

CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE
Pesticide Management Advisory Committee
March 1, 2022
Start time: 6:30PM

Minutes March 1, 2022

Attendance: Carol Laboissoniere, Troy Moon, Jesse O'Brien, Avery Yale Kamila, Karen Snyder, Priscilla Skerry, Erin Ferrell

January 31st Minutes:

Avery motions to approve the January 31st 2022 minutes. Minutes approved unanimously.

White Grubs at NOFA Conference

Avery attended conference and brought information back to share with the PMAC. Research shows that using peonies and wild carrots can be a natural solution. They have done tests on plots of turf grass. Karen suggests keeping this information in a library.

PMAC Annual Report

There are 36 applicator reports as of 3/1/22. Karen set up a spreadsheet for entry data of the applicator reports. This will serve as a template with instructions for future years. The reports are not consistent and many are missing key fields such as target site and target pest. About half of the reports included target pest. Without having target site with target pest, those applications will flag as a violation – Waltham is an example of a large report missing this crucial information. Creating an excel template for applicator reports can be helpful for future reporting.

There are 14 businesses that reported in 2020 but did not report this year. Erin will share a list with Karen and Avery to call those businesses.

PMAC recommendations for annual report:

Many of the recommendations will be the same as the recommendations from the last annual report. Recommendations #2 and #3 will rollover from last year.

Troy recommends banning use of compost that could possibly contain pfas. There is a bill in the state legislature looking to ban the substance. It is important for the committee to read and learn about pfas. Jesse recommends proceeding with caution and leaving the action to the state level. Avery supports Troy's recommendation. Priscilla agrees there is a lot of education that needs to take place. Jesse is concerned about there not being enough compost and Carol agrees. Compost is necessary for the landscape and there needs to be a dual discussion as pfas is in almost everything.

Educational Events:

1. Getting information out about invasive species can be a priority for the PMAC this year. Jesse explained the threat to native species.

2. Review the website and include a library of sorts where information and links can be found related to organic landcare. The committee could filter information and categorize it to be included in the library.
3. Karen recommends roundtable discussions to talk about Brown Tail Moth, Hadlock Field, etc. The Applicator Forum is a good example and was successful with engaged participants. Other municipalities, sustainability coordinators, and pesticide committees would be invited to attend these virtual events. These could be monthly events with an agenda and an engaging speaker.
4. PMAC is invited to table in Post Office Park on April 1st during the Sustainability Office event.
5. There is an Earth Day event picking up trash on the Eastern Prom and they contacted Karen about coordinating an invasive species project. Karen will get more information about this event and share with the Committee.
6. Jesse recommends planning an in-person hands-on event with a homeowners association on responsible lawncare. Troy recommends inviting the Parks Dept to demonstrate using electric lawncare. "Organic Lawncare 101". Troy recommends scheduling it now for the week after Labor Day. Jesse will round up some of his colleagues. This could be an opportunity to highlight the tool library. Maine Hardware and Eldredge should also be invited.

Set date for next meeting:

Tuesday, April 5th 6:30pm.

Topics to discuss: Review Annual Report Draft

Karen motions to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm