PEST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PMAC)
AGENDA - Monday, August 6, 2018
5-6:30PM – South Portland Community Center Conference Room

1. Review, revise or approve meeting notes from 5/7/18 and 7/2/18 (ATTACHMENTS)

2. Yerxa Park project status update
   a. PMAC site walk on 7/9/18
   b. Addie Halligan’s presentation on potential concept plans and invasive plant management strategies
   c. Other considerations?

3. E&O Campaign
   a. Review events for PMAC (and confirm status of display materials)
      i. WillardFest on 7/14: Ann and Cathy
      ii. Knightville Festival on 8/10?
      iii. Art in the Park on 8/11
      iv. Others?
   b. Demonstration project updates: Bug Light Park combined with “How to Rejuvenate Your Lawn” (originally intended for Wainwright)
   c. Status on call for Sentry articles and photos
   d. Other considerations?

4. Update on waiver requests or public comments on ordinance implementation
   a. Resident concern with how to control crab grass
   b. Other concerns?

5. Status of replacement for Mike Hughes / Arborist
   a. Noah Tucker with Bartlett Tree Experts decided he couldn’t serve on PMAC
   b. Have also inquired with Lucas and Davey Tree; still awaiting replies

6. Other Considerations?

7. Adjourn – next meeting Mon. 9/10
1. Review 4/2/18 meeting notes
   • Accepted as written with request for Andrew Capelluti’s plant palette list.

2. Waiver Form (ATTACHMENT)
   • Develop recommendations for responsible application of synthetics.
     o Tie it to MBPC which include IPM practices...maybe UMaine Coop Ext.
     o Got Pests / MBPC – currently online.

3. E&O Campaign
   • Need assistance with poster distribution
   • Review calendars – really nice
   • Website review by Eric Sideman with MOFGA will review.
   • Tabling events:
     o JO and AM did HD last Sat with CCSWCD (maybe a dozen folks stopped by); Bway Gardens this Sat; Cathy is doing Shopper’s Hardware in 2 weeks; last Sat AM will do Drillens
     o Need to work on “elevator speech” – one person asked about why Scott’s 4-step process wasn’t available...need to have pat replies
     o Question about how to treat grubs
     o Worth considering developing talking points? Grubs, cracks and crevices for weeds, dandelions
   • Additional books for library reading list: Healthy Soils for Sustainable Gardens (Brooklyn Botanical Garden Guides); Organic Lawn Care Manual (Paul Tukey)

4. CDBG Grant Planning
   • Responses to CDBG Grant Manager questions.
• Development of “project plan”
  o Andrew checked out site – LOTS of invasives: knotweed, multiflora rose, Norway maple
  o Mass DOT / Audubon using “smother crops”: cover it over with native mix of perennials for several years before planting
  o Ref to Dan Hogan’s work on knotweed was very successful; worked with carpet; cutting holes through carpet and planting natives
  o Site assessment with PMAC and Karl – preferably Mon evening and perhaps next PMAC meeting (if not sooner) – try to arrange for 4-5PM site walk
  o Role of PMAC needs to be clarified: Fred will develop list of questions
  o PMAC serves in advisory capacity
  o “Slow Gardening” or “Gradual Gardening”
  o Get general idea of what to do but consider formal landscape design
  o Is it called “Yerxa Park”?
  o What’s the intended purpose of the park?
    ▪ 2 benches with uneven terrain
  o Initially put more thought into interpretive sign / story board
  o Ref to Ogunquit Cliff walk – how did they deal with invasives
  o Maybe put more emphasis on sign
  o Consider goats?
  o Important for City to have long-term management plan – really big challenge on a long-term basis (ex: Fort Williams sets aside half funds raised for long-term maint)
  o Consider involving Resiliency Hub? Prob not worth their trouble or part of their focus...contact Shanna(?)
    ▪ Interesting discussion about whether we’re expending more effort than it’s worth

OTHER TOPICS

• Is Julie keeping track of communications from folks opposed to or who have had problems with ordinance? It’s one of our important data points
  

5. Adjourn

NEXT MEETING: April 2, 2018 from 5-6:30 PM at the Community Center
ATTENDEES

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Residents / Taxpayers</th>
<th>MBPC-Licensed Professionals</th>
<th>Agronomist</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cathy Chapman</td>
<td>Justin Nichols</td>
<td>Jesse O’Brien</td>
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<td>Ann Morrill (Chair)</td>
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<th>City Staff</th>
<th>Guests</th>
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<td>Fred Dillon (notes)</td>
<td>Andrew Capelluti</td>
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<td>Karl Coughlin</td>
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1. May notes not yet completed

