

IPM Committee Meeting Minutes - 9/3/20

In attendance in person at Albemarle Field on the football field in the rain were:

Derek Manion, Justin Traxler, Margaret Doris, Kyle Simpson, Kelly Brown, Commissioner Nicole Banks

- **Review/approve 8/20/20 meeting minutes**

JT had a couple of items re the follow up and what we learned from the pilot program that he would like included. He will send this information to Derek to amend the minutes.

Kelly agreed to take on the tasks of keeping minutes to take a little off of Derek.

- **Discuss IPM Procedures for emergency waiver**

Margaret asked if we need a waiver for turf? What would be an emergency turf situation?

Derek explained that there are some fungi that can occur soon after seed had been germinated and if you do not address it ASAP it can kill the seedling. Pythium disease has happened at Lincoln Warren and others in the past. So this is something we should have a plan in place for if it happens.

- **Review amended language for emergency waivers (attachment)**

Some discussion on the definition of “emergency” and “threatening harm” a turf emergency is not as clear as say wasps, bees or hornets.

Discussion on the process and timeline of Emergency Waivers. Kyle explained that the request for from Park & Rec to HHS and needs signature by Commissioner of HHS Deb Youngblood and then back to P&R. So this can take a little bit of time. Derek would like to streamline and have a template of sorts for this.

- **Review insect and disease emergency waivers (two attachments)**

This looks good. Margaret would like to review more and be clearer

With regard to bees, honeybees in particular. It was suggested that we have the common emergencies and procedures outlines for pests like bees, wasps, non-cicada wasp killers etc..

Derek assured all that they never spray for honeybees. And he had NNHS make up informational signs re cicada wasp killers and that they are not harmful to humans.

All seemed to think the amended waivers are fine with the one caveat to address honeybees.

- **Discuss next steps for IPM**

JT would like to set up a goal for x number of fields to be addressed in a year.

- **Identify and prioritize IPM monitoring sites according to pest thresholds, use and owner information (attachment)**

We all walked the field and looked at the clear line where the field was treated and not treated. It is very clear with the naked eye where the treated area begins and ends. Derek showed all the 25”x 25” square matrix he made to be able to closely monitor the weeds per 5” in square blocked and explained his thoughts as to monitoring and taking pictures. It takes about 1 hour and 15 minutes per site to count weeds and really inspect and complete the report. He showed all the monitoring sheet. Derek and Rob McClary will split the fields up and each do 5 a week and rotate them so they both are getting eyes on them. All agreed that that sheet looks great and the see all and document the status of all is a good idea.

There was much discussion on the time this will take. If seeing 5 a week is too much or too little. Do they all need to be looked at weekly? Or monthly? Or just in the beginning of the season and the end.

JT suggested that some of the fields that are really bad like Oak Hill may not need to be seen and

photographed that often. Some of this is crossing into the area of the plan to address some of the fields that are so bad that dealing with weeds is not the issue.

Nicole felt that it is not as important to set a frequency of visits but to ensure that the data collected is complete and documented and we need to be realistic.

- **Discuss IPM monitoring sheet (attachment)**

All felt it looked great. Sample Monitoring sheet was sent with the agenda for this meeting. Some discussion on photos and storage capacity of the web site for photos.

- **Identify full site acreage and treatment acreage (including percentage)**

Derek has spent a lot of time on google earth capturing site maps and photos to really get a better handle on the size acres of land that is park and rec and of that acreage how much is fields. He will get photos and maps that are cleared with the assistance of JT who already has all the soccer fields mapped out for Newton Girls Soccer. They will collaborate update maps.

- **Begin to monitor sites through fall; document pests**

Derek and Rob will begin monitoring now. It is weeds now and it will be grubs and skunks eating grubs soon enough.

- **Discuss and approve all pesticide treatment options**

All committee members now have the MSDS sheets for the pesticides we just used and typically use. Pylex, Q4 and Spectracide. Margaret asked that we review these annually as some of the information and what is acceptable or not may change. All agreed this is a good idea and Derek will update all with MSDS sheets annually and keep the website updated.

- **Revise abutter letter to determine all yearly site treatment options**

- **Determine timeline (in years) to treat all sites**

Derek thinks 5 years to get all 22 fields currently listed reviewed and inspected and photos taken is reasonable. And that we get to all 18 sites this is @ 4 sites a year so it will take 5 years.

All seem to agree that a forecasting plan is needed but the number of sites a year and a week inspected needs to be at Derek and Rob's discretion as we can plan for this but need to remember that IPM is only a part of Park & Rec. Maintenance. There is mowing, lining, irrigating, ball fields, and of course snow.

Derek suggested that like a CIP plan there should be a city-wide field maintenance plan.

Kelly chimed in and said absolutely. If this committee can help with that effort and to ensure transparency and educate folks as to what we would like to do and hope to do great. But the how it gets done and setting the timetable and determining the day to day duties of the P& R Maintenance division is not for this committee to determine. We need to reply on the Turf Management experts to formulate and carry out the plan. We are to help.

Derek feels by Thanksgiving. Jan has a baseline and a plan for all fields. This will be good information to have before budget season. "There is a lot of work to be done!" All agreed some fields are in terrible shape due to years of neglect. The impact of the pesticide and the pilot program was unbelievable. It was a great return on investment for short money @ \$1500 we had dramatic improvement on this field. We need to look at next steps and making the process easier to get to the other fields next spring.

- Discuss IPM Procedures for second/spot spray pesticide applications

Information must be reposted - notices on the web page - set a date and pick the product. Does not need to be sent to the abutters via a second letter. We will not conduct a second zoom meeting for a second application. We need to review procedures and process to be more efficient.

NEXT MEETING THURSDAY 9/17/20 – will be a conference call again.

Submitted,

Kelly Brown

9/4/2020