

PESTICIDE SAFETY ON ISLESBORO (PSI)
Meeting – Thursday, June 17 2021– 4:30 pm, by telephone

NOTES

Committee members present: Nancy Alexander, Lauren Bruce, Linda Gillies (chair)
Other participants: Margery Hamlen
Absent: Nancy Alexander, Anna Congdon, Helen Elkins, Marilyn Smith, Jennifer West

As the meeting did not have a quorum, rather than formal minutes, this record of the meeting is in the form of “notes.”

Linda Gillies called the meeting to order at 4:40 pm.

Minutes for meeting of June 4, 2021 – The committee approved the draft minutes (notes).

Order of the agenda. Linda said that because Lauren needed to leave the meeting early, she would change the order of the agenda slightly.

Report on water testing possibility. Linda said that she had contacted Granite State Analytical Services, a water testing laboratory in Derry, New Hampshire discovered by Marilyn Smith back in March 2020. She spoke with Shaunna Palumbo, Office Supervisor, explaining that PSI would like to conduct tests on two or three wells for glyphosate, 2, 4-D and perhaps bifenthrin. Shaunna thought this would be possible; the cost to test a single contaminant is \$75. At her suggestion, Linda followed up with an email outlining PSI’s requirements. Shaunna will respond with a cost estimate and an explanation of the procedures.

Lauren said that she thought that PSI’s water testing initiative was important and that we should discuss it with the Groundwater Protection Committee. Jeri agreed, saying that water is “something that people understand.”

Bills relating to pesticides in the State Legislature. Linda said that two recent bills had come to PSI’s attention.

- LD 155 bans the use of neonicotinoids in the State of Maine. It passed both houses, and on June 11 2021 Governor Mills signed it into law. The bill is said to contain the nation’s strongest restrictions on neonics. Very good news.
- LD 125 bans the spraying of glyphosate for forestry management. The bill has passed, but the word is that the Governor intends to veto it. Many environmental groups are rallying to pressure her to change her mind.

Linda reported that on June 24 Governor Mills happened to call her husband Arch about the possibility of a fundraising event on Islesboro this summer (she had one here when she was running in 2018). Linda took the opportunity to talk with the Governor about LD125 and the dangers of glyphosate. Linda sent the Governor a copy of Carey Gillam’s book, *Whitewash*, a list of the towns in Maine which have banned glyphosate and other chemicals, the PSI booklet, and a

note urging her to sign the bill. Lauren and Jeri thought that PSI should write to her thanking her for her for signing LD 155 and urging her to sign LD 125. They also suggested that one of PSI's "spots" could urge islanders to write to the governor with the same messages.

Town's policy about brown tail moth control. At their meeting on May 27, SB members discussed ways in which the Town could be helpful to islanders in dealing with problems caused by the brown tail moth. As Lauren Bruce is the SB liaison to PSI, they asked her to be in touch with the committee.

The section about brown tail moth in PSI's landscape care booklet has some suggestions, though they are not comprehensive. The committee agreed that Linda would dig deeper into this complicated subject and draft a set of recommendations. Once the committee has reviewed it, she will send it to the SB.

"Spots" to be circulated in July and August. The committee reviewed the list of ideas for "spots" submitted by committee members since PSI's meeting on June 4th. Members agreed that PSI should proceed with this project using a variety of venues – bulletin boards, box holder mailings, etc. In the next week Lauren will recommend which venues would be appropriate for specific messages, and committee members will finalize the messages. Linda will give these to Anne Bertulli, who will create a design that will apply to all "spots." We hope that the circulation of the "spots" will begin the early July.

Next meeting. The committee did not schedule a next meeting.

Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gillies

To Do

- Committee members continue to work on "spots."
- Linda – Secure further information about water testing from Granite State Analytical Services. Contact Groundwater Protection Committee.
- Linda and committee– draft and review recommendations for dealing with the brown tail moth; submit to Town.
- Linda – Investigate mention of Round-up use on "Maine Calling."

C: Janet Anderson, Chloe Joule, Anne Bertulli, John King

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