1. INTRODUCTIONS

- **Julie Rosenbach** will facilitate the fertilizer ordinance development process as an outgrowth of the Pesticide Use Ordinance; the Council originally wanted combined pesticide and fertilizer ordinance but later determined that separate efforts needed.

- **Fred Dillon** helped create the Pesticide Use Ordinance and supports the Pest Management Advisory Committee; he also helps the City comply with the State’s Stormwater Permit, which will be enhanced through the establishment of a Fertilizer Use Ordinance.

- **Breece Sleeper** has over 30 years of professional land and tree care experience throughout southern Maine and will provide a valuable perspective on the practical implications of creating a Fertilizer Use Ordinance.

- **Cathy Ramsdell** described the role she and FOCB have played in ongoing efforts to assess and reduce the impacts of excess nitrogen discharges to Casco Bay, including the organization’s popular BayScaping Program.

- **April Caricchio** was asked recently by the local citizen’s group Protect South Portland to begin the process of establishing a Fertilizer Use Ordinance that only allows for the use of organic products; upon completion of the ordinance development process, she will bring the Fertilizer Working Group’s recommendations to the full Council for consideration.

- **Linden Thigpen’s** role as a citizen’s representative will be informed by a long history in commercial agriculture primarily in the Midwest (Iowa).
• **Jesse O’Brien** is widely recognized as a trusted and valuable information resource for anything to do with lawns and turf; he has been active in a variety of efforts to regulate land care products including serving as a member of South Portland’s Pest Management Advisory Committee and as the Chair of Portland’s Pest Management Advisory Committee.

• **Rick Perruzzi** has worked closely and in various capacities to maintain the City’s athletic fields and golf course; his extensive land care experience will provide a valuable perspective in helping to develop a Fertilizer Use Ordinance.

2. **FERTILIZER 101 PRESENTATION BY JESSE O’BRIEN (ATTACHMENT)**
   - Jesse provided a very informative presentation on the key considerations for fertilizer use in general and nitrogen use in particular.

3. **WORKING GROUP CHARGE**
   - Julie reviewed the charge of the Working Group:
     
     “ORDERED, that the Fertilizer Ordinance Working Group is hereby established to advise the City Council on an ad hoc basis to regulate the use of fertilizers”

4. **WORK PLAN ELEMENTS**
   a. What data (and resources) do we/have need?
      - Cathy provided a handout (and will also provide in electronic format) of FOCB’s “Nitrogen Fertilizer Ordinance Comparison Chart”. This summary of local ordinance provisions and state regulations for the use of fertilizers includes hyperlinks to relevant documents and derives from several areas along the east coast. FOCB has also developed a running list of considerations for various management practices.
      - Fred discussed his review of the science related to identifying nitrogen loading contributions to coastal waters from residential lawns and turfs. The studies estimating nitrogen loading with land use models generally found more significant contributions from lawns/turf than those relying on actual empirical measurements, which generally concluded that lawns retain most of the nitrogen applied as fertilizer.
      - Jesse provided a handout of “Best Management Practices for the Application of Turf Pesticides and Fertilizers” that he helped develop as part of a committee

   b. Who should be involved in process and how?
      - Chip Osborne will be providing input for the ordinance as will Curtis Bohlen, Director of the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership.
      - Jesse stressed the importance of soliciting input from credentialed professionals affiliated with relevant governmental agencies and universities.
• April suggested contacting the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA) to see if they might be interested in providing input – especially since they recently opened a Portland office.
• Breece suggested including additional residents to allow for broader and more representative participation in the process. The group generally agreed and discussed methods for selecting (advertise in the City’s newsletter) and appointing (perhaps 2) more residents, who April will have to bring before the full Council for consideration and approval.

c. What are other municipalities doing?
• FOCB’s ordinance comparison chart will be a very helpful resource.
• There are also several fertilizer ordinances that have been established for communities on Cape Cod.
• Troy Moon (guest) mentioned that the City of Portland will likely be embarking on a fertilizer ordinance development process in the not-too-distant future.

d. What key issues should we be considering?
• Fred suggested developing “pre-implementation” benchmarks to measure the reduction of nitrogen following ordinance implementation. He referred to water quality sampling conducted by the Friends of Casco Bay and Maine DEP – both of which identified elevated nitrogen concentrations from several of South Portland’s urban streams.
• Cathy suggested that it might be more productive to instead focus on creating an ordinance that supports and “adds teeth” to ongoing education & outreach efforts such as BayScaping, rather than focusing on specific nitrogen sources in stormwater.
• April & Breece both recommended a consideration of enforcement provisions, which Julie suggested will likely come later in the ordinance development process.
• Linden noted that the Council’s intent is to restrict (or ban) synthetic fertilizers. She suggested that much of the public is already moving towards all-organic land care practices and would be well served by a simple but effective ordinance.
• Jesse noted that while all-organic land care is clearly a goal for many residents, banning synthetic fertilizers might result in perceived unintended consequences (i.e., increase in cost and decrease in lawn/turf aesthetics) for others. He again stressed the importance of involving land care professionals and credentialed experts.
• Julie suggested that most of the public will be prepared to transition to all-organic land care given the implementation of the Pesticide Use Ordinance over the past 2 years. She also noted an expectation by the public (and Council) for the fertilizer ordinance to be consistent/compatible with the pesticide ordinance.
• Breece pointed out the increased costs for all-organic land care and noted that the implications of the pesticide ordinance haven’t yet been fully realized. He also noted that
organic-only fertilizers won’t achieve the same results as synthetics and that some residents have higher expectations for green monocultural lawns/turf.

- Cathy suggested finding common points of agreement as we proceed through the ordinance development process.

5. TIMELINE / MEETING SCHEDULE
- Group decided to continue holding the meetings on Wednesdays with a start time of 6PM.
- Next meeting will be held on Wed. 6/26 from 6-7:30 PM with meeting location TBD

6. ADJOURN