

SOUTH PORTLAND PESTICIDES MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

6/12/17 (5-6:30 PM) – COMMUNITY CENTER

ATTENDEES

Residents / Taxpayers	MBPC-Licensed Professionals	Agronomist
Cathy Chapman Bret LeBleu Ann Morrill (Chair)	Justin Nichols	Jesse O'Brien
City Staff	Guests	
Fred Dillon (took notes) Meddy Smith Haley Jaramillo	None	

1. Welcome & Introductions

The PMAC welcomed new member Justin Nichols, Sustainability Office Intern Meddy Smith and Stormwater Intern Haley Jaramillo. Both interns will be providing support for the development of the Education & Outreach Plan.

2. Approved & accepted 5/1/17 Meeting Notes

3. Status Updates

a. Education & Outreach Plan

- CCSWCD currently working on it. FD sent Statement of Work to PMAC for background.

b. SPLT Plant Sale

- SPLT was really pleased with PMAC's presence.
- Distributed 23 soil test kits and all of Friends of Casco Bay's yard signs.
- At least 50% of attendees who stopped by PMAC table were already using organic land care practices; many others were interested in organic practices but weren't sure how to begin.
- Cathy will work with Julie and Meddy to develop list of informational and display materials to include on table for future public events.

c. LD1505

- The Governor's proposed legislation to preempt local pesticide ordinances from being stricter than state regulations received an "ought not to pass" from the Committee on State and Local Government.
- It also catalyzed activism by pro-organic groups and environmentalists.

d. Sarah Neuts Retirement

- Sarah will soon be retiring and members asked if the PMAC could have some involvement in the hiring of her replacement. Fred will inquire.
- On a related matter, some residents have complained that the grass for some City parks is being mowed too short.

4. Test plots for “before/after” benchmarking assessments

- Jesse & Fred will meet with Parks Dept Turf Manager Rick Perruzzi to discuss setting up test plots at Wainwright and possibly some City parks that haven’t received any pesticide treatments recently. The focus will be on turf.
- Throughout the duration of the test period, it will be important to note that chemically dependent turf will appear to get worse before it gets better because building a healthy soil ecosystem takes time.
- Also important to note that tolerance for some weeds will have to increase.
- Suggestion to check on what City of Portland is doing for pesticide treatments at the Riverside Golf Course. (Fred spoke with Kevin Ryan from FB Environmental which has worked recently with the City on golf course improvements. Kevin believes the City is applying pesticides on a rotational basis every 3 years. Fred will follow up with Golf Course Manager Ryan Scott to confirm).
- Suggestion to have some residents volunteer to use their properties as test plots when the private property ordinance provisions become effective in May 2018.

5. Developing table / booth display for community events

- Cathy will work with Julie and Meddy to come up with a list of informational and display materials for upcoming community events.
- Upcoming events to consider include:
 - Willard Fest (7/8/17)
 - Bug Light movies
 - Art in the Park (consider demonstration project)
 - Broadway Gardens events
- Website could also use some improvements, such as feedback section. Improvements will be included as part of Education & Outreach Plan development; in the meantime, Julie and Meddy will explore short term improvements.

6. Other agenda items / topics

- Suggestion to consider partnering with Portland Trails and Friends of Casco Bay on “greening of schools”.
- Suggestion to consider having Mr. & Mrs. Fish do some kind of presentation on environmentally-friendly land care practices.

7. Next meeting Monday 6/12/17 from 5-6:30 at Community Center

8. Adjourn