

SOUTH PORTLAND PEST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

10/1/18 (5-6:30 PM) – COMMUNITY CENTER

ATTENDEES

Residents / Taxpayers	MBPC-Licensed Professionals	Agronomist
Cathy Chapman Ann Morrill (Chair)	Justin Nichols	Jesse O'Brien
City Staff	Guests	
Fred Dillon (notes)		

1. Review, revise or approve 10/1/18 meeting notes (ATTACHMENT)

- Minor revision to note that wood chips under plastic could be problematic.
- Ensuing discussion about difficulty of controlling knotweed; already starting to see regrowth of knotweed at Yerxa.
- Suggestion to place link to Grow Healthy South Portland on City's main page

2. Yerxa Park project status update

a. CDBG grant permitting requirements

- Discussion of NRPA (state) vs. NEPA (federal) requirements; latter more involved but will most likely simply consist of getting "no impact" statements from relevant government agencies.

b. City ordinance requirements

- Concern with the "keeping of farm-type animals" and possibility that amendment may be needed to allow goats for invasives management; will be meeting with Planner and CEO to discuss further.

c. Interpretive signage

- There may be local ordinance hurdles to jump through (primarily related to size)
- Question about ADA requirements

d. Education & outreach: SPCTV video status - [it's on Vimeo](#)

e. Next steps

- Concerns with stormwater from parking lots and Bagley Ave: ensure proper use of appropriate erosion & sediment control practices.

- Consider importance of maintaining vegetated buffers.
- Permitting & signage considerations.
- Ordinance amendment: work with Planner & CEO to amend ordinance to allow goats for invasive plant management.
- Park visioning: citizen input for design starting with work done by Stormwater Intern Addie Halligan.
- Keep focus on invasive plants – try several different approaches.
- Is there a possibility to use inmates for help with knotweed suppression / management?
- Consider involving other community groups to assist with invasive management efforts (e.g., SPLT, Boy Scouts, Garden Clubs, schools, Rotary, etc.)

3. E&O Campaign

a. StonyFIELD event / Bug Light Demo Project

- Distributed lots of calendars, yard signs, and other outreach materials about organic practices at PMAC table.
- Had great partners (MBPC, Maine Cooperative Extension, Friends of Casco Bay, High School Bee Club, etc.) who talked with many people/
- Hopefully got some good publicity for local land care companies who are on board with organic practices.
- Attendees received free food waste countertop bins and signed up for food waste recycling program.
- Ribbon cutting ceremony with good accompanying media coverage.
- MBPC Think First/Spray Last display – Director Meagan Patterson did really great job.
- Biochar discussion: carbon source to help with plant growth that needs to be balanced with other nutrients

b. Next steps

- Julie will work with Jesse and others to organize listening session for landscapers. Intent not to overturn ordinance and replace it with IPM but to learn about problems encountered during first season (e.g., what worked, what didn't). PMAC may use info from this session along with concerns expressed by others to recommend ordinance changes if/as needed.
 - Try to hold it in late Nov / early Dec.

- Landscapers only doing what customers want; opportunity to encourage them to provide info about alternatives.
- Maybe invite City's Rick Perruzzi, SMCC athletic field person, and magnolia scale person.
- Chip is going to do demo area at Bug Light Park: not sure if soil tests have been done yet or where Chip is in process.
- Jesse took soil cores in several places: heavily compacted with sand underneath – soil may not be as bad as initially thought; engineered soil may not be needed.
- Hold another workshop for residents in the spring.

4. Waiver request updates / public comments on ordinance implementation

a. SMCC: June email from Julie about grubs

- Jesse did quick assessment and it doesn't seem too bad yet but if rodents / animals show up it could be problem.
- Need to identify what type of grub it is – UMaine's Clay Kirby is a good resource if needed.
- Threshold is 8-10 per foot but the real issue is turf damage by animals foraging for grubs.
- Not clear what's been done to date.
- Question about whether waiver application needs to be changed to account for new info; maybe include example of completed questionnaire / what needs to be included for info.
- Curative vs. preventative: ordinance prohibits preventative care; need to apply before "breakthrough" occurs, which could be catastrophic for athletic field.
- Need to develop recommendations for what can be done throughout the season to prevent grubs.
- Need to keep a consolidated list of requests and concerns that goes to various municipal staff (Clerk, Julie, Karl).
- Need to develop methodology for assessing level of compliance.
- Have Julie on with oil companies on what they've been doing since restrictions extended to private properties.

b. Bartlett Tree (magnolia scale): waiver form not completed properly and not resubmitted following request from Julie.

- c. Resident question to Julie about pesticide use: elderly resident inquired about using synthetic pesticides to maintain lawn.

5. Status of Arborist for PMAC

- Fred contacted Jon Hanisko with Lucas again with request for involvement; still awaiting reply.
- Jesse called Whitney Tree and was referred to Cape's Tree Warden Todd Robbins and Noah Buehmer 272-7430 from Dirigo Tree (Freeport)

6. Other Discussion Topics

- Follow up on waivers if/as needed.
- Check with Chip on Bug Light.
- Research Farm Bill status.

7. Adjourn – next meeting Mon. 11/1/18 from 4:30-6PM