July 10, 2019

Ethan Vandermark

Subject: Question and Concern

Dear Mayor, City Council, and DPW,

I am a resident of Northampton and owner of Nourish Cafe.
I just want to say I am not contacting you to be an annoying voice in your ear or blame anyone, I have absolute respect for those that work for the city of Northampton, I think that there are many hard working people that go unrecognized and unappreciated. Thank you for your hard work and dedication.

I am contacting you as a concerned resident, business owner, and new father who is writing to my city about a concern.
I was informed that the DPW has been spraying "Rodeo" for weed control, I am assuming for some time now. My question is, why is this chemical being used and have you thought about using a less harmful option?
I am aware that this herbicide can have an effect on the environment and human health. I have a 2 year old daughter and a baby boy due in August and I have to say it makes me nervous knowing this harmful chemical is being sprayed in and around our city.
I'll keep it short. I encourage and support you in finding an alternative to this environmentally harmful and toxic herbicide. I do believe there are less harmful ways to fight off weeds. I think it is important we do our best to keep our soil, air, and water clean and free of chemicals, so that our children have a healthy and safe place to live. I realize this may be a very common practice for city's, but maybe we could be an example for other city's, and ban Rodeo and chemicals like it from our town.

I hope you hear me with my concern, thank you for listening.
I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Ethan Vandermark
Nourish Wellness Cafe & Juice Bar
10 Bridge St.
Northampton, MA 01060

October 3 2019

John Berryhill

Subject: Re: Pesticide Reduction Public Forums Announcement

Hi Alisa,

I won't be able to make this meeting, but wanted to let you know that we have found a natural glyphosate alternative that we are thrilled with at Smith. The product is W.O.W. by Ecomight. I tried it with a great deal of skepticism that it would work and was shocked to find it worked as well as round up on most weeds. It is all we use now and I am trying to spread the word.

John
--

John Berryhill
Landscape Curator
Botanic Garden of Smith College

October 20, 2019

Anne Maynard

Subject: pesticide reduction committee

dear committee:

thank you for all the important hard work related to the pesticide reduction committee. i strongly support and encourage the city of northampton to work towards reducing and eliminating the use of harmful toxic poisons in the city. i hope the city of northampton will recognize the beloved community gardens as unique land and protect it from any/all chemicals (glyphosate, etc) proposed to control japanese knotweed and alternatively opt for effective non-chemical methods (goats, sun-blocking, mechanical removal, etc).

thank you for the consideration.

sincerely,
anne maynard
northampton, ma

October 21, 2019

Ellen Carlino

Subject: Comment

Thank you so much for an opportunity to contribute to the discussion. I heard a lot of really wonderful points from different angles at the meeting last week. And I appreciated the manner in which people discussed this controversial issue.

The only thing I would add is that, the first order of business is to

DO KNOW HARM!

Farmers are in the business of feeding us. To keep us alive!. it doesn't make sense that they would be working so hard to grow food that is poisoning us and making us sick.

Stop spraying! especially the long-lasting chemicals. And let's invest our energy in learning healthy practices. We dont have to reinvent the wheel.

Respectfully,
-- ellen carlino

Ellen J Carlino, LICSW
Integrative Psychotherapy

October 21, 2019

Dr. Kate Klemer

Subject: Going to the 10:00 mtg today

Hi there, I Wanted to share this presentation I made for village hill as a functional nutrition doctor of chiropractic a few years ago.

My house faces the gardens, I have been trying to shift things locally in Village Hill. Not so sure I made much progress in that as apartments and most likely condos, keep spraying the lawns.

Recently last spring a neighbor said she saw folks spraying the new area where they are building a cohousing community. Not sure if that's true.

Now the knot weed worry in the garden 50 feet from my house is the latest roundup target.

I support a pesticide ban in Northampton.
There is a lot of science based evidence that it's a bad idea. Keeping weed free lawns so the look a certain way is not worth the health risks of using roundup. Using pesticides to grow food is another bad idea... I walk by the knotweed next to the community gardens everyday and see folks trying things to stop the growth of knotweed that seem to be working.

