

# SOUTH PORTLAND PEST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

3/5/18 (5-6:30 PM) – COMMUNITY CENTER

## ATTENDEES

Residents / Taxpayers	MBPC-Licensed Professionals	Agronomist
Bret LeBleu	Mike Hughes Justin Nichols	Jesse O'Brien (acting Chair)
City Staff	Guests	
Fred Dillon (notes)	Andrew Capelluti – Energy & Recycling Committee Chair	

### 1. Review 2/5/18 meeting notes

- Accepted as written followed by brief discussion on future consideration for more detailed notes if/as PMAC proceedings generate more public interest – esp. in relation to deliberations for waiver requests.

### 2. E&O Campaign Status

- Summary of logo, calendar, web site and materials to be ready by 5/1 (as stated in agenda).
  - Question about whether “Ordinance Basics” brochure will replace “10 tips” brochure – Fred will check with Julie to be sure.
- **Update on EPA’s Environmental Education Grant**
  - Jesse and Fred met with Julie, Lucy and Friends of Casco Bay’s Mary Cerullo earlier today to discuss partnership opportunities for grant proposal.
  - Given upcoming grant app deadline and limited staff capacity, decision not to apply; however, ensuing discussion on holding 2 public events in 2018 as described below:
    - “Lawn Demo Day” or “Lawn Care TLC” (event name, location and date/time still TBD): provide residents with “hands-on” opportunities to learn about fundamental lawn care practices including aeration, seeding and topdressing (both fertilizers and lime). Could be held at Wainwright, city park or on residential property and include demonstrations of core aeration, slice seeding and top dressing (among others).
    - “Ask the Expert” (event name, location and date/time still TBD): an evening gathering that would allow the public to ask local professionals about various aspects of land care practices that are consistent with the ordinance. Including involvement of some PMAC members, City could also partner with Coop. Ext. and other local land care professionals.

- Check with SPCTV on videoing both events and consider setting rain date for outside event.
- Jesse recently attended 2 local events for land care professionals that generated very little feedback from them about the City's pesticides ordinance.
  - Discussion that there may be lots of input once the ordinance goes live on 5/1/18. Some contractors will "adapt & adopt" while others might be more inclined to resist based on customer feedback since organic land care will likely be more expensive than conventional management practices
  - Higher-end clients of PMAC members in neighboring community have expressed concerns that mature trees may be adversely affected by ordinance - even though their community doesn't (yet) have an ordinance and the City's ordinance would likely exempt the use of synthetic pesticides for many/most invasive insects.

### 3. Exemption & Waiver Considerations

- **Ordinance exemption for petroleum tank companies:** 3/27/18 Council workshop to consider exemption request for use of synthetic pesticides around petroleum tanks due to concerns with public safety and potential conflict with Fire Protection & Prevention Ordinance.
  - Discussion about what other mechanical or chemical alternatives to the use of synthetic pesticides have been considered.
    - Apparently, gas-powered equipment cannot be used in areas immediately adjacent to petroleum tanks though reel-type mowers might be an option.
    - There are also a variety of organic pesticide alternatives and products that could be effectively used with multiple applications throughout the growing season (e.g., horticultural vinegar, clove oil, citrus oil, etc.).
    - PMAC consensus that various alternative methods should be attempted before exemption is considered and that sufficient documentation is provided to justify exemption request (e.g., types and durations of alternative methods used and demonstration that these methods were ineffective)
  - Discussion about concerns with precedent setting aspect of potentially granting exemption request.
    - Absent clear demonstration and documentation that alternative methods were attempted and proven to be ineffective, PMAC concluded that granting request would create public perception of partiality towards large landowners while holding smaller land owners to higher standard.

- PMAC will investigate whether organic methods have been used successfully in similar settings elsewhere.
- PMAC will also draft letter to Council recommending that alternative methods be tried before considering exemption request for petroleum tank farms.
- **Ordinance waiver for management of geese:** contractor for Texas Instruments would like some early indication from the PMAC on the likelihood a waiver can be granted for the use of the goose repellent Flight Control.
  - While the City's Corporation Counsel recently advised that the PMAC cannot pre-judge a waiver request before it is submitted, she also suggested that meeting the ordinance's waiver conditions would likely be a challenge in this situation.
  - Waiver provisions in ordinance would require reapplication for repeated and ongoing use of Flight Control.
  - PMAC discussed type of evidence needed to demonstrate serious use of alternative methods that have proven to be ineffective (i.e., alternative method types and duration of use along with documentation of ineffective results).
  - PMAC will check with FAA and Maine Inland Fisheries & Wildlife for their recommendations; will also check with other airports in similar settings.
  - Question about whether the TI contractor can submit waiver application before ordinance takes effect to be ready ASAP for whichever method will be needed (Fred will check with Corporation Counsel).
- **Waiver Committee Composition:** ordinance states that PMAC Chair and 1 other member will comprise Waiver Committee for 1-year period.
  - Because PMAC members have variety professional experiences (e.g., turf, trees, landscapes), the committee would like to allow for "rotating" members to serve opposite Chair depending on types of waiver requests. Also, in cases where a committee member may not be available, the waiver review process would be much more timely if an alternate member could be used. Fred will check with Corporation Counsel.

#### 4. Other Discussion Topics

- Energy & Recycling Committee Chair Andrew Capelluti provided his recommendations for a municipal plant palette.

#### 5. Adjourn

**NEXT MEETING: April 2, 2018 from 5-6:30 PM at the Community Center**