

SOUTH PORTLAND PEST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

2/5/18 (5-6:30 PM) – COMMUNITY CENTER

ATTENDEES

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

1. Review 1/8/18 meeting notes

- Recap and further discussion of contractor request to use goose deterrent on Texas Instruments property to reduce likelihood of bird/plane collisions and whether it's covered under the ordinance.
 - Since Canadian Geese are federally designated / protected, are they not subject to local regulation?
 - Is goose repellent considered a pesticide under the ordinance?
 - Can goose control be considered an exempt activity under the ordinance due to public health and safety concerns?
 - Do the waiver provisions apply to this situation?
 - Have other deterrence methods been tried (e.g., changing land cover type from turf to woody vegetation)?
 - Emerging consensus that goose repellent is a pesticide that can be used to reduce likelihood of bird/plane collisions by ordinance exemption in the interest of protecting public health.
 - TI's contractor would like determination from City ASAP to plan accordingly.
 - Fred will look into getting a legal interpretation from City's Corporation Counsel ASAP. (Most appropriate for Ann as PMAC Chair to request from City Manager who can then decide if input from Corporation Counsel is justified).
- Recap / discussion of CDBG grant application for demonstration garden
 - P&R Deputy Director Karl Coughlin submitted \$15K "public facilities" application for Bagley Ave / Greenbelt park improvements
 - Grant selection announcements / awards will be made in March & April
- Meeting notes approved as drafted.

2. E&O Campaign Status

- **Logo:** still in process of being finalized; should be ready for PMAC review by early March.
- **Calendar:** Rachel Berger is providing 12 separate water color pieces of artwork for each month.
 - Cathy C is providing accompanying narrative for each month with season-specific recommendations for cultural practices.
 - Cathy will also look into whether the library will distribute the calendars once completed and perhaps include related books / reading list.
- **Web site:** draft should be ready for PMAC review by next meeting.
 - Add list of invasive terrestrial plants that can't be sold and reference / link to [Maine Invasive Species Network](#)
 - Also include Lois Stack's (recently retired from UMaine's Coop Ext) document on "Nonchemical Management of Invasive Plants" (provided by Jesse O).
 - Also include list of invasive insects per Julie R's recent conversation with State Entomologist Dave Strubel.
- Julie requested help developing **recommendations for healthy tree care** – no need to reinvent wheel as many existing resources available:
 - Refer to Mike H's monthly postings which are an excellent existing resource
 - [ANSI Standards for Tree Pruning & Planting](#)
 - Good image resource: [IPM Images](#)
 - [Cornell Trees & Shrubs resources](#) / [UMass Ext Guidelines for Planting Trees & Shrubs](#)

3. Waiver Process

- Julie requested help developing fact sheet for residents who have been granted waivers to apply synthetic pesticides – again no need to reinvent wheel as numerous resources already exist:
 - [MBPC Information for the Public](#)
 - [Maine Coop Ext Home and Garden IPM](#)

4. Opportunities to raise awareness about ordinance start date for private properties (5/1/18)

- Jesse will be providing training at an upcoming (MELNA?) certification meeting in March; he'll make an announcement then.
- Suggestion to include bright green flyer in next tax bill so every resident receives notification.

- Consider having another workshop with Jay / Chip; also consider using local talent (e.g., PMAC committee members).
- Include start date announcement with any related City events – e.g., upcoming Household Hazardous & Electronic Waste Collection events.
- Consider additional opportunities for outreach to land care professionals (though most of the more well-established businesses should know already given significant coverage in news media).
- Write articles / PSAs for local papers: Sentry, Forecaster, PPH, etc. (City Clerk also has media contact list that could be used to broaden distribution)
- Important to maintain positive message in communications (i.e., avoid emphasis on dangers / risks associated with pesticide use)

5. Other Discussion Topics

- We should anticipate that there may be issues / waiver requests related to weed control on impervious surfaces; we should also consider coming up with recommendations for these situations that comply with the ordinance.
- We may also encounter concerns from landowners with properties in neighboring communities that directly abut South Portland (i.e., because of the potential for pests that can't be effectively treated organically in South Portland to spread to properties in adjacent towns).
- Given the lack of punitive measures to address noncompliance with the ordinance, we may want to consider “reading the landscape” to identify potential scofflaws (i.e., properties with pristine / weed free lawns that generally can't be maintained without the use of synthetic pesticides).
- Website review: check on whether PMAC members can access website in advance of March meeting

6. Adjourn

NEXT MEETING: March 5, 2018 from 5-6:30 PM at the Community Center