

**SOUTH PORTLAND PEST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTES
10/5/20 (5-6:30 PM) – ZOOM MEETING**

ATTENDEES

Residents / Taxpayers	MBPC-Licensed Professionals	Agronomist
Andrew Capelluti Cathy Chapman Linden Thigpen	Justin Nichols Todd Robbins (absent)	Jesse O'Brien (Chair)
City Staff	Guests	
Fred Dillon (notes)	Alex Redfield	

1. Review/amend/approve 8/3/20 meeting notes (ATTACHMENT)
 - Unanimously approved

2. Introductions
 - Linden – very busy with other projects; dog’s doing well!
 - Cathy – still working on watering garden and preparing for fall; dog’s doing well!
 - Jesse – background in land care industry
 - Fred – SW guy trying to keep City in compliance with state/fed SW regs
 - Andrew – also serves on Sustainability Comm; MA in LA and in business for himself
 - Justin – met Alex on a Zoom call with Chip and PSP
 - Alex – met Linden about a year ago at Cultivating Community; he can provide lots of expertise given his professional background
 - Farmed commercially for about 10 years
 - Started at Cultivating Community 5 years ago as a service provider to help folks learn how to grow food
 - Centering design principles on farm in Falmouth – including wildlife habitat for pest control (old horse farms on Rt 100 near Cumberland line)
 - Horticulture background based in practice and not formal education

3. PMAC membership changes
 - Thanks to Linden Thigpen for her valuable contributions to the PMAC
 - Welcome Alex Redfield as new citizen representative (although still not formally appointed by Council – he’ll also need to be sworn in by City Clerk)

4. Update on current status of insect/pest concerns in South Portland
 - [Chinch bugs](#) – rare in Maine but more are starting to show up
 - Usually not a problem except in dry years and there are bacteria that control them; big eye bugs also keep them in control
 - Native in North America that attack grasses – esp. during dry conditions

- Bill bugs – beetles (legless grub): lays eggs in stalks of plants
 - Also rare in Maine
 - Don't like endophytic grasses but do like blue grasses
 - Overwinter in debris along the edges of fields
- Neither bug presents big problem but wanted to bring to our attention

5. Current status of proposed pesticide ordinance changes for consideration by Council

- Exempt use of acelepryn for Wainwright
 - Can have potentially negative effects on amphibians
 - Apparently doesn't adversely affect mycorrhizae?
 - 3 year sunset provision – consider full transition to organic at end of this period
 - Questions about Bt Galleria – Chip has had much more success with it and thinks we should try it (Scarborough has had mixed success with it)
 - Acelepryn accumulates in soil – reduced risk but is persistent
 - Check with Rick on whether he can try Bt at Wainwright
 - Unclear whether Bt is environmentally benign
- Allowance for other city staff person to serve on and support PMAC other than SW coordinator to allow flexibility in case job duties change
- Waiver appeal process will move from Manager to full PMAC

6. Planning for transition from PMAC to LMAC

- Tentative timeline / process for approving and implementing Fertilizer Ordinance
 - Will depend on whether tomorrow's FWG meeting is the last one and how many readings / meetings Council will need to accept ordinance
 - Strong public sentiment for organic only ordinance
 - Cathy – should be going totally organic since that's what pesticide ordinance does – fertilizer should be consistent; should be written similar in structure to the pesticide ordinance
 - Discussion about lawns vs horticulture for fertilizers (even though fertilizer ordinance only addresses lawns / turf)
 - Fertilizers are over-applied in many garden and perennial settings so the City may eventually want to consider including them in the ordinance
- Begin thinking about additional resources for GHSP website
 - Include info on org applications for gardening on GHSP even though it's not in ordinance
 - Include info on vegetable gardens for GHSP website – consider Coop Ext and MOFGA videos
 - How to get ready for winter – include on GHSP
- Begin thinking about additional strategies for public outreach & education
 - Whatever SoPo does Portland will do and Yarmouth is now considering an ordinance too (Falmouth and Scarborough also regulate pesticides to some extent)
 - Would be nice to do a regional outreach approach

- Concerns with differences between municipal ordinances – makes it challenging for land care professionals to comply
- Reach out to other municipalities shortly after first of year
- Consider more effective means for expanding our platforms and visibility (e.g., through effective use of social media)

7. Other agenda items / discussion topics

- More on fertilizer ordinance
 - Unlike pesticides, it's possible to use fertilizers entirely organically
 - The same effects are possible for organics – water soluble / quick release – though more expensive
 - Not environmentally benign – organics can also be over-applied or misused resulting in adverse impacts to water quality and aquatic habitats
 - Carbon footprint impacts of synthetic fertilizers greater than for organics
 - As more folks make transition to organics, product costs will come down
 - Concerns with “at the discretion of the field manager” – maybe consider oversight by 3rd parties and/or LMAC
 - Maybe consider reporting requirements that allow LMAC to have some idea of how tweaks could be made to transition to organic
 - Importance of data collection to make informed decisions
 - It's been a little difficult to find out what's been going on so that we can help with transition – identify the steps / process to get to all organic
 - What's been done successfully elsewhere and how can we emulate that here?
 - Consider getting together with Wainwright field manager at beginning of year to chart out

- Keep Linden on the email list so she can stay abreast of LMAC activities

8. Adjourn

NEXT REMOTE MEETING: 11/2/20 from 5-6:30 PM