

## IPM Meeting Minutes May 4, 2021

In Attendance: Kyle Simpson, Bruce Wenning, Justin Traxler and Derek Mannion

- Minutes –

Minutes for 4/16/2021. There were no edits or changes to the minutes. The minutes were not accepted since a quorum was not present.

- Review next steps for IPM –

- Review TIA Draft Abutter Letter

- JT stated the abutter letter looked good and had several edits. DM stated he would like to add a qr code.

- Review PRC 2021 sites/thresholds

- DM stated this was the file listing three-year timeline with sites alphabetized per year. Year one included 5 sites. Information included whether sites had exceeded the 20% pest population. Of the 5 sites in year one, pest thresholds exceeded 20% for broadleaf weeds at all 5 sites and pest thresholds exceeded 20% for grassy weeds at 4 sites. Two contractors will apply herbicides. Greenhaven Turf Care will apply herbicides at Weeks Field. North Turf will apply herbicides at New Cold Springs, Forte Park, Cabot Park and Warren House.
- JT pointed out that Burr Park had moved from year one to year three. DM stated that after reviewing pictures of fields and counting weeds in individual quadrants, New Cold Springs had a higher importance due to high school athletics as compared to Burr Park which hosts middle school athletics. At NNHS, we were not able to locate a 72-hour window to close fields due to late school sport spring season and summer camp. The IPM timeline is a fluid document and is likely to change year to year. DM stated that weeds for sites are counted from mid-summer to late summer site visit when grassy weeds are present.
- BW suggested reviewing climate data if weed percentages increase after an application. Climate data could enforce the reason why this occurred: too wet, too dry etc. DM mentioned that the field monitoring sheets captured weather information, site issues – clippings etc. Irrigation issues can be added to the sheets. Also greater amount of play could increase field issues.
- DM mentioned that Newton's IPM record keeping is probably the most comprehensive in New England.

- Review of PRC Commission meeting 4/26/2021

- DM stated he presented a power point at the meeting. The presentation consisted of a general ipm overview and the results of our 2020 pilot program. There were 2 questions at the Commission meeting that captured the two sides of pesticide use in the City of Newton:
  - First question asked why we closed fields for 72 when we are not required to. DM stated that Newton's IPM plan exceeds pesticide requirements.
  - Second question asked why not use a soccer field with white clover. Other than the issue with bees, why not use a white clover athletic field. DM stated this was not considered an athletic field. If white clover was the preferred athletic field growing medium, ball parks and professional organizations would be using white clover. White clover poses a decrease in player safety and playability.

- JT asked DM to email the presentation to IPM Committee. JT asked what the general feeling of the Commission meeting was.
- Next Steps on Proposals to Use Pesticides on Public Property
  - DM stated he would email the IPM recommendations to Commissioner Nicole Banks. Commissioner Banks will need to contact the Councilors about the upcoming herbicide application. DM will ask Jonathan Yeo to set-up the zoom meeting.
  - Sheila Butts will email user groups. JT asked about informing environmental groups. DM stated that some IPM Committee members are familiar with those groups and would most likely inform them.

**Next Meeting May 13, 2021**

Respectfully Submitted by Derek Mannion