

IPM Meeting Minutes September 30, 2021

In Attendance: Kyle Simpson, Margaret Doris, Justin Traxler, Kelly Brown, Nicole Banks, Rob McClary and Derek Mannion

- Minutes –

All minutes (6/24, 7/22, 8/5, 8/19 and 8/26) were approved.

- Review next steps for IPM –

- Next steps on Proposals to Use Pesticides on Public Property - Update on weeks field: Pylex herbicide application scheduled for 8/27/21
 - JT discussed the TIA weeks field irrigation evaluation. BASF did not answer the weeks field goosegrass question. TIA and their contractor will use solid tines for summer aeration.
 - MD asked if a percentage of grass seed loss was accounted for due to birds, rodents etc. JT replied that the TIA seeding method plants the grass seed into the soil, not at the surface.
 - DM stated germinating grass seed in an athletic field is very challenging when the field does not receive rest. There is less plant material in the same space with the reduction in weeds from the herbicide application. There is more equipment and foot pressure on the remaining turfgrass. Grass seed must try to grow while competing with mowers, turf equipment and foot traffic. It is however a good thing there are much less weeds. Newton has received 25.5 inches of rain since July 1st (July – 11.5”, August 6.25”, September 7.75”). This is more than DM can remember in this timeframe.
 - DM visited 4 of the 5 herbicide locations this week (weeks field, forte park, new cold springs and warren house). He will visit cabot field tomorrow. DM stated weeks field was posted 48 hours prior to the application on 8/27, there was a 72-hour window with no users and the website was updated to reflect a second herbicide application. The results of the second Pylex application at weeks were very good. The goosegrass has turned white. Each of the other four sites had very good results from the herbicide applications. DM encouraged IPM members and non-members to visit and walk these five athletic fields. DM stated he and RM are assessing fields in October and will present the findings to the committee.

Next Meeting October 21, 2021

Respectfully submitted by **Derek Mannion**