

PESTICIDE SAFETY ISLESBORO (PSI)

Meeting – Monday, September 16, 2019 – 2:30 pm, Town Office

MINUTES

Present: Lauren Bruce, Linda Gillies, Marilyn Smith, Jennifer West

Absent: Derreth Roberts

By invitation: Jennifer West

Linda Gillies called the meeting to order at 2:35. She point out that just before the meeting Nancy Alexander had texted her that Modern Pest had posted a sign at the ferry landing warning of a recent pesticide application in the area. Lauren Bruce and Jennifer West are Modern Pest customers and said they would contact the company to find out who had ordered the application and what was sprayed.

The minutes for the PSI meeting of April 3, 219 were approved as written.

PSI. The committee welcomed Lauren as the Select Board liaison to PSI. The committee also elected Jennifer West as a PSI member and decided that Linda Gillies would be chair.

Maine Islands Coalition meeting of September 12, 2019. Lauren, Jennifer, and Linda, who attended the meeting, reported that in addition to routine business, the meeting focused on invasive plant species and the Portland pesticide ban, which went into effect in January 2019. Troy Moon, Portland Sustainability Coordinator, provided a useful summary of the ordinance and its implementation.

PSI current activities. It was agreed that the PSI brochures and website had increased pesticide awareness on the island and that articles in the press, particularly about the lawsuits against Monsanto/Bayer in connection with cancer caused by Roundup, has made the general public better informed.

Status of PSI

- There was agreement that PSI should take steps to become an independent standing committee of the Town, rather than a subcommittee of the Tick-borne Disease Prevention Committee. Linda will initiate the process by talking with Select Board chair Arch Gillies and Town Manager Janet Anderson.
- There was agreement that PSI should have more members. Nancy Alexander, Helen Elkins, and Jennifer Hayden were suggested. Linda will contact them.

PSI future activities. All committee members present felt that PSI should put together an ordinance banning the use of synthetic chemicals and fertilizers on Islesboro. Ideally, the ordinance would be ready for presentation to the Town at a public meeting in the first quarter of 2020 and would be put to a Town vote in the spring. The work in the next few weeks will involve:

- Making the case to the Select Board and the Town Manager. Linda to initiate this.
- Enlisting the help of the Town's legal counsel.
- Contacting the Maine Municipal Association to see what help they could give us. Nancy Alexander could assist with this.
- Familiarizing ourselves with ordinances passed by other towns.
- Additional research, particularly about current work on water quality in the Penobscot Bay and the effects of fertilizers. Lauren will contact Friends of Casco Bay; Marilyn will contact Steve Miller and Helen Elkins.

Next meeting. The committee scheduled the next meeting for Monday, September 30th at 2:30 pm in the Town Office. Linda will send an agenda in advance.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gillies

To Do (When new members join, they will be given assignments.)

Lauren Bruce and Jennifer West

- Call Modern Pest to find out who ordered a pesticide application at the ferry landing on September 16th and what chemicals were applied.
- Look at the websites for the Portland Sustainability Office and the South Portland Sustainability Office.
- Look at the list of 29 towns that have passed pesticide ordinances.
- Select several towns to research and divide the work among the PSI committee members.
- Jennifer – Set up a spreadsheet for the information received from committee members.

Linda Gillies

- Have another look at website for Portland Sustainability Office and the South Portland Sustainability Office
- Talk with Arch Gillies and Janet Anderson about the process for making PSI a standing committee of the Town rather than a subcommittee of the T-bDPC.
- Contact Nancy Alexander, Helen Elkins, and Jennifer Hayden about becoming PSI members.
- Prepare agenda for September 30th meeting.

Marilyn Smith

- Look at the websites for the Portland Sustainability Office and the South Portland Sustainability Office.
- Contact Steve Miller at IIT about water quality research in Penobscot Bay.
- Contact Helen Elkins about fertilizers (including “weed & feed” products).

Approved 9/30/19