York Conservation Commission Notes from 8/7/2019

Attendees:

Mike Morgillo, Laura Brogan, Stephanie Byrne, Cameron Frecker, Alan McDonald

Unable to attend Stephen Arsenault

Notes on key items:

1. Several members of the community representing professional managers of lawn care, landscapes and golf courses attended.
2. The community provided significant valuable information to help with the progress to draft a town of York Pesticide ordinance.
3. Pat Rocheleau provided much background on agreements and understanding with the planning board and the conservation commission from 1995. The information described the requirements followed by licensed professional firms that apply products to manage lawn and turf care as well as pest control. The requirements direct the usage to be as limited as possible to effectively deal with the management need at hand in a safe manner. He provided information on water testing being completed on an annual basis and the significant monitoring processes in place. Pat agreed to send more information to help compose educational materials.
4. Other members provided consistent information and drove consensus that the ordinance should NOT apply to licensed firms that are already heavily regulated by state and town laws.
5. The entire group discussed common goals of the ordinance which include:
   a. Protect the health of the community from exposure to chemicals or organic products that many cause personal absorption of hazardous products.
   b. Unlicensed individuals are in grave need of education regarding products being purchased and applied to properties without appropriate knowledge. Education is a key goal of implementing this ordinance.
6. Information was discussed that demonstrated that public schools and playgrounds are already subject to rigorous regulations.
7. Jessie O’Brien provided information on an educational meeting, including pesticides, to be held on Sept 12. Members of the conservation commission that are available plan to attend.
8. Laura Brogan has meet with Leslie Hinz, who handles York code enforcement of stormwater management. We agreed it is a good idea to have her input on the ordinance and have her attend a meeting for additional education.
9. John Laprey of the York Country Club has offered to help revise the draft ordinance to better reflect the hazards of various products. We welcome John as an alternate member of the commission.
10. Stephanie will revise the ordinance to reflect application to only unlicensed individuals. The revised draft will be sent out for additional comments. Help is needed to describe the products that should not be used by unlicensed individuals. The plan is to revise the ordinance at the Sept 4th CC meeting.
11. Further work is needed on actions to deliver education to the community. Ideas include flyers to be handed out at stores upon purchase and making information available for hand out at town offices and the library.