SOUTH PORTLAND PEST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTES
8/3/20 (5-6:30 PM) – ZOOM MEETING

ATTENDEES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Residents / Taxpayers</th>
<th>MBPC-Licensed Professionals</th>
<th>Agronomist</th>
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<tr>
<td>Andrew Capelluti</td>
<td>Justin Nichols</td>
<td>Jesse O’Brien (Chair)</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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<tr>
<th>City Staff</th>
<th>Guests</th>
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<td>Fred Dillon (notes)</td>
<td>None</td>
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UPDATES

- Jesse: industry is staying very busy
- Linden’s reference to Portland’s tree ordinance – letter from Portland resident that’s very critical of ordinance – 10 concerns that she felt needed to be addressed
  - SPCC met with Karl Coughlin about ordinance through zoning; Karl is writing an ordinance – check with Karl
  - PPH article about “heritage trees” – oak, maple, pine or spruce

1. Review / amend / approve 7/6/20 meeting notes (ATTACHMENT)
   - Change from Zoom meeting to Bug Light

2. Additional discussion on possible ordinance changes for Sept Council workshop
   - Pesticide ordinance changes will be considered with fertilizer ordinance
   - Pesticide ordinance changes:
     - Some relief for homeowners with grubs
       - Tough one because it’s preemptive – don’t want Dylox
       - Only viable option – annual application of Acelypryne (chlorantraniliprole)
       - Different from performance turf because it’s a public resource
       - Reference to grub threshold and damage done by foraging critters
       - Doesn’t happen every year – only once in a while
       - People get upset about lawn damage
       - Potential for big backslide – undermines principles of ordinance
       - Advocate for organic approach – maybe consider establishing a fund if there’s enough public pressure for relief (though pretty unlikely)
         - Animals can actually help with more minor grub problems if followed up with raking and reseeding
       - If folks don’t get relief they’re just going to apply synthetics themselves – hard to quantify
Some relief for homeowners – maybe consider putting together a pamphlet – allow for the use of the synthetics if it’s a chronic problem for 2-3 consecutive years
Resources on how to deal with white grubs – we’ve talked about it for a long time – FD will have SW Intern work on it
Majority of grub damage occurs in weaker part of the lawns – indication of how / where to improve things
  o Enforcement – or lack thereof
    ▪ Concerns with pitting neighbor against neighbor – better to take softer non-punitive approach
    ▪ Have had very few waivers and complaints
    ▪ People generally want to be organic
    ▪ Anonymous hotline to report potential concerns – similar to Portland’s SeeClickFix (SoPo has online tools for reporting SW violations or public service requests)
    ▪ Maybe consider escalating enforcement process
  o Preemptive applications to performance turf for white grub complex and annual grassy weeds
    ▪ Chip’s suggested synthetic treatments are occasionally justified
    ▪ Exemption or waiver?
      • Exemption preferred so PMAC doesn’t have to spend time on it – similar to golf
      • Maybe enough for PMAC to provide oversight – but need to define what this would be
      • Can do it organically if money is no object, e.g., sodding
  o Waiver committee composition: 2 vs 3 members? OK to continue with 2 for now
    ▪ Committee has been in agreement – generally works OK and with only 2 members there’s no need for a publicly noticed meeting; also allows for quicker turnaround time
  o Appeals process not including manager: aggrieved folks can take us to court (per Corp Counsel)
    ▪ Agree that it shouldn’t be for Manager to decide - scientific / site specific expertise needed; maybe Sustainability Director could be person to decide appeal
  o Allow licensed applicators to apply synthetics for invasive plants
    ▪ Should be case by case and don’t want to open it up too much
    ▪ Examples include bittersweet, knotweed, depends on situation
    ▪ May not need to change ordinance – “invasive species that pose a threat to the environments” language may provide enough discretion / flexibility to Waiver Committee to decide
    ▪ Ref to Nancy Olmstead / MNAP guidance
    ▪ Consider adding economic and aesthetic impacts to ordinance
    ▪ Site review criteria – have committee actually conduct site visits
• Were net negative of invasive plants to ecosystem weren’t considered when the ordinance was initially drafted?
• One clear allowance for newly introduced invasives should be justified
• All invasive plants are a threat to the environment by definition
• Maybe reference most current MNAP invasive plant list
• There are many formerly invasive plants that are now naturalized – generally much less problematic than invasive woody vines and shrubs – esp. in disturbed forest ecosystems
• This is a huge subject – we don’t have the capacity to reinvent the wheel; MNAP scientists are good resource
  • Concerns with changes to MNAP staff and lack of organic orientation
  • Potential conflict of interest and CoSP tends to be much more strict than state
  • Embrace the invasive – there are different views on impacts from invasives
  • SoPo is pretty built out and not many natural areas at risk like in more rural areas
• How to deal with neighboring properties that don’t have same level of concern: can we set criteria to prevent spread from neighboring property?
  • Depends on type of invasive plant

3. Upcoming workshops / webinars
   • YardScaping: Healthy Lawn Care Webinars – (will include announcement in City’s next E-newsletter and post on GHSP website)
     o Wed 8/12 5:50-8PM - $15
     o Thur 8/20 5:50-8PM - $15
     o Tues 8/25 5:50-8PM - $15
   • Others?

4. Continue education & outreach efforts
   • More targeted work with retailers – “end cap” displays, flyers, brochures, etc. (ref to ordinance for specific types of info)
   • Consider including additional practices in anticipation of fertilizer ordinance (check with Julie)
   • Anything more for homeowners?
   • Anything more for land care professionals?
   • Improvements to GHSP website or Sustainability FB page?
   • Others?
     • Steal stuff from Portland’s website – Roger / TOH

5. Demonstration Project Status / Updates
   • Yerxa Park
• Bug Light Park – status? FD to check with Karl

6. Other agenda items / discussion topics
   • Portland got a StonyField grant too
   • MA has 2 bills – healthy soil bill and soils as integral part of development – nice to be in Maine legislature

7. Future agenda topics

8. Adjourn

NEXT MEETING: 9/14/20 from 5-6:30 PM