

PESTICIDE SAFETY ON ISLESBORO (PSI)

Meeting – Friday, May 1, 2020– 3:00 pm, by telephone

MINUTES

Present: Nancy Alexander, Lauren Bruce, Anna Congdon, Linda Gillies (chair), Marilyn Smith

Absent: Helen Elkins, Jennifer West

Linda Gillies called the meeting to order at 3:10 pm.

The minutes for the PSI meeting of March 27, 2020 were approved as written.

Updates

Landscape care – handbook. Linda had circulated a draft of the text in advance of the meeting. Part of the discussion was based on questions sent in response by Marilyn Smith.

- *What is our goal? A quick reference? A complete step by step? We give lots of specifics about some things but not much on others.* Linda said that our goal is to provide useful information to people who want to care for properties without synthetic pesticides. Among the users will be homeowners, caretakers, and professional landscapers.
- *Is this an online document will it be printed and disseminated?* Both, Linda said. When PSI had a plan to hold a big meeting in August, we thought we would give it free to people who attended (one per family). It could also be sold at the Town Office and Island Market, as the local phone book is. A link to the handbook will be on the website in the Healthy Solutions section; people may print it out if they like.

There was consensus that the price of the book should be \$5. Nancy suggested that it could be sold at the Farmer's Market as well as at Island Market and the Town Office. Linda will speak investigate this possibility with people at these venues.

- *Will there be some graphics or photos to break up the copy-heavy information and add visual appeal.* The idea has been to have a simple but light-hearted design, 8 ½ x 11 format, spiral binding. No color, but maybe on colored paper.

As Marilyn Smith, who designed the PSI brochures, is not able to take on the booklet, there was discussion of other talented islanders who might be interested, including Jon Kerr and Anne Bertulli. Linda said that she would approach Anne Bertulli. Committee members suggested that illustrations similar to those in Mollie Katzen's Moosewood cookbooks might be appropriate.

- *Is all of this information really accurate? No footnotes are offered. Some experts might have other opinions.* Linda said that in drafting the text, she looked at many sources and tried to include points found consistently in several of them. As we're trying to keep the booklet brief, she did not include footnotes. She suggested adding a section citing the principal references used.

There was agreement that the booklet should emphasize that the recommendations made are suggestions and that the booklet is not a comprehensive landscaping manual. Linda will make changes to both the title and text accordingly. She will also include a section for references.

Other points made about the booklet were:

- It would be helpful to have “readers” for the draft. Linda said that she had begun putting a list together and would welcome suggestions.
- Although it is unlikely that PSI will be permitted to hold a large August event at which the booklet will be introduced, PSI should plan on making it available this summer. The booklet should be printed and ready by July 1. Perhaps we could organize small discussion groups around it. There could be an article in the July/August issue of IIN.

Website. Linda emphasized that Catherine Demchur-Merry has just begun work on the website. <https://pesticidesafetyonislesboro.com/> There is still much to be done.

- Background. Still to be put together. Linda said that a composite has been suggested – an island view in the center, smaller photographs of birds, bees, a water tap, etc. around the edges. Loony Mahan and Dick Lemke, who is in charge of the Beacon Project calendar, have sent possibilities.

The blue of the present background should be changed to a lighter tone.

- Logo – The logo should be on every website “page.”
- Layout – Members felt that the horizontal lines of text were too long.
- Overall design. Committee members offered to send Linda samples of websites that could be used as prototypes. Other web designers such as Ren Provey and Christian Stolte could be consulted. Linda will talk with Catherine and Anne Bertulli.

Public meetings - To be determined.

Water quality - Linda has been unable to reach staff at the labs she was to contact. To be continued.

Tarratine Golf Course

- Linda will be in touch with John King about an article for the May/June IIN reporting on the Tarratine Club’s decision to join the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program.

Next meeting. The next meeting was scheduled for Friday, May 29 at 3 pm, probably by phone.

Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 3:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gillies

To Do

Linda

- Handbook, Talk with Anne Bertulli about doing the design. Circulate the draft to a small group of “readers” for comment. Investigate possibility of selling the book at the Town Office, Island Market, Farmer’s Market.
- Website. Continue to work on design with Catherine and Anne.
- Well water testing. Once the labs re-open, investigate options.
- Be in touch with John King about an IIN article reporting on the golf course plan.

Draft 5/4/20

C: Janet Anderson, Chloe Joule, Catherine Demchur-Merry