

Energy and Environment Advisory Committee
August 6, 2019
Meeting Minutes

Present: Bill Turner, Don Sanders, Peter Nelson, Carol Ramsey, Toni Weinstein, Andy DeMeo

Excused: Jess Waters

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm

Approval of Minutes

Peter motioned to approve the minutes from July 9 and Don seconded the motion. The minutes were approved without changes.

Weed Control Update

Andy contacted 3 different people for an opinion on weed growth and sidewalk infrastructure. The responses are attached to these minutes.

Don was recently in Portsmouth and based on his observations, it appeared they might allow for some weed growth.

In Rick Malasky's response to the questions sent last month, he suggested that burning might be an option to look into.

The committee has questions about who would do this and how much it would cost. Toni will contact Rick about this.

The committee talked at length about our role and how we should proceed and settled on putting together a recommendation to the Town Council which will contain some of the following:

1. Recommend citizen opt out program for abutters.
2. Recommendation would be to continue to seek alternative methods of treatment.
3. Create a public awareness campaign about Round Up.
4. Let people know about Hazardous Waste Day—encourage recycling on these days.
5. No net increase of the chemical.

As part of the recommendation, we will want to put together data about the amount of chemical used, cost and miles of roadways treated. Toni will work on getting this info from Rick – data from the last 5 years. It would be helpful to

examine other town's records and methods and include these to compare costs, etc.

Greenhouse Gas Inventory

We reviewed the Dover Climate Adaptation Chapter and GHG Assessment. Andy has been in touch with Greg Marles, Facilities Director, and Greg has confirmed that he has all of the data and they will meet in September. Some of the items he is looking for data are stationary fuels , purchased electricity data, fleet info, employee commuting info, wastewater, solid waste, etc. It is a comprehensive list. Andy will start the process and let the committee know how we can assist him. We discussed the idea of a Master Plan chapter. This might be a good future goal, but we can definitely generate a report on current consumption, best practices, etc.

ReVision Energy event

ReVision Energy has a presentation titled "5 Easy steps toward 100% renewable home" which addresses solar, heat pumps, ev charging, battery storage. People will also have the opportunity to test drive a Chevy Volt.. Scheduled for Oct 1, 6:30-8:30pm and they are putting together a flyer for us
Toni will provide waters and cookies.

Exeter is hosting an EV demo day on Sunday September 15 as part of national Drive Electric Week

Peter will get more info about this and see how/if we can participate.

EV Charging Stations

Toni gave an update from meeting with Steve Fournier, including building requirement recommendations for EV and Letter to area businesses for EV
The EV station will be installed at the library. This demonstrates that the Town is leading the way and the committee can use it as an entry point to encourage other businesses to participate. We want downtown Newmarket to become a destination and increasing the density of car charging options helps.
SRPC is working on the 108 corridor and Peter has been working with them on this issue to try to lobby the state to get something located in Newmarket.
Peter will do the research on grant programs including grants that we might be able to apply for and grants and other potential funding options for local businesses to pursue.

Toni will start to put language together for potential future building requirements to recommend to the Planning Board.

Next Meeting: September 3, 2019

Minutes submitted by Toni Weinstein

Aesthetics vs Infrastructure for Weed Management opinions:

1.

If you are specifically referring to weeds in general then you're pretty much correct in that they're more of an aesthetic issue, but most can be managed using a string trimmer if they occur in pavement and / or around town infrastructure. String trimming can eliminate most annual type weeds if done early in the season when they emerge and before their root systems become developed enough to promote regeneration. If string trimming is done later in the season when the roots are established then they will regenerate, but again, it's only an aesthetics issue. If the plants are perennial weeds then string trimming can also work, but it won't kill them.

If the weeds are actually invasive species, like Japanese knotweed, then smothering is your only option to not using herbicides.

I hope this helps answer your questions and I think that Malin and A.J. can provide some other input too.

Doug

Douglas Cygan, Invasive Species Coordinator
New Hampshire Department of Agriculture

2.

I'm not familiar with what kinds of weed control you are doing now in Newmarket – if it's for aesthetics, Doug's suggestions for mechanical trimming are commonly accepted practices for maintenance of developed areas.

In my work with [Nature Groupie](#), we focus on the small group of non-native invasive plants that in many cases threaten ecosystem by outcompeting other plants and taking over natural areas, field edges and even backyard. For these plants, herbicides, including glyphosate, may be used to kill populations of invasive plants that are otherwise very difficult to manage in a cost-effective manner.

Other invasives that may threaten natural areas in Newmarket could be removed by hand (for example, garlic mustard) or by hand tools (glossy buckthorn removed by volunteers with weed wrenches).

Have you talked to Ellen Snyder, of [Ibis Wildlife Consulting](#), who is a resident of Newmarket? She is the stewardship coordinator for the Town of Durham and has experience with a variety of invasive plant management techniques used in the neighboring Town of Durham and may be able to offer perspective about when and why herbicides may be used or needed. Durham has used herbicides on some town properties, but have also used many other techniques to control invasives, in particular around sensitive areas. She may be able to find out how Durham manages other weeds, as she works with the Dept. of Public Works staff.

You may also be interested in the [NH Invasives Academy](#), a 2-day training program on invasive plant management sponsored by UNH Extension that is coming up in September. Cris Blackstone from Newmarket participated last year and may be a resource for your committee.

I hope this helps.

Malin Clyde

3.

I have been out office working in the field for the past few days and I think I was able to read all of the emails on this topic. Weeds in general are a matter of opinion to the person viewing the area. For example dandelions are easy to see, easy for folks to identify and in-turn easy for companies to market products to have property owners get rid of them. Some folks like dandelions and some folks don't. It comes down to a choice. The "weeds" cannot break up your tar driveway, they do not cause cracks to develop in concrete because they do not have the strength and growth power as compared to tree roots.

As a facility manager for several state locations we have to deal with grass and weeds growing in walkways, gardens, asphalt parking, gravel roads and the like. Several years ago our staff made a conscience decision to stop using weed killer products and we use string trimmers as mentioned in the other emails. Weeds left unchecked in some areas can be unsightly and in very rare situations can become a traffic safety issue with sight visibility and fire issues from cigarettes thrown from a vehicle. Our staff string trims weeds on hot days to encourage dieback.

Good Luck with your process. You should expect some push back from residents that expect to see a clean look all of the time. Education and explanation prior to any change in policy will help to avoid some issues. Use of pesticides does have drawbacks for other insects and several of the towns around the seacoast are dealing with the same issues. If you need more information let me know.

A.J.Dupere
Urban Forester
NH Division of Forests and Lands