

IPM Meeting Minutes May 13, 2021

In Attendance: Committee Members Derek Mannion, Jonathan Yeo, Nicole Banks, Margaret Doris, Kyle Simpson, Kelly Brown, Bruce Wenning, Justin Traxler and Robert McClary

At the beginning of the meeting Jonathan Yeo provided an update to the Committee regarding exciting news from the Mayor's presentation of the budget last night. There is a renewed commitment to maintenance of fields. He thanked Commissioner Banks, Derek Mannion and this committee for all the hard work that has gone into this IPM committee.

Derek thanked Jonathan and the team and expressed his gratitude to all for the support and hard work to get to this point. He is excited to see how the plans unfold to improve the quality of the fields.

- Minutes –

No changes or edits to minutes from 5/4/2021. Motion to approve was made by KB and seconded by BW
Review of the minutes from the April 16 meeting was made, no changes or edits. Motion to approve was made by KB and seconded by BW & MD.

- Review next steps for IPM –

- Review IPM FAQ's

- DM pointed out that the biggest change is on the last paragraph on page 2 and the zoom link to the June 3 meeting is now included. It will be laminated and posted with the abutter letter and maps at each of the sites to be treated.
- JT asked about the distribution of information and if we are reaching all the right people? A discussion ensued about the statutory obligations regarding notice pre application. MD pointed what is mandated is all spelled out in the State regulations. She feels that we are not doing anything excessive or overly burdensome. JT pointed out that last year it seemed that there were only @ 5 people that were opposed to the application of pesticides and very interested in IPM. And he wonders if we are targeting the right audience and getting to all interested parties in a city of 90,000? MD feels that the cost of notifying more than required and having an annual meeting via Zoom is a good idea and not excessive. BW shared his experiences in the private sector and working for Mass Audubon there are not that many folks that are interested in this. He feels that the committee has done a phenomenal job with all the communications and the presentation of facts with photos. It is all very professional.
- DM interjected to see if we should table this discussion or add it to a future agenda so we can explore it more and still get through our agenda today. Are annual public meetings needed? Transparency is very important. We must hear all concerns and support for these initiatives and keep them in mind to tweak and improve our work.

- Review abutter letter – new cold springs park (1 of 5)

- DM presented letter and pointed out that the only letter that is different is the Weeks letter. All reviewed and approved of the letter as is. JT asked that in the quantification to move to one decimal point.

- Next steps on Proposals to Use Pesticides on Public Property

- Review site information

DM asked all to review this information sheet and the links to the photos and the spreadsheets that quantify all the site inspections. JT pointed out that the last column needs to be corrected to make sure of the distinction between cumulative totals vs. the annual totals. DM will correct this.

- Review Councilor memo

DM informed all that he wrote this and NB has edited it. There was discussion on how this should be sent to councilors and what should be included. JT suggested that the link to the recent IPM presentation should be included. JY suggest that the memo come from Nicole, Commissioner to the Council Members with a cc to him. DM is going to add the link to the IPM presentation he made to the Park & Rec. Commission last week and make sure that it is up and available on the IPM page on the Newton MA website. JT complimented DM on his presentation.

DM thanked Rob McClary for all his hard work running letters, editing letters and getting them to the print shop and ready to be mailed out.

NB will get the email to the Councilors right away.

- Update City webpage

DM will be updating the website this week he is working with IT at this time to include the presentation and the annual plan.

He again thanked all for the help and participation in the “relentless pursuit of perfection”

JT asked if we will be meeting over the summer? If we should take a hiatus. DM feels that it is important for us to meet in June close to the application time and after for monitoring. He thinks that perhaps in the fall Sept to Dec we could reduce the frequency of meetings to once a month and then in Jan. for back to twice a month in prep for budgeting and planning for the spring.

Next Meeting May 27, 2021

Respectfully submitted by, **Kelly E Brown**