Please use this presentation if you want anytime.

Best wishes, Kate

Pesticides the Science.pdf

October 21, 2019

Jessica Tanner

Subject: Please Focus on Pesticide Free Options when Dealing with Invasive Plants in Northampton

Dear Members of the City Council Select Committee on Pesticide Reduction,

I live across from the Northampton Community Gardens and have two children, aged 6 and 4. I would like the city to be flexible enough to be open to non pesticide options for dealing with the Japanese knotweed, as well as other weed plants. I have heard a few people voice that pesticides are the only option for knotweed but I have seen evidence to the contrary and think that there are some effective alternatives if they are given a chance, including:

Using goats to eat the knotweed.

Mowing the knotweed often, or cutting it down by hand, and replacing it with other plants.

Allowing native plants to grow in and push out the knotweed.

Covering the knotweed with a flexible tarp like material.

Using a tool like Root Wave from England to kill the plant from the roots up.

I am willing to volunteer my time to cut down knotweed on a regular basis, or to get a Root Wave tool delivered to the U.S. to use on the knotweed. Thank you for the work that you are doing, and for considering my suggestions.

Sincerely,

Jessica Tanner
Ward 2 Resident

October 25, 2019

Deb Friedman

Subject: community knotweed removal

Hi,

With regard to eliminating glyphosate use in Northampton, someone suggested I send this suggestion to you. Why not have a community-wide knotweed event every spring (similar to river clean ups). Get folks to sign up to go out on a particular day or days and cut down knotweed on public lands (such as next to the bike path etc). As I understand it, constantly cutting it will greatly weaken it even if it's not possible to eradicate it completely. (Glyphosate won't eradicate it completely either.)

Sincerely,
Deb Friedman

October 21, 2019

Leonard Cohen, PhD

Glyphosate and Cancer

1) Glyphosate , the principle ingredient of Round-up, is a phosphate derivative of a common amino acid, which blocks pathways to more complex amino acids , proteins and hormones essential to plant growth.
2) It is a non-selective herbicide, that is, it kills all green plants: weeds , invasive and beneficial crops , by blocking a pathway present only in green plants and certain bacteria and not in mammals.

3) Though in use since the 1970's ,its use increased drastically with the introduction of genetically modified variants of corn, soy and cotton, which were resistant to the effects of glyphosate. As a result it is ,presently, the most commonly used herbicide in the world with about 750 varieties presently on the market.

4) Regarding its health effects in humans, in 2015 the IARC ,a highly respected branch of the World Health Organization, reviewed the publicly available evidence to determine the potential carcinogenicity of glyphosate and found it to be group 2A "probable carcinogen" .

5) Following this report, which understandably caused great controversy, the US and Canadian EPA's did a review and found that glyphosate had no carcinogenic effects.

6) This discrepancy was soon found to be based on the fact that the EPA study included non peer -reviewed data presented by the company(Monsanto(Bayer) to the EPA during its application process. The IARC study ,on the other hand ,used only peer-reviewed data. Not surprisingly ,Monsanto's data came out supporting a beneficial effect of glyphosate.

7) A scathing report in La Monde in France, indicated that Monsanto had launched an illicit campaign to discredit the authors of the IARC report and indeed tried to intimidate them. In addition, there were some indications that Monsanto may have had undue influence on the EPA decision.

8) Looking over the the peer- reviewed literature, it appears that glyphosate , at the concentrations used, is not a direct carcinogen but my be an indirect one ,namely, the it requires further metabolism or that it acts to promote mutations leading to cancer.

9) Some, but not all, human studies in field workers and groundskeepers, exposed to high levels of glyphosate have shown higher levels of Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma(NHL).

10) Based largely on the IARC report ,there are presently 17,000 lawsuits pending around the world claiming that glyphosate exposure had harmful health effects including cancer. Probably many of these may be trivial others may be justified.

11)Also based on the IARC report, glyphosate use has been banned in Miami, Austin TX and Seattle, and there is a *de facto* ban in Boston.These bans were based on the Precautionary Principle, which holds that if a substance is potentially dangerous it should be banned until full proof is available rather than wait for what could be months or years.

