SOUTH PORTLAND PEST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTES
10/5/20 (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 (absent)</td>
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<td>Linden Thigpen</td>
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<th>City Staff</th>
<th>Guests</th>
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<td>Fred Dillon (notes)</td>
<td>Alex Redfield</td>
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1. Review/amend/approve 8/3/20 meeting notes (ATTACHMENT)
   - Unanimously approved

2. Introductions
   - Linden – very busy with other projects; dog’s doing well!
   - Cathy – still working on watering garden and preparing for fall; dog’s doing well!
   - Jesse – background in land care industry
   - Fred – SW guy trying to keep City in compliance with state/fed SW regs
   - Andrew – also serves on Sustainability Comm; MA in LA and in business for himself
   - Justin – met Alex on a Zoom call with Chip and PSP
   - Alex – met Linden about a year ago at Cultivating Community; he can provide lots of expertise given his professional background
     - Farmed commercially for about 10 years
     - Started at Cultivating Community 5 years ago as a service provider to help folks learn how to grow food
     - Centering design principles on farm in Falmouth – including wildlife habitat for pest control (old horse farms on Rt 100 near Cumberland line)
     - Horticulture background based in practice and not formal education

3. PMAC membership changes
   - Thanks to Linden Thigpen for her valuable contributions to the PMAC
   - Welcome Alex Redfield as new citizen representative (although still not formally appointed by Council – he’ll also need to be sworn in by City Clerk)

4. Update on current status of insect/pest concerns in South Portland
   - **Chinch bugs** – rare in Maine but more are starting to show up
     - Usually not a problem except in dry years and there are bacteria that control them; big eye bugs also keep them in control
     - Native in North America that attack grasses – esp. during dry conditions
• Bill bugs – beetles (legless grub): lays eggs in stalks of plants
  o Also rare in Maine
  o Don’t like endophytic grasses but do like blue grasses
  o Overwinter in debris along the edges of fields
• Neither bug presents big problem but wanted to bring to our attention

5. Current status of proposed pesticide ordinance changes for consideration by Council
• Exempt use of acelepryn for Wainwright
  o Can have potentially negative effects on amphibians
  o Apparently doesn’t adversely affect mycorrhizae?
  o 3 year sunset provision – consider full transition to organic at end of this period
    ▪ Questions about Bt Galleria – Chip has had much more success with it and
      thinks we should try it (Scarborough has had mixed success with it)
    ▪ Acelepryn accumulates in soil – reduced risk but is persistent
    ▪ Check with Rick on whether he can try Bt at Wainwright
    ▪ Unclear whether Bt is environmentally benign
• Allowance for other city staff person to serve on and support PMAC other than SW
  coordinator to allow flexibility in case job duties change
• Waiver appeal process will move from Manager to full PMAC

6. Planning for transition from PMAC to LMAC
• Tentative timeline / process for approving and implementing Fertilizer Ordinance
  o Will depend on whether tomorrow’s FWG meeting is the last one and how many
    readings / meetings Council will need to accept ordinance
  o Strong public sentiment for organic only ordinance
    ▪ Cathy – should be going totally organic since that’s what pesticide ordinance
      does – fertilizer should be consistent; should be written similar in structure
      to the pesticide ordinance
    ▪ Discussion about lawns vs horticulture for fertilizers (even though fertilizer
      ordinance only addresses lawns / turf)
      • Fertilizers are over-applied in many garden and perennial settings so
        the City may eventually want to consider including them in the
        ordinance
• Begin thinking about additional resources for GHSP website
  o Include info on org applications for gardening on GHSP even though it’s not in
    ordinance
  o Include info on vegetable gardens for GHSP website – consider Coop Ext and
    MOFGA videos
  o How to get ready for winter – include on GHSP
• Begin thinking about additional strategies for public outreach & education
  o Whatever SoPo does Portland will do and Yarmouth is now considering an
    ordinance too (Falmouth and Scarborough also regulate pesticides to some extent)
  o Would be nice to do a regional outreach approach
o Concerns with differences between municipal ordinances – makes it challenging for land care professionals to comply
o Reach out to other municipalities shortly after first of year
o Consider more effective means for expanding our platforms and visibility (e.g., through effective use of social media)

7. Other agenda items / discussion topics
   • More on fertilizer ordinance
     o Unlike pesticides, it’s possible to use fertilizers entirely organically
     o The same effects are possible for organics – water soluble / quick release – though more expensive
     o Not environmentally benign – organics can also be over-applied or misused resulting in adverse impacts to water quality and aquatic habitats
     o Carbon footprint impacts of synthetic fertilizers greater than for organics
     o As more folks make transition to organics, product costs will come down
     o Concerns with “at the discretion of the field manager” – maybe consider oversight by 3rd parties and/or LMAC
       ▪ Maybe consider reporting requirements that allow LMAC to have some idea of how tweaks could be made to transition to organic
     o Importance of data collection to make informed decisions
     o It’s been a little difficult to find out what’s been going on so that we can help with transition – identify the steps / process to get to all organic
     o What’s been done successfully elsewhere and how can we emulate that here?
     o Consider getting together with Wainwright field manager at beginning of year to chart out

   • Keep Linden on the email list so she can stay abreast of LMAC activities

8. Adjourn

   NEXT REMOTE MEETING: 11/2/20 from 5-6:30 PM