

SOUTH PORTLAND PEST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES 11/4/19 (5-6:30 PM) – COMMUNITY CENTER

ATTENDEES

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

1. Review, revise and/or approve 10/7/19 meeting notes (ATTACHMENT)
 - Notes OK as written

2. Pesticide Ordinance Questionnaire Distribution Status (Ann & Cathy)
 - May need to consider including placard since some question about whether staff intended to solicit involvement
 - Very few had been filled out; about 5 at library
 - Can it be placed online? Also do a QR code
 - Put together announcement to use as placard – **FD will send to PMAC for feedback**
 - **Check with Julie about providing links to both from new FB page**

3. NOFA Training Recap (Jesse & Justin)
 - JN: only 3 attendees were “professionals”; hard for pros to attend and it was pretty expensive; site prep, interacting with clients, etc.
 - Deb Perkins talked about wildlife plans
 - [Heather McCargo \(Wild Seed Project\)](#) spoke about native seed gathering / planting
 - [Mike Nadeau](#) spoke about wildflower meadows instead of lawns
 - JO: had about 25 people – it’s a 4 day class with test to certify – big commitment
 - 1 person from CT; 1 from Augusta; remainder were municipal staffers
 - Jesse spoke about grass and soils
 - Chip spoke about many of the same things Jesse covered
 - Jeremy Pelletier (CT NOFA) asked Jesse to go on speaking circuit
 - NOP list in our ordinance is not for ornamentals but for agriculture – it’s more stringent than it may need to be
 - MELNA wants to have a recertification course that allows for NOFA credits
 - Lots of folks we need to reach aren’t MELNA or NOFA members
 - Consider targeting these folks – events and other outreach methods
 - PMAC’s role to encourage cultural practices – does it fall within the E&O purview?

- It is in our purview
 - How does it relate to the waiver process? For example, what happens if SMCC or Wainwright has grub issue?
 - It's really critical to determine need for grub treatment based on shifting window – depending on particular season, it could be a span of time (ref. to Clay Kirby – UMaine Extension Entomologist)
 - Question about the extent to which it's the responsibility of the owner / property manager to determine need for synthetic intervention
 - Allow for more flexibility in how PMAC grants waivers based on what we learned from the process with Wainwright & SMCC
 - Have a list of experts for response protocols – will depend on specific pest issue
 - Need to improve GHSP on what to do about pests...
 - UNH's organic turf handout is consistent with what Chip says – need targeted type of pesticide and rescue treatment
 - Discussion about Falmouth's approach with requiring landscapers to register and report how much / what type of pesticides are being applied
4. Considerations for Possible Improvements to Grow Healthy South Portland website
- Biggest issue is that we don't have much traffic and have to figure out how to drive folks to the site
 - Suggestion to rely on existing info...just create links
 - Stick with Coop Ext and UMaine
 - Also consider MOFGA, which may be moving into lawn / turf space
 - Golf course superintendents are quite aware of the growing organic trends – “poverty turf” - grass that can grow with no ferts / pests
5. Yerxa Park project status
- Fabric installation may need to wait until next year – timing will be important; limited time for the fall so first thing in the spring before knotweed growth takes off
 - Interpretive sign to follow shortly thereafter – **FD will bring draft sign next time**
6. Fertilizer Ordinance Update
- Synthetic ban back on table (for residential – NOT performance turf)
 - Andrew's suggestion of landscape design features that could be used in lieu of synthetics; avoid use in drainage swales
 - Consider role of E&O to promote other types of vegetation such as clover
 - Concerns related to compost use in lieu of fertilizers
 - Next Fertilizer Working Group meeting 11/13/19; see [FWG webpage](#) FMI
 - Questions / comments / discussion
 - Keeping roof water out of area that's been fertilized – rain barrels

- Lots of landscape design options to slow water down – ref to [Cathy Neal’s Landscaping at the Water’s Edge](#) (also refer to South Portland’s [Stormwater Manual](#), [Maine DEP’s Stormwater BMP Manual](#) and [EPA’s Urban Runoff: Low Impact Development](#))
7. Upcoming Events / Other Items of Potential Interest
- [2019 Maine Stormwater Conference](#): Holiday Inn by the Bay on 12/2/19 & 12/3/19
 - Lots of interesting presentations (including “From Bees & Bays to Goats”)
 - PMAC members can get in for free if they’ll just be attending “Extrordinance” track at 3PM on Mon. 12/2
 - 4/7/20: CCSWCD Trout Brook YardScaping Workshop including discussion on pesticide & fertilizer ordinances
 - Importance of notifying the neighbors to inform them of what they can do to reduce their impacts on Trout Brook; importance of outreach think about strategies
 - 2020 Maine Flower Show (3/26-3/29/20)?
 - 5/7/20: request to speak about ordinance at Piper Shores
 - Others?
 - Consider presenting to colleagues that aren’t MELNA members – Don Sproul Ex. Dir. of MELNA will help; request customer list from O’Donals, SiteOne, Allen Sterling & Lothrop, etc.
 - “Horticultural Horrors: What Happens When You Treat Your Soil Like Dirt”
8. Other agenda items / discussion topics
- Others?
 - Emerald Ash Borers: OMRI recognizes “BeetleGone” and NOT “GrubGone”; don’t need a waiver to treat but would most likely be done by professional – tree injections
9. Adjourn

NEXT MEETING ON MONDAY DECEMBER 2, 2019 or JANUARY 6, 2020 5-6:30 PM