

**SOUTH PORTLAND PEST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTES
12/7/20 (5-6:30 PM) – ZOOM MEETING**

ATTENDEES

Residents / Taxpayers	MBPC-Licensed Professionals	Agronomist
Andrew Capelluti Alex Redfield	Todd Robbins	Jesse O'Brien (Chair)
City Staff	Guests	
Fred Dillon (notes)		

1. PMAC officially becomes LMAC today!

- Council approved proposed changes to Ch. 32 on 11/17/20 and the new Landcare Management Ordinance will take effect on 12/7/20 (tonight)
- Press release to go out early next week (ATTACHMENT)
- Council formally appointed Alex Redfield to replace Linden Thigpen
- Still need to fill Justin Nichols vacancy by advertising in City newsletter and posting on City website; suggestions for replacement also welcome
 - Must be NOFA-certified or licensed applicator? (Yes for NOFA and yes for MBPC licensed applicator)
 - *“Two MBPC-licensed landscape professionals, at least one of whom has experience in organic land care management and is accredited by the NOFA”*
 - Maybe Sweet Pea Landscaping Jason Batchelor (Jesse will follow up)

2. Review/amend/approve 11/2/20 PMAC meeting notes (ATTACHMENT)

- Accepted unanimously

3. Planning for ordinance implementation – tentative timeline

- Jesse’s refresher on the N cycle (ATTACHMENT)
 - Refer to Jesse’s slide – all about the availability of N and conditions for optimal plant uptake
 - Implications for what might be submitted for waivers – esp. for performance turf and new establishment
 - Will depend on having good growing conditions and perceptions of prospective applicants that organic fertilizers won’t work
 - 1st step in every waiver app must be a soil test – no waivers can be granted without it

- Soil test is a picture in time so need to pay attention to how recently it was taken
 - Address soil compaction / breaking up the soil
 - Spike vs core vs deep tine aeration vs hydraulic
 - Calcium is key too
 - Getting the right soil is key too: performance turf should be sandier
- Soil quality requirement for new development / redevelopment
 - If it's an older soil test then probably not valid
 - Ordinance requires sample collection for same year – must be comprehensive test
 - Question about timing of soil test results – if they don't come in a timely fashion can contractors provide at beginning of season? (Most already do this?)
 - Question about confirming that fertilizer has been incorporated to a depth of 2-3"
 - Important distinction between getting growth in bare spots of established turf – soil test required for fertilizers in these areas?
- Fertilizer ordinance outreach plan & BMPs (ATTACHMENTS)
 - Ref to Julie's E&O Table
 - Phase II: outreach to MELNA, dirt workers (DEP list), building contractors (Maine Association of General Contractors)
 - I get fact sheet together for developers/owners/contractors ASAP and run it by LMAC (describing how soil quality requirements must be met)
- Continue thinking about updates to GHSP website
 - Ref to Gary Fish's concerns with not considering compost as fertilizer – huge loophole – although lots of bagged composts do provide info on nutrient content
 - Use existing resources / references to greatest extent possible
 - Work with surrounding communities to greatest extent possible – do sooner rather than later

4. Other Updates

- Todd on recent PPH winter moth story in Cape Elizabeth
 - Cape tree warden – handles all budgets for trees in town spaces
 - Residential visits for risk assessments and ownership
 - Reports directly to public works director (Jay Reynolds)
 - Needs to be firm with residents: protect the people from the trees and the trees from the people
 - Certified in assessing tree risks
 - Part-time job – does it on his own time
 - Question about whether new tree ordinance will be responsibility of LMAC – not sure but FD will check with JR (seems like pesticides, fertilizers and trees might be too much for 1 volunteer committee)
 - Winter moth status: Cape was primary hotspot in 2011 affecting oak, maples, elm and fruit trees

- Canopies have taken quite a hit
- Forces trees to push out second growth in same season
- If it happens in multiple years trees can die (esp. oaks and maples)
- Encourage residents to seek non-pesticide forms of IPM (banding in fall and oils in spring)
- MFS release parasitoid flies (2014 & 2016) – may also have done this in Hinckley Park?
- Band trees around TDay to catch wingless females
- Not eradicating moths but suppressing to acceptable threshold
- Over past couple years they’ve noticed that the populations have spread to SoPo and Scarborough but have diminished in Cape so trees aren’t completely defoliated
- Todd worked with CELT to observe effects of controls – no interventions this year so they’ll see how it goes next year and apply bands & oil if necessary
- Fred on Yerxa Park knotweed management demonstration project (ATTACHMENTS)
 - Submitted info to French researchers on pilot project
- Fred on Town of Falmouth’s efforts to collect pesticide and fertilizer samples
 - Fred will report back on outcome
- Jesse on working with neighboring communities to develop consistent messaging
 - See E&O above

5. Other agenda items / discussion topics?

- Pesticide waiver process considerations
 - Concerns contractors are going to find process too cumbersome and just skip the requirements
- Let folks know about LMAC opportunity for Justin’s vacated position
- Q about whether there needs to be a deeper aerator for performance turf
- Q about the animal grazing ordinance including sheep (it does)

6. Adjourn

NEXT REMOTE MEETING: 1/4/21 from 5-6:30 PM