

**SOUTH PORTLAND PEST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTES
1/4/21 (5-6:30 PM) – ZOOM MEETING**

ATTENDEES

| Residents / Taxpayers | MBPC-Licensed Professionals | Agronomist |
|--|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Andrew Capelluti Alex Redfield Cathy Chapman | Todd Robbins (absent) | Jesse O'Brien (Chair) |
| City Staff | Guests | |
| Julie Rosenbach Fred Dillon (notes) | Jason Batchelor | |

1. Introductions

- Jason B: SoPo native who recently started a landcare business (electric mowing) largely due to creation of the ordinance; SMCC env. science and BS in bio from USM; worked at IDEXX in QC lab for several years before starting his current business
- Used City's GHSP website to build his business and has only done organic pesticide-free landcare in City; also referred to NOFA document (handbook) and is considering getting certified; opted not to get MBPC license due to extent of work and testing that wasn't really applicable to organic landcare

2. Review/amend/approve 12/7/20 PMAC meeting notes (ATTACHMENT)

- Unanimously approved

3. Review Fertilizer Ordinance Outreach Plan (Julie R. – refer to updated spreadsheet)

- Would like LMAC's input and to get the word out in time for upcoming growing season
- 2 aspects: let folks know we passed the ordinance and link it with organic landcare in general
- Also link it to other initiatives in City – bundled under "healthy soils campaign)
- Julie sent out press release but it didn't seem to make much of a splash so we may want to resend and find other venues
 - Sentry
 - City e-newsletter (but not until Clerk returns from maternity leave)
 - Maybe the local show "207"
 - Others?

- Sent letter to landcare companies based on MBPC list, which doesn't include all landcare companies – maybe MELNA too
- Send letter to retailers
- Send letter to excavation contractors – Maine Association of General Contractors
 - There's already been some concerns expressed by excavation contractors who don't want to do it
 - If they have issues they can talk directly to Councilors
 - Important to build in flexibility
- Set up a shared Google folder so folks have access to a bunch of documents related to outreach effort
 - Create contact list for all contractors – landcare, excavation, retailers, etc.
 - Then use as mailing list and craft letters – though they should all be similar or maybe even identical to send a consistent message
- Industry meetings – will be really important to reach out to them soon (e.g., Site One, MELNA, etc.); prefer to do it initially with small group and then do 2nd meeting
- Homeowners Associations are also important – check with Assessing Dept. for list?
 - Intro to landcare, intro to organic land management – public meetings / webinars
- Phase III – lots to do with LMAC involvement – ref to Julie's chart

4. Review draft soil quality requirements notice for new permit projects (ATTACHMENT)

- Briefly discussed due to time constraints – can revisit again next month if needed.

5. Other agenda items / discussion topics?

- Requirement for comprehensive soil test is potentially problematic
 - Jason B: challenge from business point of view – can't be taken until May for N availability
 - Better to collect standard test early in the season that gives yearly amount of N to add
 - There is another test for "potential" N – how much N is available in growing season
 - Jesse and Julie will check with Bruce Hoskins at U. Maine Soil Testing Service for clarification on whether allowing only standard soil test could result in inadvertent over-application of N
 - Alex – standard test is the generally considered best practice for all organic production in Maine
- Ref to Bringing Nature Home by Doug Tallamy – has really good insights (see [Maine Audubon webinar](#))
- No updates on tree ordinance
- Cultivating Community just got a grant to convene folks involved in organic ag to do some E&O work (and it's funded) – maybe can collaborate with SoPo

- NOFA-certified person for LMAC – doesn't need to be SoPo resident – Jesse will review list for Maine
 - Jason B may also become certified in which case he could be considered for LMAC

6. Adjourn

NEXT REMOTE MEETING: 2/1/21 from 5-6:30 PM