2. Strategy for moving forward with CDBG park improvement project grant (Karl)
   a. CDBG folks really like proposal so we just need to keep showing progress
   b. Sandy Warren (CDBG lead) said that if the proposed project area was problematic we could pick another area in the CDBG LMI area
   c. Questions about permitting: DEP, Army Corps, City Planning Board
   d. Andrew created aerial videos with a drone and has given some thought to project; knotweed is predominant; MA DEP has tried switch grass; some folks have tried goats
   e. Need to do site walk: **Mon 7/9 at 5PM** – Justin (and Jesse) suggest finding the least invaded spot and starting there since $15K won’t go very far
   f. Are we looking to do all natives vs cultivars (maybe “nativars“): any kind of native will be better than what’s there; nurseries don’t generally have local natives – seed stock from elsewhere should still be OK (don’t let the perfect be the enemy of the good); Pierson’s Nurseries may be good source
   g. Don’t forget about maintenance considerations! Maybe try to develop a “Friends of Yerxa Park”
   h. Parks Dept will be OK with more modest project but hopes to build on success of this project and request CDBG funds each year to continue invasive plant management in future years
   i. Suggestion to consider including a community garden in future years

3. E&O campaign status
   - Review upcoming events for PMAC to attend (and review status of display materials): could City employees or interns help out? There’s a “go-kit” for E&O
     o July 4th Extravaganza: maybe Addie (but prob not)
     o WillardFest: 7/14 - maybe Fred (and Addie) – need to confirm time
- Knightville Festival: 8/10 – need to confirm time
- Art in the Park: 8/11 – maybe Andrew
- Others?

- Demonstration project updates for Greenbelt and Bug Light: Karl is still working with Chip to figure out which areas are best for demo projects at Bug Light and Greenbelt
- Jesse on demo day for Wainwright Sat 9/8 – lawns have had a tough long summer – how to rejuvenate your lawn: Sat morning from 9-11 or 10-noon; need food and bathroom access; weekend after Labor Day
  - Core aerator; overseeder, etc. – Jesse will get vendors to show up (City could participate too)
  - Will need to make some signs / flyers in time for August events: Cathy does narrative and intern does flashy flyer
  - Check with Rick P or Karl C
  - Also check with Portland and Troy Moon
- Call for Sentry articles: series of articles on basic lawn care in the human interest / community resource section of paper. Cathy noted that Abby Huntoon (sp?) has already done a series; Julie will contact Abby and will also contact Sentry to see if they’ll print Abby’s articles (which Julie may already have)
- Call for photos: check with Julie to address questions / concerns about whether organic landscapes can be as beautiful as conventionally managed landscapes (Andrew)
- Other considerations
  - Signs / bumper stickers: Julie is working on them; hopefully will be ready soon
- Memorial Middle School will be redoing entire landscape: opportunity to work with LA to create sustainable landscape (check with Julie); there is an interest in having PMAC involvement to ensure outside is sustainable

4. Waiver requests and develop recommendations for dealing with grubs
   - Waiver Wainwright request: denied because weeds along fence lines don’t meet waiver conditions (Justin stepped in for Mike who has resigned from PMAC)
   - Natural grub cycle: UMaine has flyer with organic alternatives – put on website
     - Jesse’s images of various types of beetles / grubs – there’s more than 1 grub
     - Identify grub “thresholds”
     - Let the skunks and crows dig them up – and then over-seed?
     - Org alternatives: milky spore only applies to Japanese beetle
     - Beneficial nematodes
     - Identifying grubs can be tricky
     - Need to use best science available
- Share UMass link that Jesse sent: success of organic approaches for high maintenance lawns is sporadic
- Japanese beetles with white spots on their heads indicate parasitic flies that will help control the beetles
- BT is used for caterpillars – 10 different kinds used for all kinds of different things
- Jesse’s handout of new protein-based product derived from BTG that claims it will address grubs – [Grub Gone!](#)
- Ref to [Freedom Lawn](#): don’t grow things that attract Japanese beetles
- Need to be careful because there are different types of turfs
  - Develop recommendations for proactive / preventative responses to grubs
  - Experience using beneficial nematodes and/or milky spore
  - Check with Julie on whether City is keeping a log for types of resident concerns
  - There’s preventative and curative: former – attack grubs when they’re small (last week of July / 1st week of August – although it can vary depending on weather conditions); there’s no organic alt that’s curative
  - Other considerations?

5. **Replacement for Arborist**
   - Noah Tucker with Bartlett declined today; Jesse contacted Lucas and hasn’t gotten a response
   - What are the qualifications?
   - Fred will check with Davey

**NEXT MEETING: Mon. 8/6 from 5-6:30 at the Community Center**