

ARTICLE 68 WORK GROUP
Meeting of Monday, March 5, 2012, at 11:00 am
Conference Room at 2 Fairgrounds Road

Preliminary Minutes

Attendance: Cormac Collier (11:04 am), Caroline Ellis, Bam LaFarge, Mark Lucas, Wendy McCrae (11:06 am), Seth Rutherford, Lee Saperstein, Ernie Steinauer, and Lucinda Young

Absent: Peter Boyce, Dave Fronzuto, Mike Misurelli, and Richard Ray

Guest: Ken Brasfield

Call to order; Approval of Agenda; Approval of Minutes: Lee Saperstein, Chair *pro tem*, called the meeting to order at 11:00 am; there was a quorum. The draft agenda was approved by acclamation. The Minutes of January 31, 2012, were approved, as amended, by acclamation.

Chair's Announcements; Comments from Work Group Members: Lee Saperstein said that he had no announcements save to say a tremendous thank you to Libby Oldham, Ernie Steinauer, and Lucinda Young, who brought the BMP to the point that it could be discussed at this meeting for final approval.

Nantucket Best Management Practices for Fertilizer Application: Final Consideration: Lucinda Young stated that she had reviewed carefully Libby Oldham's edits and formatting changes to ensure that none of them created a change in substance or meaning. Once she was finished with that task, she asked Ernie Steinauer and Mark Lucas, members of the editing group, to look it over one last time. Ernie Steinauer reviewed it carefully and identified a number of needed editorial changes (typographical errors and misspellings, minor formatting changes, and pagination) along with a few issues that he wanted to discuss with the group.

Most of his concerns had to do with irrigation, which had not been discussed in depth in earlier meetings. His first concern had to do with several comments about depth of watering and whether or not it should extend beyond the root zone. He, Seth Rutherford, and several others discussed the pros and cons of deeper watering and concluded that, for our purposes, advice to saturate the soil to the bottom of the roots would be sufficient. Consequently, most of the existing language on this topic would stay unchanged. Ernie also asked about the use of "smart" moisture probes that might be used to control irrigation flow. Again, the conclusion was that their use required a great deal of sophistication with respect to locating the probes in the field and processing their output in computers, which meant that the simple and existing language identifying probes with a word or two was all that we would provide. The remainder of Ernie's concerns were modest and were accommodated by the group. He promised to incorporate the edits into the document before transmitting it to Lee for distribution to the Work Group.

Mark Lucas also had several concerns, including a separate acknowledgement for the work of Dr. Morris and his group at the University of Connecticut, and they were all also accepted by the group. He supplied a hand-written copy of his changes to Ernie who promised to incorporate them into the draft.

Lee Saperstein, serving as Chair *pro tem*, asked if there were any additional changes to be proposed. Hearing none, he asked if someone would move formally for the adoption of the BMP as a final document ready to be transmitted to the Board of Health. Cormac Collier so moved and Wendy McCrae seconded the motion. By a show of hands, the Group was unanimously in favor of releasing a final document subject to the final editing of Ernie Steinauer. This has been done and the document is now posted on the Town's web site.

The Work Group is reminded that changes to the BMP are still possible but they will need to be submitted to the Board of Health during the Public Hearing procedure.

Educational Tasks: In anticipation of the Group's final meeting, we reviewed the status of educational tasks.

- BMP. It was noted that the BMP should be published by the Town and copies be available to the public. The issue of publication costs and cost recovery was deferred to our next and final meeting.
- "Blue Pages" to be published by the HPIC and the Town. Bam LaFarge reported that the summary points of the BMP have been submitted to Peter Brace, editor. These summary points were copied from the Section Summaries in the BMP. Bam will re-submit them to include the final editing done to the BMP. This item is at no cost to the Work Group because HPIC is in the process of identifying sponsors for the Blue Pages.
- Brochures and Flyers. Caroline Ellis gave us copies of a draft flyer to be given away at Town sites and at garden centers that sell fertilizer. They will also be given to landscapers for distribution to customers. She asked that we review the text carefully for completeness and ease of comprehension. Saperstein suggested that, eventually, it will be formatted to fit on one page, two sides. **ACTION** Please review this document and send comments back to Caroline (carolinequaise@gmail.com).
- Watering and mowing guide. Caroline asked about creating a small card of a size similar to free pocket calendars. It would have a ruler down one side and a brief summary of the regulation in the rest of it. Watering and mowing guidance would be on it also. She was concerned that it be printed on durable but recyclable stock.
- Web pages. It was agreed to advise the Town that a fertilizer web page should carry all of the educational items including the BMP.
- Workshops. It was announced by Cormac Collier that the Nantucket Land Council workshop for March 13 has been advertized but numbers of registrants are low. Members of the Work Group are welcome to attend; seven professors will be presenting material. **ACTION** urge colleagues to attend.

The above educational materials will be provided to the Board of Selectmen in draft form as part of our final report. Broad estimates of costs will be included.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on call but should fall just before Town Meeting, which is on Saturday, March 31st.

Adjourn: At the motion of Wendy McCrae, and with general acclaim as a second, the meeting was adjourned at 12:31 pm.

Lee W. Saperstein, Secretary
March 6, 2012

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