



MAINTENANCE OF SCHOOL GROUNDS AND ATHLETIC FIELDS COMMITTEE – MINUTES

Meeting Type:	Regular Meeting #1
Meeting Location:	Media Center (Rm 306) McConnell Center
Meeting Date:	Monday, September 23, 2019
Meeting Time:	5:30 pm

A. CALL TO ORDER: Board Member Zachary Koehler called a meeting of the Maintenance of School Grounds and Athletic Fields Committee to order on Monday, September 23, 2019 at 5:32 p.m. in the Media Center (Rm 306) of the McConnell Center.

B. ROLL CALL: Present were Dr. Carolyn Mebert, Zachary Koehler, Andrew Wallace, and Superintendent Dr. William Harbron.

C. Citizen's Forum:

Allyson Davis, representative from Non-Toxic Dover. Read out a written statement from Diana Carpinone.

D. AGENDA

a. Review Research Findings:

i. Dr. Mebert presented the following:

1. Had an over the phone and email discussion with Chip Osborne. Discussed that our current lawn and field maintenance program is adequate. Chip Osborne would like to see less full field applications of acelepryn. He understands that in order to get grubs under control that it can be needed.
2. Chip Osborne suggests that in the spring to do a spot checking for grubs in the fields. If it is below an adequate rate, discontinue the blanket application of acelepryn. If grubs return, attempt spot applications to avoid over use.
3. Chip Osborne hopes that with the grubs gone, the district can then work towards a fully organic program and bring the soil to a healthy level. Healthy soil leads to less needs for synthetic insecticide and herbicide treatments.

ii. Zachary Koehler presented the following:

1. Preliminary discussions with John Storer, City of Dover Community Services Director, was enlightening.
2. City of Dover itself is not currently meeting its 100% Organic resolution. Reasons include cost and labor. This is contrary to what was currently believed.
3. Portsmouth is also not following a completely organic program; it is using synthetic herbicides and pesticides. Reason for inability to do 100% organic is the cost.
4. John Storer showed us documentation on RFP that was put out by the city that would follow Chip Osborne's program. Lowest bid was still 3x as expensive than current program costs.



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iii. Andrew Wallace presented the following:

1. Reached out to Portsmouth's Community Services. As of September 23, he had not heard back from them.

b. General Discussion

- i. Mr. Koehler iterated the need to adopt a formal definition of Organic into city statute so there is more finite definition to follow.
- ii. Mr. Wallace brought up the need to talk with Tim Knowles, Operations Manager from C&W to learn what is current field maintenance practices, what is being used, and future plans. Dr. Mebert concurred.
- iii. Mr. Koehler brought up the need to bring Tim Knowles and John Storer into final discussions to get City and School on the same page. Hopes that joint bids could start that would bring down costs and ensure similar field maintenance.
- iv. Mr. Wallace wished to have Chip Osborne at the meeting with Tim Knowles.
- v. Dr. Harbron suggested having Ms. Boston who is the expert on field maintenance at the meeting with Tim Knowles.

c. Next Steps

- i. Set up a meeting with Tim Knowles and Ms. Boston to discuss current field practices.
- ii. Potential follow up meeting with John Storer.
- iii. Reach out to Chip Osborn to hopefully be a part of this meeting. Regardless of if he can make it, more questions may be asked to him.
- iv. Gather more information from vendors that suggest they do 100% organic field maintenance.
- v. Research definitions from Federal or State agencies on organic.

E. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Wallace moved, Mr. Koehler seconded adjourning the meeting at 6:10 PM. **An oral VOTE PASSED 2/0.**