1. Introductions / welcome new member (Linden Thigpen)

   Consider meeting in March and skipping June?

2. Review, revise and/or approve 12/2/19 meeting notes (ATTACHMENT)

   - Meeting notes OK
   - Question about the questionnaires and how long to keep going
   - Contractor version will be in the next issue of the MELNA newsletter
   - Can it be placed on Facebook – check with Julie?

3. Rick Perruzzi on consideration of Parks waiver request for Wainwright (ATTACHMENT) - discussion

   - Wainwright stopped using synthetics 3 years ago
   - Crab grass has exploded over the last couple seasons
   - Have a little benefit from alternative product
   - Printed pictures in waiver application don’t really capture the extent of the issue
   - Difficult even with aggressive overseeding since crabgrass continues to thrive
   - Soils are good and root systems are well established
   - Not intending to completely eradicate crab grass as it’s virtually impossible
   - Would like to keep in check and haven’t found anything except Dimension that works to keep crab grass manageable
   - Some fields were 50-60% in crab grass adversely affects playability and increases potential for athlete injury – shear strength of turf decreases with increase in extent of weed coverage
   - We need to do something to decrease extent of crabgrass coverage
   - What are the organic approaches use to address breakthrough?
     - All control products are plant-based proteins – post-emergent (there are no pre-emergents?)
       - Corn gluten is too expensive – never considered because of expense
       - Also includes lots of N
       - Ref to Eldredge – corn gluten is not effective
       - Successful use of horticultural vinegar as a broad leaf weed killer is very difficult
       - Crab grass is an annual that outcompetes grasses
o Other approaches?
  ▪ Re-sodding would be a huge expense
  ▪ Overseeding and aeration as much as possible: every field aerated twice a year and
    overseed with speed seeder
  ▪ Germination rate with seeding in early to mid-July – pretty good
o Is crab grass outcompeting because of compaction?
  ▪ Fields are also rotated on regular basis
  ▪ Fields use 7 days a week from mid-August until Nov
o Can playing fields have higher grass? An inch and a quarter for field hockey?
  ▪ Lower heights increase likelihood of weeds
  ▪ Could it be 3”? Not for playability
o Access to water is key as well and many/most fields are irrigated
  ▪ Wainwright can be very hot with very little shade (esp in peak summer) – humidity gets
    blown away; though generally fields are cold & windy
o Shade trees and wind breaks could be helpful
o What are options for seed blends that aren’t outcompeted by crab grass?
  ▪ Wainwright probably has one of the most aggressive overseeding programs in the area
  ▪ Blue grass has a tight growing window
o Ordinance doesn’t address economic impacts / hardship
  ▪ Is it possible to have all organic athletic fields?
    ▪ General consensus seems to be no, unless allowances made for periodic sodding to
      replace damaged areas – very expensive (~$250-300K per field)
    ▪ Bagging clippings also an alternative though very labor intensive
  ▪ Consider asking Council to allocate funds for re-sodding and allowing grass to grow longer
    than 3”
    ▪ Ref to what Chip did in Marblehead MA – apparently successful?
    ▪ Chip uses sod all the time – it’s his go-to fallback
o Toxicity of Dimension at quarter pound per acre: toxic to fish and aquatic animals
  ▪ Question about whether overseeding would be limited
  ▪ It would be applied when the ground temp hit 55 deg F
  ▪ Dimension may be a better product because it only has to be applied once a year
  ▪ Sort of considering it a “rescue” treatment
o All fields are different: baseball, football, soccer, etc.; every field has different high impact areas
  ▪ Can grass lengths be longer (i.e., 3”)? Not for the sake of playability.
  • Grub control last year for Acelepryn
  • Grubs and crabgrass are always the primary issues with short grass playing fields so how often will
    this need to happen?
  • Is Dimenson the safest product to use from a toxicity perspective?
    ▪ It’s a very low toxicity product and make sure to follow BMPs
    ▪ There’s no technical assistance we can provide that he hasn’t tried already
    ▪ The issue is financial
  • What changes have there been in soil biology?
    ▪ Hasn’t seen any significant changes.
    ▪ Wainwright is a great environment to grow grass
    ▪ Soil quality is very good – it’s black gold
  • Short grass needed for ball roll consistency
• May need to change expectations about what constitutes a playing fields. Maybe it doesn’t need to be as good?

4. Review of committee member terms and swearing-in by Clerk (ATTACHMENT)

5. Chair nomination / election (includes appointment to Waiver Committee)
   • Discussion: would like to have Chair serve as liason with other communities – really important to work together
   • Jesse appointed as Chair

6. Preparation and contents of annual report to Council (due in March) – summary of activities for previous year
   • Will discuss at March meeting

7. Process for obtaining annual reports from licensed applicators (similar to Portland?)
   • How to contact contractors – it’s all commercial applicators (structural, ticks and mosquitos, everything)
   • MBPC has list provided to Portland
   • Will discuss at March meeting

8. Fertilizer Ordinance Update (Jesse/Andrew/Linden/Fred)
   • Ran out of time. Will discuss at March meeting

9. Upcoming events / other items of potential interest
   • 3/26/20: Maine Flower Show pesticide ordinance panel discussion @ 12:30
   • 4/7/20: CCSWCD Trout Brook YardScaping Workshop including discussion on pesticide & fertilizer ordinances
   • 5/7/20: Piper Shores Yerxa Park / pesticide ordinance presentation
   • Others?

10. Other agenda items / discussion topics?
    • Have March meeting
      o Discuss applicator reporting
      o PSA around Trout Brook / CCSWCD

11. Adjourn

    NEXT MEETING: 3/2/20 FROM 5-6:30 PM