SOUTH PORTLAND PEST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTES
3/2/20 (5-6:30 PM) – WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

ATTENDEES

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Residents / Taxpayers</th>
<th>MBPC-Licensed Professionals</th>
<th>Agronomist</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Capelluti</td>
<td>Justin Nichols</td>
<td>Jesse O’Brien</td>
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<td>Cathy Chapman</td>
<td>Todd Robbins</td>
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<td>Linden Thigpen</td>
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City Staff

Fred Dillon (notes)

Guests

1. Review, revise and/or approve 2/3/20 meeting notes (ATTACHMENT)
   - Unanimously approved

2. Preparation and contents of 2019 report to Council (due this month)
   - We’re only in year 3 so we haven’t yet seen some of the problems that are likely given Scarborough’s experience
   - There’s no flexibility built into the ordinance as currently written to allow for addressing grubs and crabgrass; high bar with not much remedy
   - Performance turf is not “natural” and is therefore not well suited to an absolutist approach
   - Some discussion of plastic / artificial turf – would obviate need for pesticides but also has associated costs and externalities
   - Suggestion that ordinance should be amended to allow for more flexibility in use of pesticides for specific situations as waivers are one time only applications
   - Importance of consistency and not setting precedents; also concerns with changes in PMAC composition which could result in different decisions and process
   - While ordinance allows for use of pesticides when “situation exists that threatens public health and safety and/or where invasive species pose a threat to the environment”, no examples are provided for such situations. Consequently, waiver committee has to interpret on case-by-case basis with little or no guidance. Credible examples of situations threatening public health & safety and/or environment include:
     - Athletic injuries (and potential for associated liabilities) from turf in poor condition
     - Should the Council have to consider the potential cost for re-establishing athletic fields? Should it be included in capital budget – it’s going to be more expensive to maintain athletic fields organically
     - Invasive plants pose environmental threat simply by virtue of being invasive; therefore using pesticides to manage invasives after having tried other non-chemical methods could be justified
• Find other locations with better soil conditions to establish new fields? Wainwright is actually about as good as it gets
• These will be recurring issues so need to find some way(s) to provide more flexibility
  o Difference between residential lawn and performance turf (athletic field) – very different turf types
• Consideration of event centers – do they have performance turf? Yes but maybe debatable
  o Though different from a public space
• Also important to remember that the reason to request waivers is evolving and folks are likely to become more accustomed to process
  o It will stimulate conversations from year to year; need to know what’s changing and working (or not working)
• Allow flexibility in ordinance to account for variations in life cycles of insect pests – can vary from season to season
  o How to handle pests in best way possible
    ▪ One of the ways to measure is to trap insects
  o Lots of variations depending on particular pest
  o Discussion of least toxic synthetic alternatives: acelepryn vs. dylox vs. neonic imidacloprid (sp?)
• Portland’s approach: Waynefleet applied for waiver and was denied; Portland’s fields can be treated until 2021; Hadlock will be exempt for foreseeable future
• What would the ordinance amendment process consist of?
  o PMAC (in consultation with Peruzzi) makes recommendations to Sustainability Director & Council
  o Sustainability Director formally requests ordinance amendment from Council
  o Council goes through public process to consider public input before reaching decision
• Include allowance for invasives – argument that invasives could be worse than synthetics to control them; needs to be part of the discussion / considerations
  o Consideration of staff capacity and need for additional guidance / support
  o Maine Natural Areas Program / Maine Invasive Species Network (Nancy Olmstead); also include MBPC
• Review of waiver requests we had in 2019
• Include something about budget
• Include result of questionnaires to Council

3. Review 2019 Applicator’s reports and process (on screen at meeting)
• What to do about the non-responses?
  o Just make one more request via email to remind folks who did apply in SoPo to please send report ASAP; also important to emphasize inclusion of organic products too? (A pesticide is a pesticide)
• Need to be consistent in how we report and how to handle the data and what will we do with the data
How to interpret data – e.g., “cheap” pesticide that requires lots of volume vs. another product that is more potent than the cheap product – variable toxicities
“Apples to apples” comparisons are really very difficult and MBPC has struggled with this as well

- Concerns with out of state companies that may not be familiar with ordinance
- Concerns with privacy of company names for applicators’

4. Review resident pesticide ordinance questionnaire responses (on screen at meeting)
   - Already provided previously

5. Fertilizer Ordinance Update (Jesse/Andrew/Linden/Fred)
   - Still discussing whether to ban fertilizers on “all other turf”
   - Question about why other land cover types weren’t included (veg and ornamentals)
     - Has been discussed but hasn’t gone anywhere in FWG discussion
     - Might be worth considering?
     - Emphasis has been on lawns given it’s the greatest proportion of fertilized land cover but maybe consider others too?
   - Literature generally identifies turf and bare ground as potential sources of fertilizer runoff; some studies also state that well-established turf can be highly retentive of N
   - Every type of plant needs to be “fed” (i.e., fertilized) differently; could become really complicated and might encounter resistance – OR average homeowner won’t be concerned with it

6. Status report on Yerxa Park demonstration project
   - Ground cover is down thanks to Dan Hogan
   - Leave it for 2 years (at least) and cut openings to install native plants
   - In the meantime, develop interpretive signs

7. Upcoming events / other items of potential interest
   - 3/24/20: [Annual Meeting of Invasive Species Network](https://www.colby.edu/) (Colby College)
   - 3/26/20: [Maine Flower Show](https://www.maineflowershow.org/) pesticide ordinance panel discussion @ 12:30 (Portland)
   - 3/30-4/3/20: [National Green Infrastructure Certification Program](https://www.nationalgicp.org/) (Gardiner, ME)
   - 4/7/20: CCSWCD Trout Brook YardScaping Workshop including discussion on pesticide & fertilizer ordinances (South Portland)
   - 5/7/20: Piper Shores Yerxa Park / pesticide ordinance presentation
   - Others?

8. Other agenda items / discussion topics?
   - Matrix developed by Portland PMAC: cultural practices and organic options for other types of pests – intended for point of purchase distribution
     - See if we can get it from Portland to include on our website and for distribution in hard copy
9. Adjourn

NEXT MEETING: 4/6/20 FROM 5-6:30 PM