

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