

MINUTES

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**1 JUNKINS AVENUE
PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
EILEEN DONDERO FOLEY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

3:30 p.m.

July 5, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Steve Miller; Member Barbara McMillan

MEMBERS ABSENT: Vice Chairman MaryAnn Blanchard; Members Allison Tanner, Adrienne Harrison, Samantha Collins; Alternates Ted Jankowski and Nathalie Morison

ALSO PRESENT: Peter Britz, Environmental Planner/Sustainability Coordinator

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I. PESTICIDE SUBCOMMITTEE ITEMS

This subcommittee has met two other times and discussed how we could put together information to provide to the public that describes options for the use of pesticides and fertilizers. This effort was initiated by the City's Policy to utilize organic landscaping practices where the resolution to support that approach also specified that the Conservation Commission would work with the public provide information about options for landscaping practices.

The target audience of this group is mainly residents of the City of Portsmouth who plan to take a do-it-yourself approach to yard maintenance.

One important consideration is that people have different levels of knowledge about the health of their yard, what impacts healthy landscaping, and what the benefits and impacts are of various pesticides and fertilizers.

It is important that the public get a better understanding on how environmental considerations come into play to affect the health of their yard. For instance the amount of sunlight a property gets will have more of an impact than how much fertilizer is used.

The group discussed the approach of putting on a workshop or coming up with a speaker series to educate the public. After more discussion it was decided a speaker series would be the best approach to reach a wider audience.

There was discussion around at least 4 topics:

- 1) Ecology of the landscape and soil health would provide a general overview and include important environmental considerations that would need to be understood. This would be getting at the basis of lawn and yard health

- 2) Pesticides: There are a lot of different pesticides all having different applications and dosages. This can get pretty complicated so this would be an introductory approach to get the basics out about this topic. Also included would be some discussion of unintended downstream impacts.
- 3) Fertilizers: Like pesticides this can get pretty confusing and makes sense to start with the basics and go over what types of fertilizers are available, what is natural and organic and how important quantities are. Also included would be some discussion of unintended downstream impacts.
- 4) Recap of an overall yard health speaker presentation which would best be done outdoors to better engage the audience.

It was discussed that we would speak with prospective speakers and go over this format to get feedback before finalizing the presentations.

Barbara said she would contact cooperative extension, Steve would contact the garden club and peter would contact Peter Rice to over what the City is working on. We plan to meet again on September 13th at 3:30pm

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. ADJOURNMENT

At 4:30 p.m., it was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Izak Gilbo
Planning Department Administrative Clerk