

Lawn Care WWAC SubCommittee Meeting Minutes December 2, 2009

Members Present:

Randy Eifert
Dan Harris
Tim Marchand
Paul Ristaino
Bob Vogler
Chris Wald
Tim Whiting
Alison Whynot

Staff Present:

Angela LaBrecque

Visitors:

Tim Mueller, Meredith Resident

Agenda:

1. Approve Minutes from the 11/4/09 meeting.
2. Homework Assignments Turned in
3. Work on fact sheet draft.
4. Other business.

Randy Eifert called the meeting held at the Meredith Town Hall Annex to order @ 8:05 am.

The **11/4/09 Lawn Care Subcommittee Meeting Minutes** were approved as drafted.

Homework Assignment Reports:

- **Bob Vogler – Research the impact fertilizer has on native weeds in the lake.**
 - Nitrogen** (1st number): Of the three fertilizer components, it produces the greatest plant growth.
 - Phosphorous** (2nd number): Necessary for plant growth, especially new grass. But is the bad actor when it leaches into the lake. In the lake it produces algae blooms.
 - Potassium** (3rd number): Generally not a problem for the lake, but it can be in several forms. One form is Potassium Chloride and chloride is an issue to water quality.

Bob had e-mailed his research results to all members on 11/17/09.
- **Angela LaBrecque –Quantify Lake Waukegan shorefront development growth over the last 40 to 50 years.**
 - In 1960, 28% of the Meredith property on Lake Waukegan was developed. 51 of the 179 parcels had a livable building.
 - In 2009, 79% of the Meredith property on Lake Waukegan was developed. 142 of the 179 parcels had a livable building.

A shorefront development growth of 2.8 times.
- **Dan Harris – Local Soil Test, do property owners really need to add fertilizer?**
 - Passed out a two page sheet from Turfgrass.
 - Passed around several soil test reports from land in the Lakes Region showing that in general, soils in our area have sufficient phosphorous and don't need fertilizer with phosphorous.
 - Soil tests are easy to do. Dan's business offers soil tests for \$35 each. Agway stores reportedly offers to do them free. While there are many items that could be tested in the soil, Phosphorous and PH level are the two most important to know.
 - New lawns do require fertilizer with Phosphorous until they are established.

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- The Church Landing area used for weddings and other functions might be a good testimonial site. Tim Marchand reported that this area uses organic fertilizer; uses no pesticides, but spot spraying for broadleaf control and is aerated every two weeks to relieve the compaction experienced from the many people trampling on the lawn.

Action Item: Dan Harris and Tim Marchand - Work on wording for a "natural lawn care/no phosphorus pledge" that can be signed by businesses in town.

Randy handed out Toxic Action Center donation/membership envelopes. Randy reminded everyone that the TAC is a non-profit organization funded by donations.

We discussed the deliverables that the Lawn Care Subcommittee wants to achieve. They are:

1. Fact Sheet(s) – Multiple one-page statements about protecting the watershed.
2. Educational document, perhaps a FAQ document that contains landscaping specifics about what people can do to protect the watershed and our environment.
3. Signage to be posted on specific areas, such as “This lawn is organically fertilized.” and “No pesticides are used on this lawn.”.
4. Articles in publications.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 am.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 1/6/10 at 8:00 am in the Town Hall Annex.

Minutes submitted by Bob Vogler.

These minutes were approved as had been updated at the 1/6/10 meeting.