

**SOUTH PORTLAND PEST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTES
7/6/20 (5-6:30 PM) – BUG LIGHT PARK**

ATTENDEES

Residents / Taxpayers	MBPC-Licensed Professionals	Agronomist
Andrew Capelluti Cathy Chapman Linden Thigpen (absent)	Justin Nichols Todd Robbins	Jesse O'Brien (Chair)
City Staff	Guests	
Fred Dillon (notes)	None	

1. 5/4/20 meeting notes review and approval (ATTACHMENT 1)
 - Approved unanimously

2. Discussion of recommendations to Council (at 9/16/20 workshop) for possible amendments to ordinance per [2019 PMAC report](#)
 - Allowance for preemptive application of Chlorantraniliprole (active ingredient) for grub control on performance turf / athletic fields.
 - PMAC still supports this change – perhaps done through amending ordinance to allow exemption or simply through the existing waiver review process
 - Allowance for targeted use of specific synthetic pesticides by ONLY licensed applicators to [control invasive plants as identified by the Maine Natural Areas Program](#).
 - Consider not limiting it to only licensed applicators since it can be expensive to pay for treatments (min. of \$200)
 - Clarify that waiver would still be required so PMAC could review management plan
 - Concerns that it would result in indiscriminate spreading
 - Concerns with impacts to wildlife – both due to potential unintended consequences from pesticide application and from allowing invasives to dominate an area and outcompete natives resulting in reduced diversity for wildlife habitat; loss of biodiversity a negative
 - Reintroduction of native plants also an important consideration
 - Mechanical removal through the use of heavy equipment (excavator & skid steer) has proven to be effective control method
 - Consider campaign to promote mechanical methods – weed early and often
 - Strong objection to modifying ordinance for allowed use of synthetic pesticides to control invasives
 - Concerns with setting precedent in allowing for synthetics for invasives; could become a slippery slope

- Concerns with co-evolutionary arms race where invasives gradually become resistant to synthetic pesticides (depending on the invasive)
 - Additional flexibility in waiver review requirements to allow for use of Chlorantraniliprole to control grubs on residential lawns until effective alternatives are developed.
 - Strong objections to modifying ordinance to allow flexibility in using synthetics for residential grub control – especially if ordinance isn’t amended to allow flexibility in using synthetics for invasives
 - Maybe consider an allowance for skunk and bird damage
 - Surprisingly, there haven’t been many waiver applications
 - Check with Julie before each PMAC meeting to find out if she’s received and documented any complaints or requests
 - Some residents may have simply become frustrated by the inflexibility of the waiver review process and decided to violate the ordinance by applying synthetics to protect their properties; there’s no easy way to determine the extent of this potential problem
3. Review status of latest draft Fertilizer Ordinance and proposed timeline
- Performance turf: prioritize organic products but also allow synthetics (at least 50% slow release) as needed; total N not to exceed 4 lb/1,000 s.f.
 - New development: may contain P without soil test and soil must be tilled to at least 10” with 6” topsoil containing 5% organic material and pH 6-6.5; starter fertilizer incorporated 2-3” deep with 2 seeding max per year not to exceed 1 lb/1,000 s.f.
 - Re-establishment: may contain P without soil test with starter fertilizer incorporation 2-3” deep except for hydroseeding / overseeding; apps not to exceed 1 lb/1,000 s.f. with 2 lb/1,000 s.f. max
 - All other turf: no fertilizer apps unless recommended by comprehensive soil test within same calendar year and not to exceed recommended app rate; only P-free water soluble fertilizer allowed unless soil test recommends P
 - PMAC questions / comments: why weren’t non-turf areas included?
 - Because the majority of the potential for excess fertilizer use originates from lawns and turf, which comprise a much larger land area than gardens and ornamental landscapes
 - There would also be different BMPs for these different land use types, which would make the ordinance more complex
4. Brief summary of USDA “Healthy Soils Strong Community” grant application submitted recently by Sustainability Office (ATTACHMENT 2)
- Food waste reduction / expand community composting
 - Demonstrate organic land care practices
 - Promote / support creation of organic lawns and gardens
 - PMAC questions / comments: great that it has such a strong focus on soil health / fertility
 - Bills for healthy soils in CT and MA (ref. to [Karen Connelly who heads trade organization](#) and works with Mary Owen at UMass)

5. Other agenda items / discussion topics?

- Is there a campaign we could do to control invasives?
- Why has SMCC been cutting its grass so low and frequently?

6. Adjourn

NEXT MEETING: 8/3/20 from 5-6:30 PM