

TOWN OF KENNEBUNK
CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE PLANNING COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING 2/1/2016

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

On February 1, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 306 of the Town Hall, Ellen Wolf, Chairman of the Conservation and Open Space Planning Commission for the Town of Kennebunk, called to order the Regular Meeting.

Present: Ellen Wolf, Chair; Nick Branchina, Vice Chair; Jen Shack
Guest: Mat Eddy, Economic Development Director, Town of Kennebunk

Next meeting: Tuesday February 8, 2016 @ 4:00 p.m.

March meetings: Monday March 7, 2016 @ 6:00 p.m.
Monday March 21, 2016 @6:00 p.m.

II. MINUTES

The Chair presented the following Minutes for approval: October 19, 2015

The Minutes of October 19 2015 were accepted as amended.

III. DISCUSSION ABOUT A PROPOSED ORDINANCE

Nine members of the public representing professional Landscapers, Property Managers, Golf Club Grounds Managers and the owner of the Down East Turf Farm came to our meeting.

The Commission welcomed this group and we were very interested in having them participate in our discussion about a proposed Pest Management Ordinance. We introduced ourselves around the table and proceeded with the agenda.

These minutes will label people as either PA (Professional Applicator) or CC (Conservation & Open Space Planning Commission) or ME (Mat Eddy)

PA various: By contacting the Ogunquit Code Officer, it was learned that the enforcement of the new Ordinance banning pesticide use in town was operating only in response to complaints. In addition, Inns, Hotels & Motels were not pleased with the ban because some areas of these places have lots of foot traffic. Organic applications don't work quickly enough for repairs of the landscape in high traffic areas.

ME & CC: Goals are to put together an Ordinance that makes sense to applicators, businesses and the Kennebunk community. It is evident to those involved in town planning that a 'Green Community' is an attraction for newcomers, both new businesses and new residents.

We will not ban anything but we are interested in a long-term educational program that encourages people to make an informed choice about how they understand Pest Management.

We also intend to include applicators that offer an 'organic' option in the Ordinance.

PA various: Maine Board of Pesticide Control (BPC) offers a wealth of information. This Board has been discussing homeowners' education and the inclusion of organic applicators. Synthetic chemicals are tested. Companies cannot put out products that harm people. Ogunquit's mistake was to make an outright ban.

Applicators are trained to understand the chemicals and the safest way to apply them. Two of the applicators present are licensed Master Applicators. One of the applicators present is certified by NOFA as an Organic Landcare Professional and is allowed to use synthetic chemicals on a case by case basis. To convert soil or plants from synthetic chemicals to organic chemicals can take several years. That's why a ban is unrealistic. The Board of Pesticide Control is very helpful.

The PA group requested that the town not get tunnel vision about organic products. Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Salt, & Vinegar can all be toxic if applied improperly. Professional applicators in Maine who use synthetic chemicals must be trained and licensed and earn relicensing through periodic courses and workshops. There are spot inspections by the BPC which also investigates complaints. One suggestion is to rethink CC goals and to concentrate on controlling unlicensed applicators. All synthetic products for Pest Management are regulated by the EPA and the state of Maine.

CC: In response to the question, "What is achieved by requiring a Permit from applicators?" the CC members replied:

We regard the applications of both organic and synthetic chemicals as a public health issue;

A Permit allows us to know what synthetic and organic chemicals are used;

A Permit allows us to act on unlicensed applicators;

A Permit will help COSPC create and implement an ongoing educational program for the Town;

The current Town Policy for town-owned lands will be folded into this Ordinance;

Having a Permit will not interfere with the work of a licensed applicator;

The Permit will be seasonal.

Perhaps businesses that sell Roundup can turn in "logs" of how much is sold so we learn about the prevalence of this product in Kennebunk.

PA various: An education program is more important than legislation. Unlicensed applicators and ignorant homeowners are important issues. One homeowner called an applicator to complain that the PA's motor leaked gas and created dead spots in the

lawn. On arriving, the PA noted that the dead spots lead to a patio in back. The homeowner apologized and admitted to spraying with Roundup & went with a heavy dose thinking that more is better.

ME & CC: Some miscellaneous comments during the discussion are as follows:

We might plan a Business Seminar for Applicators to present their operations. The public would be invited. We could also invite a speaker from the BPC. One concern is that "outsiders" might interrupt that meeting.

RSU21 has had a Pest Management Policy since 1991. It seems they do synthetic applications on fields after school is out for the summer, if needed. There is an appointed IPM manager for the Policy which is a position required by law for the control of pests both in the buildings and outside.

There are EPA recommendations about the storage for applicators. Materials are kept in impermeable containers that are stored under lock & key in well-ventilated areas. These recommendations are not enforced but expectations for implementation is high.

CC members have volunteered for years to test both ocean and river waters in Kennebunk. The data is collected and collated by Maine Healthy Beaches and the Wells Reserve, respectively. Bacteria count in the Kennebunk river in 2015 was unusually high. Septic systems, farms and Storm Water Drainage are the usual suspects. Kennebunk might be eligible to participate in a Federal Storm Water Management System upgrade at the next census.

WRAP-UP WITH APPLICATORS: The Applicators thanked the Commission and Mr. Eddy for welcoming them so warmly. They felt that their opinions and ideas were carefully listened to and added that they are not usually treated with respect at similar meetings.

We thanked them for their time and thoughtful comments and said that we would let them know of any decisions and plans.

IV. ASSIGNMENTS

**Wolf will email results of bacteria tests for the 2015 summer sampling of the Kennebunk River to the applicators at this meeting.

The Commission adjourned its meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Ellen Wolf, Chair

Kennebunk Conservation and Open Space Planning Commission

Minutes Approved: Ellen R Wolf 3/9/16