

Energy and Environment Committee Meeting Minutes May 7, 2019

Committee members present: Carol Ramsey, Peter Nelson, Jess Waters, Don Sanders, Bill Turner, Toni Weinstein

Also present: Rick Malasky, DPW Director & Justin Adams, Swamp Inc

Public Comment - no one from the public was present to speak so public comment was closed at 7:03.

Bill Turner made a motion to approve the minutes of April 2, 2019. Don Sanders seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Weed Control Discussion:

Rick Malasky and Justin Adams presented information on our current curbside weed control program in Newmarket and then took questions from the committee.

Overview: the current curbside weed control program has been in place for as long as Rick has been working for the town— since 1990.

- It has always been contracted out with Swamp Inc. for 4 applications per season.
- The product used is Glyphosate concentrate called Rodeo, which is EPA approved for wetlands applications.
- On average 5-6 gallons of (200 gallons mixed at 2% solution) is used per year.
- Everything goes through the permitting process with DES and the State of NH. They do not spray into catch basins and must keep a certain distance from public wells. Drains are also not treated.
- The spray is applied only on curbing. The curbs are only spot treated, not blanket sprayed.
- We currently treat on approximately 10 linear miles of curbing in town. This has expanded over the years as more sidewalks have been added.
- Aesthetics is an issue. Weeds don't really hurt the infrastructure.

Posting: The permits required for curbside spraying are "Right of Way" permits which do not require posting ahead of time. Swamp Inc gives notice through the DPW.

When they spray, they typically spray heavy traffic areas early in the morning. Typically spray between 8am-2pm

Alternatives:

Why Glyphosate? It's a systemic herbicide. No other product really works in the same way. Other products would need to be applied every 2-3 weeks.

Pulling weeds isn't a possibility

Organic options:

Avenger - citric oil product. a couple of weeks of dead leaves

Dr Earth Final Stop- citric acid

Finalsan - ammoniated soap. Willing to offer this one.

Scythe - pell organic acid.

Fiesta - chelated iron - not able to be used on sidewalks

Sidekick- similar to the Avenger

Horticultural vinegar - 20% acid. Can be harmful to the microorganisms in soil.

Other herbicides have also been used in some communities.

Pre-emergents can't be used on sidewalks.

Community concerns: Opting out is an option for Newmarket residents. Would need to contact DPW for this.

Cost: The Rodeo product currently used costs about \$2.50 per 4 gallon backpack sprayer. The Final Sand alternative would cost approximately \$50.00 per 4 gallon.

Next steps:

Create better system for opting out

Making sure people are informed about the process of spraying

Present to the TC info about the cost and the usefulness of current program and alternatives.

Work on providing accurate information about the program to the community- ie, curbing is what gets sprayed.

Follow up:

Toni:

- Check with Sean Grieg to see if WWTP tests for glyphosate in the water.
- Get copy of the contract with Swamp Inc for Weed control program and mosquito control program.
- Get copy of DES permit.

Jess:

- Contact Sharon Sirois of Dover to ask for updates on their steam program. Work on setting up demo of the steam machine.

Composting - about 27 people per Saturday and about 7-9 people on Wednesdays. This is consistent with the info given to Rick by Mr. Fox. We are currently filling about 1 bin each week.

EV Stations

Bill will discuss with Jon Kiper about possible locations and how this would impact parking in town.

Upcoming meeting schedule:

June 4

July 9

August 6

Submitted by: Toni Weinstein