

City of Portland

Landcare Management Advisory Committee



Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 6:30 PM Via Zoom

To submit written public comment on an agenda item, email landcare@portlandmaine.gov. Submissions must be received by 12:00 pm the day before the LMAC 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/88055171255?pwd=c3dYOGlJZERURFVKSG1wTTThMdlBvUT09>

1. Review and Approve Minutes from May 2nd and August 1st
 - a. May 2nd Minutes
 - b. August 1 Minutes
2. Recap Deering Oaks Event
3. Review and Update Sustainability Office Outreach
4. Future Outreach
5. Updates - legislation and local ordinances
6. Set Next Meeting Date and Adjourn

CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE
Pesticide Management Advisory Committee
May 2, 2023
Start time: 6:30 PM

Minutes May 2, 2023

Attendance: Jesse O'Brien, Avery Yale Kamila, Karen Snyder, Carol Laboissonniere, Priscilla Skerry, Erin Ferrell, Emma Perry

Review and Approve April 4th Minutes

Minutes are Unanimously Approved.

Sustainability Office Updates

Presented By Troy Moon and Emma Perry

The Sustainability Office is actively working on a "Mow Tall Until Fall" campaign to educate residents on an organic approach to lawncare. This campaign focuses on mowing grass at 3-4 inches to encourage roots to grow deeper in the ground. This campaign promotes healthy habitats for pollinators and soil health. The Office will have signs available to give to interested residents.

Emma is working on a virtual lunch and learn series including professional speakers to present on topics that align with the City's landcare ordinance and promoting healthy soils and reduced fertilizer or pesticide usage. Emma is also planning a Fall landcare event in Deering Oaks Park to build upon last year's landcare event.

Troy has followed up with pesticide applications reported in recent weeks and is educating those involved about the requirements and pesticide restrictions in the ordinance.

Field Day Demonstrations

Presented by Jesse O'Brien and Troy Moon

This can be an add-on to the Fall Landcare Event. Electric tool demonstrations from Parks and Rec, Maine Hardware, native plants, organic pest control, active demonstrations, music?, Parks games for kids?, face paint? Audience is Portland homeowners. Parks demonstrate organic land management. Little league involved? Large area with tables spreadout with one table talking about soil testing, aeration, fertilizers, overuse of organic fertilizers, demonstration of the aerator. Channel 6 or 8 has a "What's going on in the weekend" segment to would be helpful to advertise. Current date on hold for the event is September 9th. Rain date of the following weekend.

Discuss Committee Meeting Schedule

The Committee will meet again the first Tuesday in August.

Adjourned at 7:35 PM

CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE
Landcare Management Advisory Committee
August 1, 2023
Start time: 6:30 PM

Minutes August 1, 2023

Attendance: Jesse O'Brien, Melissa Runstrom, Priscilla Skerry, Katie Tims, Emma Perry

Review and Approve May 2nd Minutes

No quorum and cannot approve minutes.

Sustainability Office Updates

Presented By Troy Moon and Emma Perry

The Sustainability Office is actively working on an outreach campaign to educate residents on organic approaches to lawncare. This includes "Mow Tall Until Fall" and a summer landcare webinar series. Rather than encouraging "No Mow May" which has several unintended sometimes negative consequences to healthy lawn care, mowing tall all summer long has many benefits in building healthy soils and lawns. These "lunch and learn" virtual webinars shine a positive light on landcare and important aspects of sustainable lawn management. These webinars just came to an end, but you can watch all three on our website or YouTube channel.

Emma is also planning our annual Fall Landcare event in Deering Oaks Park on September 9th from 10am-12pm. Attendees beyond the Sustainability Office and Portland Parks and Rec will include Wild Seed Project, IPM Specialists from the Maine DEP, MasterGardeners, Broadway Gardens, Cumberland County Soil and Water, and Eldridge Lumber.

The outreach campaign has also included efforts to spread the word via social media, at Farmers Markets and Wayside Programs' Pop-Up Picnics throughout the summer.

Discussion on Fall Landcare Event

The confirmed space is closer to the Little League Field right across from Farmers Market road. Parks demonstrate organic land management with aerator and electric tools. Alternatively, advertise closer to end of farmers market and direct folks down to the field? Important that kids also "get their hands in the soil" and invite an organization that can help provide/demo that. Also compost - invite Garbage to Garden? Cultivating Community? Is there a group that may be able to come talk about water collection and rain barrels? Also if there is separation between tabling

and field demos - maybe make pathway / story walk / signage and educational materials that guides families.

Current date on hold for the event is September 9th. Rain date of the following weekend.

Discuss Committee Meeting Schedule

The Committee will meet again after further discussions about September event.

Adjourned at 7:40 PM