

SOUTH PORTLAND PEST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES 9/9/19 (5-6:30 PM) – COMMUNITY CENTER

ATTENDEES

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

1. Review, revise and/or approve 8/5/19 meeting notes (ATTACHMENT)
 - Approved with minor modification

2. Review Grow Healthy South Portland website for possible improvements (per suggestion from 8/5/19 PMAC meeting)
 - Discussion of how to increase traffic to GHSP website since it seems to largely unused (based on Fred's Google Analytics review from earlier this year)
 - It seems like Facebook might be a much more effective way to connect people to info about the ordinance and provide feedback on their experience with it. (Other muni depts. have been using FB and generating a fair amount of interaction & dialogue).
 - FD will check with P&R on using their interns to help put FB page together for pesticides ordinance / PMAC (also check with Julie first)
 - Given that Portland also has a pesticide ordinance, we could consider partnering with them to "think bigger" and broaden the dialogue – perhaps also involve MOFGA, Coop. Ext., MBPC, etc.
 - If a FB page is created for ordinance(s), consider building capacity to respond to questions from public and land care professionals
 - On a related note, MELNA recently received an IPM grant to partner with MBPC and Coop. Ext.; stay tuned for how this process develops
 - The Managing Pests section of the GHSP is pretty weak and needs lots more info as it's one of the key questions most folks will have
 - Lawns are also a key concern; the website has a fair amount of info but there may be more we could do in terms of "how to" videos
 - Promotion of YardScaping grass seed, though there may be some justification for other non-native seed types as well depending on circumstances
 - Importance of keeping language basic and simple since too much info can overwhelm people

3. Pesticide Ordinance Questionnaires

- Residents: Art in the Park resulted in 25 new questionnaires for total of 50 – review summary of results online
 - Need to confirm that link is fully accessible (i.e., doesn't return "permission denied") and post at various locations throughout the City: City Hall, Community Center, Broadway Gardens, Planning Office, etc.
 - Fred will print 200 for Ann and Cathy to distribute
 - Post on GHSP and include with links in City newsletter
- Professionals: will check with Site One on status of completed questionnaires (Fred dropped off a couple weeks ago) – quick review of questions
 - Site One reports that not many folks have filled out the professional version – maybe about a half dozen; consider putting this on GHSP as well

4. Fertilizer Ordinance Update

- Currently in the process of drafting ordinance language – next Fertilizer Working Group meeting 9/11/19
 - Still in process of working on details of language; probably won't ban synthetics
 - Focus on BMPs / cultural practices such as timing, type, slope, soil testing, etc.
 - Good resource: UNH Extension Coordinator's Cathy Neal – [Landscaping at the Water's Edge](#)
 - Question about how long before ordinance will be ready: not sure yet but realistically probably not until well into next year
- Consider capacity of PMAC to take on additional responsibilities for Fertilizer Ordinance implementation and oversight
 - Maybe premature until we know what the ordinance will look like – but it will likely have strong E&O focus
 - Consensus that it makes sense to have 1 committee to address both pesticides and fertilizers; PMAC is already established with members knowledgeable about most related concerns / considerations for both pesticides & fertilizers.
- See [FWG webpage](#) FMI

5. Upcoming Events / Other Items of Potential Interest

- 9/12 at 6 PM – Portland City Hall's State of Maine Room: Nancy Olmstead's (Maine Natural Areas Program) invasive plant presentation
 - CCSWCD, York and Kennebunkport will be there
 - Good opportunity for info exchange AND they provide snacks!
 - FD will check on whether SoPo can provide snacks for PMAC meetings
- 10/21-24: NOFA training course with turf component at Wainwright Field on 10/23 – mostly indoor lecture with field component to discuss cultural practices
 - Coastal Maine Botanicals will host portion as will Wainwright
 - Will allow PMAC (and Portland's PMAC) to set up table – unclear where and when – Ann will follow up
- [CCSWCD YardScaping](#) Workshops

- 9/18: Westbrook (see FB post FMI)
- 9/26: Yarmouth (see FB post FMI)
- South Portland planned for spring 2020 with likely host location at SMCC
 - Will provide more info as we get closer to the date; PMAC should help publicize
- Ensuing discussion on the trials and tribulations of lawn maintenance
- Others?
 - Jesse presented at Skillins last week on general lawn care – about 45 attendees

6. Other agenda items / discussion topics

- Brief discussion of goats at Yerxa and ensuing discussion of the challenges (and opportunities) of knotweed
- Suggestion to follow up with oil companies on weed management and provide reminder that synthetics can't be used. FD will check and provide PMAC's list of alternatives

7. Adjourn

NEXT MEETING ON MONDAY OCTOBER 7, 2019 5-6:30 PM