

City of Portland

Landcare Management Advisory Committee



Tuesday, April 4, 2023 at 6:30 PM Via Zoom

To submit written public comment on an agenda item, email INSERT_EMAIL_ADDRESS_HERE. Submissions must be received by 12:00 pm the day before the COMMITTEE_NAME meeting to guarantee their inclusion in the agenda packet. All submissions must include the commenter's name and legal address. To help ensure your comment is submitted for the correct item, please include the name of the agenda item (see below).

REMOTE ACCESS INFORMATION:

The City Manager Search Subcommittee will conduct this meeting remotely via Zoom pursuant to the Remote Meeting Policy adopted by the Portland City Council. Allow your computer to install the free Zoom app to get the best meeting experience. If you are not able to attend live either in person or via Zoom, a recording will be available in the [Agenda Center](#) following the meeting.

For public comment via Zoom, you will need to use the "raise your hand" feature. To raise your hand via the telephone, please hit *9. You will be unmuted by the host when it is time for public comment.

<https://portlandmaine-gov.zoom.us/j/88026317311?pwd=YkUycVI3aUdHMXhjZ2dQZVZFd2JzUT09>

1. Review and approve minutes from February 7 and March 7
 - a. March 7 Minutes
 - b. February 7 Minutes
2. Updates from the Sustainability Office
3. No Mow May
 - a. How Did 'No Mow May' Start
4. Landcare event in the fall
5. Next Meeting: DATE
6. Adjournment

CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE
Pesticide Management Advisory Committee
March 7, 2023
Start time: 6:30 PM

Minutes March 7, 2023

Attendance: Troy Moon, Jesse O'Brien, Avery Yale Kamila, Karen Snyder, Carol Laboissonniere, Priscilla Skerry, Erin Ferrell, Noah Tucker
Guest: Gary Fish, Hillary Peterson

Review and Approve February 7th Minutes will be moved to the next meeting.

Unanimously approved to move this to the next meeting.

Presentation Regarding Maine Dept of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry Programs and Resources

by Gary Fish and Hillary Peterson of Maine DACF

Maine DACF is not involved in City policy and is instead a resource for City educational materials. Maine DACF has been a resource to review educational materials created by the Sustainability Office and LMAC. Resources from the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry Programs can be found at maine.gov/dacf/

Committee Discussion

Review outreach efforts to educate the public and land care professionals about the amendments to the ordinance.

Letters are going out to applicators and retailers. Retailers will be given signs that are posted at point of sale. A social media campaign launched on March 7th to inform residents about the ordinance amendments. The office plans to hold a press conference to announce the ordinance and highlight the success of the Parks Dept when weather permits an outdoor event.

Review Draft Annual Report and Vote on Acceptance

There will be no recommended changes to the makeup and structure of the LMAC. Avery recommends an annual review of the reports that come into the City to identify any self reports ordinance violations and any incomplete reports. The committee discussed requiring applicator reports to include the target pest. Jesse and Noah will look into the state requirements and the requirement of reporting target pest vs site.

Vote on the acceptance of the 2022 PMAC Annual Report

Jesse motions to accept the report as is, Carol seconds. The report is accepted unanimously. The report will be shared with the Sustainability and Transportation Committee.

Election for Committee Chair

Nominations were made for both Avery and Jesse. Jesse received the majority of the vote and will be the LMAC Chair March 2023 to 2024.

Discuss Committee Meeting Schedule

The Committee will meet in April and will take the summer off.

Next meeting is April 4th at 6:30pm.

Adjourned at 8:00 PM

CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE
Pesticide Management Advisory Committee
February 7, 2023
Start time: 6:30 PM

Minutes February 7, 2023

Attendance: Troy Moon, Jesse O'Brien, Avery Yale Kamila, Karen Snyder, Carol Laboissonniere, Priscilla Skerry, Erin Ferrell
Guest: Heather Spalding

Review and Approve December 6th Minutes

Minutes approved unanimously.

**Minimizing reliance on Pesticides in Maine Presentation
by Heather Spalding of MOFGA**

Heather of the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners (MOFGA) gave an informative presentation on minimizing pesticide use in Maine. MOFGA is a broad-based community that educates about and advocates for organic agriculture, illuminating its interdependence with a healthy environment, local food production, and thriving communities. Presentation and MOFGA information can be found [here](#).

Update from City staff on Landcare Ordinance and Applicator Reports

The Office received applicator reports from all known applicators in Portland. The Office will be launching an educational campaign surrounding the landcare ordinance amendments going into effect in March 2023. The Office will print educational materials and hold a press conference noting the landcare ordinance amendments going into effect and celebrating the Parks Dept using organic practices. The Office will prepare a draft ordinance report.

Jesse notes wanting to set up times to discuss with other municipalities without landcare ordinances.

Discuss Committee Meeting Schedule

The ordinance requires 5 meetings each year. The Committee will meet February, March, April, and take a break May-August.

Next meeting is March 7th, 2023 at 6:30pm

Adjourned at 8:15 PM

How Did 'No Mow May' Start and What's The Purpose?

- ▶ Origin is in England 2019
- ▶ 2020 Appleton Wisconsin Embraced the Concept
- ▶ And Has Spread Like Wild Fire Across the Nation Since Then
- ▶ The Idea Sprung Due to Concerns of Decreasing Pollinator Habitat
- ▶ Other Proposes:
 - Sustainability, Less Mowing Turf and Less Inputs of Turf
 - A Changing Landscape Aesthetic

**The Bottom Line is That There is Very Little Research
On Short and Long Term Effects of 'No Mow May'
But There is Research**

Lawn Management Alternatives

- ▶ Typical Lawn Grass Species - Fescues, Ryegrass, Bluegrass and others



- ▶ Bee Lawns - 'No Mow May'



- ▶ Urban Herbaceous Meadows



- ▶ Pollinator Garden - Set Aside Ground Native Habitat

- ▶ Bio-Reclamation Vegetation



‘No Mow May’ for a Bee Lawn



Time for a Truce on Weeds

Clover - 'Trifolium' and the Dandelion 'Taraxacum officinale'



Most Lawn Weeds are Non-Native

Some Weeds are Better Than Others for Bumble Bees

- Red Clover - Increases Diversity of Species of Native Bumble Bees



- Dandelion - Are Not the Earliest Flower For Bees, Poor Quality Food for Native Bees, Beneficial Flowers Get Overlooked



Lawn Bee Friendly Plants

- ▶ Clover(s)



- ▶ Self Heal



- ▶ Creeping Thyme



- ▶ Birds-Foot Trefoil



Studies of Mowing High and Less Frequent Have Similar Benefits of No Mow May

Maybe the Tag Line Should be; 'Mow High May, June and July'

University of Wisconsin

'Five Counterintuitive Facts for the Conscientious Lawn Owner - Grow'
Not Mowing Entire Month of May Can Cause Maintenance Problems in June

UConn

1/3 Rule of Mowing, Grass Root Decline, Enough Flowers to be Beneficial

University of Minnesota

Excellent Bee Lawn Planting and Maintaining Guide

Science Direct

To Mow or to Mow less: Lawn Mowing Frequency affects Bee Abundance and
Diversity in Suburban Yards. A Study in Western Massachusetts

UMaine Extension