

Minutes of the January 19, 2011 Pesticide Awareness Committee.

Present: Don Bugbee, Phil Neaton, George James, Lauralyn Lewis, Rob Linde

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

After all of the Committee members introduced themselves at this initial meeting, Phil Neaton initiated the discussions by explaining the purpose of the Committee. That is, to examine the field maintenance methods used on town owned fields and try to bring those methods into compliance with CT State Legislation. (Reference Attachment 1)

Phil Neaton explained the current procedures and types of applications used for field maintenance at Town Woods Park. Areas include the playing fields, the common areas, the playground, baseball and softball infields and the parking lot. He also provided a memo from the University of Florida, titled, Herbicides: How Toxic Are They? (Reference Attachment 2)

Don Bugbee explained the process used when field applications are scheduled. The Park is closed to the public the day of the applications and for a 24 hour period after the application is completed. All of the groups scheduled to use the Park are notified by e-mail that the Park will be closed, the Old Lyme Parks and Recreation webpage and the Town of Old Lyme website main page are updated with the closure information. The gate to the Park remains locked until the 24 hour period is over.

Lauralyn Lewis initiated discussions about the current District 18 field maintenance requirements. She also discussed, and provided a copy of, a memo from the Conservation Commission to the Board of Selectmen. (Reference Attachment 3) This memo is a report on the visit to Branford to review their current methods of field maintenance.

The committee then commenced lengthy discussions about the subject and processes. In general, the discussions included laws, legislation, Manchester and Watertown DEP Pilot Projects, a DVD showing what the towns of Granby and Chesire are currently doing, substantial testing of synthetic products, testing of organic products, the differences between fertilizers and pesticides, well testing and product effects on the water table.

Discussions were initiated as how to inform the public and/or get input from the public on this subject. It was decided that a statement would be provided, to the various groups using the Park, briefly describing the Committee's intentions. Don Bugbee will provide the initial statement for the Committee's review.

The next meeting was scheduled for February 24, 2011 at 5:00 pm in the Old Lyme Town Hall. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Don Bugbee*

