

CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE
Pesticide Management Advisory Committee

Minutes March 11, 2019

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

Staff Present: Troy Moon, Ashley Krulik

Meeting was called to order at 6:24 PM by Troy Moon.

Welcome and introductions

Committee Responsibilities

- Reviewed responsibilities as outlined in the ordinance
- Items of discussion:
 - Waiver process
 - Reporting
 - Need to review exemption language
 - For new development, require higher soil quality from the start

Applicator Roundtable Takeaways

- Review Waynflete and Cheverus athletic field concerns
- Seeding lawns at the wrong time of year poses issues
- Customers do not understand ordinance
- Professionals are not currently charging for consultation time
- Cost to homeowner
- No organic solution for grubs
 - Beneficial nematodes - work 20-30% of the time
 - Milky spore - mixed results
 - Acelepryn - reduced risk pesticide - currently not allowed within ordinance
- Retailers asked to play educational role
- Need to change cultural perception of a "beautiful" lawn
- Ashley to send meeting notes to PMAC
- Need to follow up with applicators

Select Officers and Waiver Committee

- Secretary - Karen Snyder- all in favor, 7-0
- Chair - Jesse O'Brien - all in favor, 7-0
- Waiver Committee - Avery - all in favor, 7-0
 - Tim suggests a weekly waiver committee meeting to react quickly to requests

- Jesse asked that waiver committee share information with entire PMAC
- Meet as needed unless there is a steady stream of waivers

Review Brochure Content

- Keep brochure content simple
- Revise title
- Resources to reference:
 - Maine Yardscaping content - Is Your Lawn Truly Green
 - Beyond Pesticides content
 - Board of Pesticide Control and Extension - Megan Patterson
- Put more detailed information on the Sustainability website
- Request NOFA brochures to handout at events

Retail Point of Sale

- How do we approach retailers to add point of sale signage on land care products
- Retailers moving synthetics higher on shelves

Outreach and Education

- Maine Flower Show seminar
- Green Neighbor Family Fest table - partnering with Stormwater team
- Farmer's Market
- Postcards
 - Insert into existing City mailers? Tax bills, stormwater bills, etc. Rec brochures - Troy/Ashley to reach out to Parks & Recreation.
- Email notification to City email lists - alert - talk to Jessica Grondin
- Neighborhood organization meetings
 - Blind copy PMAC on neighborhood association email
- Landlord association meetings
- Tabling at retailers
- Field Day event
 - Fall is the best time for lawn care
 - Need to educate public on soil quality
 - Possibly partner with South Portland
- Connect with Portland applicators to get everyone on the same page
- Workshop with Handyman equipment
- Workshop for landscape professionals
 - Need to educate professionals on alternative practices
- Outreach to equipment retailers who work with LCOs
 - Wako mower - return clippings
- Social media
 - Mowing right
 - Why to leave the clippings
- Key Messaging:

- Should be focused on the problems that homeowners typically fix with synthetic pesticides
- Preventative care
- Healthy soil

ISA - International Society of Agriculture

- Advanced different land care management practices
- IPM - inspect and treat as needed

Audiences:

- Homeowner
 - DIY
 - People who hire contractors
 - People who do nothing
- Lawn Care Applicators
- Contractors - earth, grassing, irrigation, mowing, sprayers
- Retailers

MOFGA article:

- IPM is never used in contract lawn care, rather applications are made per a schedule throughout the year

Meeting schedule

- First Tuesday of the month @ 6:30pm
- Potentially take the summer off due to busy season

Next meeting: April 2

- Discuss fall event

Motion was made by Troy Moon adjourned the meeting at 8:07 pm.