

Ordinance Committee Meeting

Minutes

October 19, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 8:15am.

Present: Councilors Kuhn, King and Ferrante; Town Manager, Nathan Poore; Kimberly Darling, Energy and Sustainability Coordinator; Nancy Lightbody; Conservation Commission Chair; Fred Chase, resident.

Item 1 Approve minutes from previous meeting

Item 2 Discussion on fire pits

There was discussion on creating a “Be a Good Neighbor Guide”. There was consensus to at least start with this sort of education and awareness effort. Nathan Poore suggested that we focus on pushing out info via social media. Andrea Ferrante agreed but also wanted something in writing that can be endorsed by the Fire Department. There was also discussion about having this guideline come from public safety because it may be taken more seriously.

Staff will develop something and bring it to the next meeting.

Item 3 Discussion on pesticides

The Conservation Commission was tasked through the Town Council’s Work Plan in 2016 to research an ordinance that restricts the use of pesticides. The draft Ordinance being discussed also has restrictions on fertilizers. Through their findings, the Commission has found that 29 Maine municipalities have ordinances like these; all of which have been approached. Stakeholders in the development of this Ordinance included businesses, licensed applicators, golf courses, residents and the public in general.

There are items within the Ordinance that would need further clarification when/if this reaches that stage, such as: administration and enforcement, waivers and exemptions and timing.

The Commissions has done and continues to do an enormous amount of education on topics such as this, as well as ticks, and invasive plants. The efforts on invasive plants has happened over 10 years and is showing to be effective. Outreach events include workshops and seminars, brochures, posters and handouts, polling at elections, mailings, and talks by professionals.

The group discussed how to determine the problem of these pesticides and fertilizers in Falmouth. Ways to evaluate could be through water sampling in Casco Bay and rivers, and/or requiring licensed

applicators to register with the Town and report the quantity of products used and how much land they are being applied to in Falmouth each year—they already are required to do this for the State.

Discussions on potential regional efforts and getting State Reps involved.

Consensus amongst Committee is that the Commission will develop a robust education campaign, and work with staff on the concept and implementation of a registry (including data collection) for applicators.

Item 4 Other business

Fred Chase—Concerns with the 2016 Ordinance that established a growth area in West Falmouth. Consensus is that this topic is better suited for the Community Development Committee rather than the Ordinance Committee.

Kuhn—residents have reached out on the following:

1. Air BNB rental
2. Neighbor who has flood lights and is disturbed
3. Why don't we have a post office in Falmouth?
4. Raise awareness on the assets in the Town for the people who live here, high level branding strategy to raise awareness on why to live and work in Falmouth. FEIC is working on this and has been for a little while. Some interest but not sure where and who this goes to.

King—There is a new law on marijuana, Theresa Perce is suggesting we look at it because we may want to create our own ordinance soon. Involves how many people can grow on a lot of land, personal recreational growth and use. King will meet with Amy LaMontange, town staff, to investigate this further.

Item 5 Next meeting date and agenda items:

- a. Fire pit guidelines in a bullet form, and a plan for how it will be rolled out (15-30 minutes)
- b. Sewer ordinance proposal and discussion from Pete Clark (1.5 hours) walking through policy and what is going to be proposed in the ordinance

Wednesday—November 28th, 12-2pm.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15am.