PEST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PMAC)
AGENDA - Monday, March 2, 2020
5-6:30PM – South Portland Wastewater Treatment Facility Conference Room

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

2. Preparation and contents of 2019 report to Council (due in this month)

3. Review 2019 Applicator’s reports and process (on screen at meeting)

4. Review resident pesticide ordinance questionnaire responses (on screen at meeting)

5. Fertilizer Ordinance Update (Jesse/Andrew/Linden/Fred)

6. Status report on Yerxa Park demonstration project

7. Upcoming events / other items of potential interest
   • 3/24/20: Annual Meeting of Invasive Species Network (Colby College)
   • 3/26/20: Maine Flower Show pesticide ordinance panel discussion @ 12:30 (Portland)
   • 3/26-3/27/20: Landscaping for Water Quality (Derry, NH)
   • 3/30-4/3/20: National Green Infrastructure Certification Program (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?

9. Adjourn

NEXT MEETING: 4/6/20 FROM 5-6:30 PM
SOUTH PORTLAND PEST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES
2/3/30 (5-6:30 PM) – COMMUNITY CENTER

ATTENDEES

<table>
<thead>
<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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<th>City Staff</th>
<th>Guests</th>
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<td>Fred Dillon (notes)</td>
<td>Rick Peruzzi</td>
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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 had 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 it 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
  ▪ 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 mosquitoes, 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
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   • 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