12) Regarding the matter at hand i.e., the removal of weeds from City of Northampton municipal ball fields, rail trails or parks and ridding City-owned conservation areas of invasive plants, there is no easy solution. Hand-pulling and other labor-intensive methods may prove unrealistic, and other herbicides on the market are equal to or worse than, glyphosate. One suggested approach would be the judicious use of glyphosate , following labor intensive methods, using proper safety equipment and

disposal in combination with precautionary signage around the treated areas. The other , less attractive alternative, is to get used to weedy fields , rail trails and lots of invasive plants crowding out local varieties on conservation areas.

Presented to the Northampton City Council, Select Committee on Pesticide Reduction, on Oct 21 2019 by

Leonard Cohen, PhD. (Editor, *Nutrition and Cancer: An International Journal)*
4 Bixby Court
Northampton MA

October 21, 2019
Mary Jo Stanley
Subject: I missed this morning's meeting

Hi Adele,

I hope you don't mind my using your personal email address for City business.

I had hoped to attend the Pesticide Reduction Committee meeting this morning but was unable.

Mostly I wanted to ascertain if the committee is already well aware of TURI and the services and grants they offer to communities and municipalities to reduce toxic chemicals.

I also wanted to express my personal perspectives/research understandings on pesticides and concerns about the many ways they and other dangerous chemicals are mishandled. One concern I have is what is overlooked in most studies and reports: that few people are studying the combined effects of all the many toxic chemicals we are exposed to on a daily basis. A major concern addressed by city school board candidates the other night was how many children in the school system now require some sort of special assistance. I don't know the science of why so many children have behavioral and educational and physical disturbances, but the increase of toxic chemicals may very well be a factor, as it is in the decline of bird and bee and frogs and nameless other populations. From my viewpoint, this is the tip of a horrendous iceberg that humanity faces, along with climate change; one that I would like to see the City rigorously attend to. Both the municipality and all those who own or care for land in the city.

The link for TURI is below.

And the woman to contact there about community grants is Felice Kincannon.

FeliceK@turi.org

Thank you for your work on this important issue.

Mary Jo

About / TURI - TURI - Toxics Use Reduction Institute

PUBLIC COMMENTS SUBMITTED TO SELECT COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE REDUCTION

November 12, 2019

Ruth Ever

Subject: Pesticide Use in Northampton

Dear Alisa,
I am writing you as one of your constituents, to let you know that I strongly support your initiative to reduce and eliminate pesticides on city property. I believe that anything we can do to get pesticides off the earth is a good thing for us and all living beings on the planet.
Thank you for taking the initiative in this and please know that you and city council have my full support!
Ruth Ever
17 Chestnut Ave.
Leeds MA

November 12, 2019

Anne-Louise Smallen

Subject: Re: Transition to Organic Management Ordinance in Northampton

Dear Alisa thank you very much for this report and congratulations on deciding to recommend a transition to organic management of city lands. I know it is a hot subject and not easy to implement. However it am not understanding why the committee has not recommended to ensure that glyphosate would no longer be used on conservation lands and in the Community Garden. I know the Community Garden is a hot topic with deep divisions between gardeners.

However with the effects of glyphosate on pollinators, monarch butterflies and the water table, with the fact that it is in proximity to a park where dog owners walk their pets and with the fact that a large fraction of us gardeners got involved in this issue because we could not understand or accept that the Community Garden rather than go toward becoming organic was instead defending the use of glyphosate on its gardens, I do not understand why it is not included in the recommendation.

I intend to be at the meeting tonight and hope to gain clarity on that subject. Anything you can share would be welcome. I know the board of the Community Gardens is supporting the use of glyphosate to eradicate the japanese knotweed on the other side of the gardens but despite my respect for their hard and successful volunteer work, they are on the wrong side of history on that topic and should bot be indulged.

Thanks again. I see this decision as a good step but would like to include the gardens in it.

Anne-Louise Smallen