

Lawn Care WWAC SubCommittee Meeting Minutes

January 6, 2010

Members Present:

Vint Choinere
Randy Eifert
Dan Harris
Paul Ristaino
Bob Vogler
Chris Wald
Tim Whiting

Staff Present:

John Edgar
Angela LaBrecque

Visitors:

Agenda:

1. Approve Minutes from the 12/2/09 meeting.
2. Vint's e-mail and update on any new findings in his research.
3. Dan/Tim M – wording for pledge (refer to Taryn's notes for suggested words to use)
4. Update from any other committee members.
5. Work on fact sheet data.
6. Routing of *Gimme Green* and *A Chemical Reaction* DVDs.
7. Paul Tukey NH visit; screening of his movie at PSU...should we attend?
8. Future assignments...someone to spearhead developing lawn signs, letters to the Editor, and other news articles.

Randy Eifert called the meeting held at the Meredith Town Hall Annex to order @ 8:08 am.

The **12/2/09 Lawn Care Subcommittee Meeting Minutes** were approved as had been updated.

Vint Choinere research report:

- Vint is encouraged that going organic will not cost much more than using synthetic fertilizer.
- For the Meredith parks and fields, he plans to go fully organic with no pesticides
- **Action Item: Vint C – Obtain testimonials from other organic only users.**

Pledges:

- Would Rusty McLear agree to signing a no phosphorous, no pesticide pledge for Inn properties?
- The Integrated Pest Management concept does allow for spot spraying of weeds.
- **Action Item: Dan Harris – Set up a meeting with Rusty McLear and Randy Eifert to establish a pledge.**

Fact Sheets:

- Dan Harris reported that he had visited Fort Devins in MA some time ago. Fort Devins is now a huge field with numerous soccer fields. The fields are totally managed organically. Compost is used on the fields to provide the nutrients and over the years of applying the compost the soil has become very deep with the lawn root system also very deep.
- Dan reported that in New Hampshire there is a regulation that no pesticides can be used within 250' of a public water source such as Lake Waukewan and no fertilizer within 25' of the water.
- Regarding Fact Sheets, Randy is targeting to create 2 on Phosphorous and 2 on Pesticides.
- **Action Item: Alison Whynt – Draft some fact sheets and if possible e-mail copies to the Lawn Care subcommittee members before the next meeting.**

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Signage:

- Our goal is to create signs that advertise that the fields/lawns are maintained using organic materials in an attempt to convince homeowners that it is the way to go.
- Vint pointed out that any signs that are intended to be placed on public property such as the parks needs to be as vandalism proof as can be achieved.
- It was suggested that any brochures announcing park activities also include information about the parks using organic means to maintain the fields.

Chris Wald reported that the schools use no phosphorous or pesticides on their fields, but they do use synthetic fertilizers at this time.

Distribute our messages:

- Post on the Meredith website
- Send to the Shoreowners Associations for inclusion in their newsletters.
- Present to the Selectboards.
- Post at the library.
- Dispose any unused fertilizer & pesticides at the Hazardous Day event.

Randy encouraged our attendance at the Feb 10th A Chemical Reaction film at Plymouth State University. Randy indicated he would send out an e-mail as the time approached to see if anyone wanted to carpool to the film.

Lake Winnepesaukee Watershed Meeting:

- John Edgar and Angela Labrecque reported on the Jan 5th meeting of this group composed of Meredith Bay, Paugus Bay & Saunders Bay people.
- They are focusing on reducing phosphorous. The State of NH has set a standard of 7.2 parts per billion for phosphorous in the water, but needs to determine on how to apply this standard.
- John reported that based on Lake Waukegan being a class A lake and with its current levels of Dissolved Oxygen, Lake Waukegan is considered an impaired lake.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:50 am.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 2/3/10 at 8:00 am in the Town Hall Annex.

Minutes submitted by Bob Vogler.

These minutes were approved as had been drafted at the 2/3/10 Lawn Care Sub-committee meeting.