



City of Northampton
MASSACHUSETTS

Select Committee on Pesticide Reduction of the Northampton City Council
MINUTES for August 22, 2019

City Council Chambers, Puchalski Municipal Building, 212 Main St., Northampton, MA

Present: Adele Franks, Cynthia Suopis, Katherine Simmons, Councilor Alisa F. Klein, Councilor James Nash

1. Chair Adele Franks called the meeting to order at 10:00AM and announced that the meeting is being recorded.

2. Introduction of Committee members
Welcome to Kate Simmons.

3. Minutes of July 8, 2019
Motion to Approve Minutes-Jim Nash
Second-Alisa Klein
Approved-All
No—None
Abstain—None
July 8, 2019 Minutes Approved.

4. Discussion with Mayor Narkewicz regarding engagement of city departments on Municipal Pesticide use

a. School Committee controls all policy for schools and their property. Mayor will talk to Superintendent of Schools regarding the relationship between City Council and the School Department on the issue of speaking with individuals within the School Department about Pesticide use.

b. Mayor recommends following the protocol of City Services Committee for contacting city departments. City Services Committee coordinates through the Mayor's office. This Select Committee should provide information we are seeking in advance from the departments identified below. The Departments will best determine who to invite to our meeting. The following departments were identified as relevant to our queries: Planning and Sustainability, Department of Public Works, Central Services, School Department and the Health Department.

The Mayor advised the Select Committee to contact Lynn Simmons in his office to coordinate interviews.

5. Discussion of ways to solicit information from city departments

MOTION was made by Jim Nash to conduct department interviews during the Select Committee meetings.
Second-Alisa Klein.



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In Discussion an amendment to the above was proposed by Adele:
The Select Committee would conduct a two-option prioritized process of interviewing. First priority is that department designees would be invited to come to our regularly scheduled September committee meetings for the interviews. If for any reason the interviews cannot be conducted by the end of September, we would go to the second, lower priority option- individual interviews with department heads or their designees outside of our regularly scheduled Select Committee meetings by either or both Cindy and Jim. In all cases, questions would be provided in advance.

Motion to approve amendment to original motion— Adele Franks.

Motion seconded—Jim Nash

Motion Approved as Amended.—All.

No—None

Abstain—None

Motion Approved as Amended—**PASSED.**

The following questions for City Department Heads will be sent to the Mayor's office by the Chair along with the City Council Resolution of the Select Committee:

- a. What pesticides are used in your department?
- b. How much is used each year?
- c. Where and how are they applied?
- d. To what extent is your department using fewer pesticides? What are those products/techniques and how are they used and where?
- e. What factors influence your decision on whether or not to use a pesticide?

The above named departments will be invited to either a September 9 or September 23 meeting to provide answers to the above the questions.

6. Discussion of ways to invite detailed comment from the public and to solicit information from experts

The Select Committee reviewed Public Comment protocol and ideas for inviting interested parties to provide comment on the subject. The outcome of the discussion was to ensure a vehicle for public and invited comments is built into the process after department interviews are conducted. (See Motion below for Public Forum Event).

7. Review of committee member assignments and plans

Committee members were comfortable with their assigned duties.



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Schedule of future meetings was determined. The Select Committee will meet on September 9, 23, October 7, 21, November 4, 18, December 2, 16. All meetings will be from 10AM to 12PM at a location to be announced.

A tentative time frame for department interviews was determined to be during the September 9 and 23 meetings and would require 30-45 minutes each, depending on the department.

MOTION for Public Forum

In October the Select Committee will host 2 public forums for specific people and the general public to offer relevant information in oral and written form as they wish. At a future meeting an invitation list will be created.

These events are tentatively scheduled for October 16 and 23 from 7:00PM to 9:00PM at a location to be determined.

MOTION—Adele Franks

SECOND MOTION—Alisa Klein

MOTION APPROVED—by all

NO—None

ABSTAIN—NONE

PASSED

8. New Business

There was no new business

9. Adjourn

MOTION to close the meeting by Adele Franks

SECOND MOTION—Cynthia Suopis

MOTION APPROVED—By all

NO-NONE

ABSTAIN-NONE

PASSED

Close meeting. 12:10

Next meeting is September 9 at 10:00 am in City Council Chambers