

CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE
Pesticide Management Advisory Committee

Minutes January 7, 2020

Members Present: Avery Kamilla, Karen Snyder, Jesse O'Brien, Carol Laboissonniere, Tim Lindsay, Priscilla Skerry

Staff Present: Troy Moon, Ashley Krulik, Jeff Tarling, Matt TenEyck, Alex Marshall, Gene Pierotti

Meeting was called to order at 5PM by Jesse O'Brien.

Welcome and introductions

Parks and Recreation Department Presented Updates

Gene Pierotti - Riverside Golf Course

- Reviewed progress report memo
- 4 years in
- Working toward becoming an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary
- Already using certified organic fertilizers
- Reduced quantities of synthetic pesticides used on putting greens (Bentgrass) by ~50%
- Applied some fungicide on north course fairways
- Effective organic fungicides aren't available yet
- Do yearly soil tests
- Learning in and out of raising bees
- Installed 50 nesting boxes for birds - very successful - added 30 more - tracking eggs, fledglings, etc.
- Golfers haven't complained about increase in weeds

Matt TenEyck - Athletic Fields

- Reviewed PPT presentation
 - Silt seeding
 - Irrigation
 - Dormant seeding
- Potential Future Issues:
 - Grub damage - BT, Japanese Beetle, European Chafer - Acelepryn would work for all three
 - Sod webworm
 - Insufficient irrigation
 - Equipment
 - Staffing
 - Infrastructure

- Soil Modification and Amendments
- Playability standards
- Public perception
- Funding:
 - One rough example - cost increase of \$15,667 to \$109,363 to use organic fertilizer; or \$16,380 to \$57,865 for different products
 - Once soil is healthy, can reduce quantities and use compost
- Planning to use bridge plan with synthetic pesticides and organic products
- Jesse - compost is a soil amendment without guaranteed analysis; organic fertilizer will have a credit from one year to the next (can take years for it to work completely); compost tea is not a recommended fertilizer due to lack of quality control, but it does work in certain scenarios
- Looking to PMAC to help push requests for funding and staff during budget process - use management report to share issues and needs

Jeff Tarling - Trees

- 2019 was first instance of browntail moths since early 2000s
 - Deering Oaks was first instance
 - Injected 12 trees, sprayed 12 trees - similar effectiveness
 - Clipped webs
 - Currently web count is lower than last year
 - Chose product that wouldn't harm beneficial insects
- Emerald Ash Borer
 - Payson Park
 - Borers will take out Ash trees - looking to do preventative treatment to large Ash in Deering Oaks
 - 620 Ash trees on City property - trees along rivers are most important from an ecological standpoint
- Winter Moth
 - Monitoring - parasitic flies working well
- Haven't used RoundUp in a few years in mulch beds around trees
- Invasive plant control:
 - Using contractor in West End - Black Swallowwort (Glyphosate)
 - East End - Japanese Knotweed (mowing)
 - Phragmites in Capisic Pond (mechanically removing)
 - Phragmites along Baxter Blvd (determining solution)
 - Goal is to use mostly mechanical treatments and minimizing Glyphosate use
- Looking at raised planters to protect street trees
- Working on Urban Forestry Analysis with US Forest Service - can look at other cities and determine where we want to go
- Heritage tree ordinance being drafted

Solarizing on Franklin Street

- Creating wildlife meadows across the City - East End School, Eastern Prom
- Using tarps to prep areas for seeding - hoping to keep down tarps for a full year
- Looking into native grasses and plants to increase chances of success

Municipal Pest Management Roundtable in Scarborough Report

- Scarborough started using Acelepryn on athletic fields after one year of organics
- Falmouth doing soil testing and research to establish baseline prior to implementing a pesticide ordinance
- Extensive discussion around issues with weeds on athletic fields

Stonyfield Grant

- Applied for \$5,000 grant - expecting to receive
- Will be used to implement organic practices
- Will designate a field or two to use only organic practices
- Possibility to align celebration with Earth Day 50th Anniversary
- Expect to hear back soon on whether we receive grant

Review and approve minutes from November 5, 2019

- Avery moved to accept, Jesse seconded, all in favor.

Reports

Pesticide Matrix

- Change title from "Pesticide-Free" to "Organic"
- Avery shared with Eldredge and they plan to send any feedback
- Add revision date to bottom
- Share with other municipalities

Applicator Reports

- Due February 1
- Available on website
- Includes tick and mosquito treatments
- Follow up with State for list of licensed applicators that work in Portland area
- Next step: look into how we can collaborate with State Board of Pesticide Control

Next meeting February 4 — meet at 4PM

Future Topics

- How to help make Franklin Street solarizing a success
- City Council report

Adjourn 7:13