7/21)