

COUNTRYSIDE PROPRIETARY
GROUNDS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Special Meeting on Herbicide Use in CountrySide: March 13, 2024

1) CALL TO ORDER

- Meeting Called to Order via remote attendance at 7:02PM.
- Attendees: Fredrik Wallin (Chair), Pamela McGraw (Oakridge), Diane Blunt (Welbourne), James Krips (Rokeby), Ron McNulty (Morven)Tim Pope (PMP), Matt O'Donnell (Advantage Landscape), Dave Carver (Advantage Landscape) , Beth Sastre (Loudoun County Extension Office Representative).
- Absent: Terri Hess (Foxfield), Timothy Shamble (Oatlands).

2) COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATION

- Approval of the Agenda. Motion to approve by Pamela, Ron seconded the motion. Agenda approved unanimously.

3) RESIDENT & GUEST PARTICIPATION (3-minute limit per speaker)

- Alexandra Badley
- Sam Wilson
- Penny Francke
- Annabelle Markey
- Christina Farver
- Beth Sastre – Loudoun County EO Representative.
- Dave Carver & Matt O'Donnell – Advantage Landscaping

4) INFORMATIVE DISCUSSION

- Information from Beth Sastre – Loudoun County Extension Office Representative.
- Information from Advantage Landscaping

Residents addressed the committee regarding a multitude of issues:

-Concerns about the effects of herbicides on animal health and the environment.

-The importance of preserving wildlife and water quality, expressing concerns over the effects of stormwater runoff and potential toxicity of herbicides and pesticides.

-Concerns were expressed about the continued use of pesticides and herbicides due to health risks.

- Protecting the ecosystem, including the Potomac River, and the declining population of pollinators.
- The effect of pesticides on pets.

Residents urged the committee to not resume pre-emergent and broadleaf treatment on turf areas.

- Beth Sastre, commercial horticulturist, Loudoun County EO contributed with her expertise and raised concerns about possible plant resistance when using glufosinate. She emphasized the importance of maintaining healthy soil for healthy water, highlighting the need for diversity and the potential benefits of using natural, organic methods. Beth also recognized that HOAs, in particular, face demands from residents with high standards for the aesthetic appearance of lawns and common areas. An organic approach is expensive as the number of applications/sprays might increase and this does not mean the organic options would be without their own detrimental effects on other species.
- Increasing the use of mulching and leaves for soil enrichment
- Offer top dressing with compost
- Some chemicals can persist in the soil, the organic matter and microbes can break them down. However, the exact timeframe for this process can vary.

Dave Carver and Matt O'Donnell from Advantage Landscape emphasized their commitment to environmental safety, human-animal interaction, and community expectations, and discussed their shift towards all liquid applications and the use of compost. They mentioned that Advantage can mulch leaves and grass clippings but cannot process the specific leaves vacuumed up within CountrySide into mulch due to a lack of equipment and additional expense. Advantage also confirmed that they do offer top dressing with compost

- Pamela motioned to not resume pre-emergent and broadleaf treatment on turf areas for the upcoming season, motion seconded by Diane. Motion approved unanimously.

5) ADJOURN

- Pamela motioned to adjourn, motion seconded by Ron. Motion approved unanimously. Meeting Adjourned at 8:19 PM
- Next regular meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held remotely at
7:00 PM on Wednesday, March 20, 2024

