

MUNICIPAL SUSTAINABILITY SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA 2/13/2018

1. Roll Call
2. Mission Statement
3. Adjustments to the Agenda
4. Special Presentations:
 1. (none)
5. Recommendation for Town Council to oppose LD 1853
6. Discussion on top 10 department needs/costs
7. Discussion on LED Conversion
8. Discussion on Recycling/Composting
9. Discussion on non-profit property tax exemption
10. Public Comment
11. Adjournment

Steve,

Again, my apologies for not being in attendance. I have a pet peeve on missing meetings but ultimately have had a situation come up where I need to attend to today after school. With that I have a few thoughts/ideas for the committee and are as follows.

LED Conversion - I don't know if this is something that this committee can address and research to look for future upgrades, though I feel as this community will benefit financially 10-20 years down the road with a conversion to LED. Something that will take a huge initial investment that could be scheduled as phased upgrades. Public areas, to main corridors, to neighborhoods of town.

I know you are aware of the overbearing costs of electricity. I feel this could be coupled with work the Infrastructure committee is doing.

Glass Recycling - It has been a number of years since Millinocket has been able to efficiently recycle glass materials. We fortunately ship our Municipal Solid Waste to an incinerator facility which is more pro that a straight up landfill, though I feel as there could be some more productive ways to handle this. I have had several community members bring this to my attention. I myself have bags of glass jars that I am holding on to so they do not end up in the current system.

Food Bearing Plastics - There are a lot of plastics that are not able to be recycled at our current facility. Many temporary food containers are not abled to be recycled and have to be thrown in the hopper. I believe we used to be able to recycle all of the numbered plastis but do not anymore. I am sure this has to do with cost to some degree but would be something that could be looked into.

Municipal Composting - A thought that has been tossed around. Managing food waste composting to a larger scale and possibly getting some revenue kickback from that. We may have had a conversation about this in the past.

Sincerley,

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Maine Lawmakers Once Again Considering Bill To Overturn Local Control Of Pesticides

Please Contact Members of the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee Today And Urge Opposition To LD 1853

The pesticides industry is taking a slightly different approach to its goal of abolishing Maine's local pesticide ordinances -- this time running a bill through the Maine Legislature's Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (ACF). Language in the bill is slightly different from one that the Legislature's State and Local Governance Committee unanimously rejected in 2017. However, the goal is identical -- stop communities from regulating pesticides. Though the public has yet to receive official notice of a hearing on the new bill, the ACF may consider it this week.

Please contact members of the ACF right away and urge them to put health and local control before pesticide industry profits. Ask them to **oppose LD 1853** - the bill that would prohibit Maine communities from limiting the use of harmful pesticides in order to protect the public.

To get one message to all members of the ACF, you may contact the ACF clerk, Jennifer Hall, by phone at [207-287-1312](tel:207-287-1312) or by email at Jennifer.Hall@Legislature.Maine.gov. Contact information for each ACF member is below.

Please also contact your own legislators and let them know that this horrible bill is under way. [Find contact information for your legislators.](#)

Sponsored by Senator Tom Saviello of Franklin ([207-645-3420](tel:207-645-3420) or [207-287-1505](tel:207-287-1505), Thomas.Saviello@legislature.maine.gov), the euphemistically and oxymoronically titled *Act To Ensure the Safe and Consistent Regulation of Pesticides throughout the State by Providing Exemptions to Municipal Ordinances That Regulate Pesticides*, provides that **municipal ordinances that regulate the use of pesticides do not apply to commercial applicators and spray contracting firms and to private applicators when the private applicators are producing agricultural or horticultural commodities**. In other words - the bill would nullify and preempt local control of pesticides.

This latest effort flies in the face of democracy and decades of thoughtful community organizing across Maine. If enacted into law, the bill would overturn close to 30 established municipal ordinances regulating the use and sale of pesticides, and would preempt adoption of any new pesticide ordinances in Maine.

Please contact members of the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee today and let them know that communities in Maine deserve more respect and should be able to protect themselves from the harmful health, economic and environmental effects of pesticides.

Again, you can get one message to all members of the ACF by contacting the committee clerk, Jennifer Hall, by phone at 207-287-1312 or by email at Jennifer.Hall@Legislature.Maine.gov.

Maine towns with pesticide control ordinances include: Allagash, Amherst, Arrowsic, Brighton Plantation, Brunswick, Castine, Coplin Plantation, Cranberry Isles, Harpswell, Lebanon, Limerick, Limestone, Montville, Newburgh, New Gloucester, New Sweden, Ogunquit, Owl's Head, Portland, Rangeley, Rockland, South Portland, Southport, Standish, Sweden, Waterboro, Wayne, and Wells. People in many more Maine

communities are organizing and hoping to pass strong ordinances to prevent the unnecessary spraying of synthetic pesticides for aesthetic purposes.

Context for concern and action: For many decades, federal and state governments have failed to protect the public from exposure to harmful pesticides. Awareness is growing about the inherent danger of pesticides, yet Maine has witnessed a dramatic increase in the use of pesticides -- a 700% increase in the use by homeowners and lawn and tree care companies over the past two decades. Communities around Maine are tired of waiting for the Environmental Protection Agency and Maine's Board of Pesticides Control to come up with an effective plan so they are taking matters into their own hands and adopting local ordinances restricting the sale and use of pesticides.

- Pesticides have been linked to asthma, cancer, learning disabilities, birth defects, reproductive dysfunction, diabetes, Alzheimer's disease, and liver damage. Children are especially sensitive to pesticide exposure.
- Pesticides also negatively impact wildlife and the environment. Aquatic animals are extremely sensitive to pesticide runoff.
- The U.S. Geological Survey reports that 33% of major aquifers and 50% of shallow wells contain one or more pesticides at detectable levels.
- Maine has no meaningful pesticide spray buffer zones to protect communities from pesticide drift.

Maine communities should be able to decide for themselves whether to limit the use of harmful pesticides in order to protect the public.