Friends of Casco Bay
Crafting A Fertilizer Ordinance
Key Components to Consider
6.6.2019

☐ Restrictions or outright bans
  o on cosmetic use
  o on turf/lawns only or also on other vegetation
  o certain locations?
  o seasonality?
  o water soluble fertilizers?
  o private property vs public property?

☐ Soil testing is key. Require/mandate a soil test at the right depth, before any application of fertilizers, to prove need and determine the specific element(s) needed. Frequency? By homeowner or professional?

☐ Education that too much fertilizer is too much fertilizer is essential, no matter whether synthetic or organic or natural or in combinations, not to mention timing and setbacks, etc.

☐ Find balance between the need grow vegetation that will control erosion (which is worsening given changes in weather patterns), and not over-fertilizing or fertilizing at the wrong time

☐ Who can apply what, how much, and when?

☐ Restrictions on selling, or applying, or both?

☐ What about waivers and/or exemptions:
  o public property
  o private property
  o professional applications
  o under what circumstances

☐ Certifications of professionals?

☐ Limitations to consider (restricting or banning):
  o On type:
    ▪ Only allow slow release non-water-soluble (WIN); ban or restrict water soluble (WSN); or no restrictions on type?
    ▪ Limits on compost and manure?
On amounts applied – consider mandating “Use the absolute minimum”
  - Limit % concentration of nitrogen
  - Restrict number of pounds or amount in some other way

On methods of application
  - broadcasting
  - drop spreading
  - professional versus private applications

On timing
  - Most effective uptake time(s)
  - Seasonal restrictions – fertilize only in late summer/fall, unless new lawn?
  - Temperature restrictions (only when soil temps are below 80?)
  - Specify black out dates
  - Weather restrictions: not allowed when rain is forecast or falling

On locations:
  - Setbacks from water bodies, if so, how far back from
    - ditches; lakes and ponds and other surface waters; rivers and streams
    - coastal waters
  - Buffers
  - Zones of use by distance from water bodies
  - Not allowed on
    - impervious surfaces
    - frozen ground

Education
  - Provide public education – in what ways? By whom?
  - For retailers, general public, professionals, city employees
  - Certification for professionals?
  - Retail point-of-sale educational materials
  - Labeling, for example, re-labelling as de-icer not allowed

Enforcement
  - How?
  - Who?
  - Consequences of violation?