

Couture, Amanda

From: Greg Tarbox <gftbox@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 12, 2019 5:55 PM
To: Couture, Amanda
Subject: Re: variance request

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Hello Amanda,

As promised, here is an overview of our organization and clarification on our request for the variance at Ocean Ave.

Respectfully,
Greg Tarbox
VP BPLT

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September 12, 2019
Biddeford Pool, Maine

TO: Maine State Board of Pesticides Control
FM: Greg Tarbox, VP Biddeford Pool Land Trust
RE: Statement for the September 13, 2019 Board Meeting

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing on behalf of the Biddeford Pool Land Trust (BPLT). We are a tiny 100+ year old non-profit organization with a small volunteer board chartered with the stewardship for green spaces and pathways in Biddeford Pool. All of our properties were gifted to us in return for us preserving and maintaining the land for the access, benefit and enjoyment of the public.

Unfortunately, management and control of non-native invasive plants on our parcels has become a huge and overwhelming drain for our organization. Recognizing we are not experts and have a steep learning curve, we have partnered with other professional groups for guidance and help. Towards that end, we joined the Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative (SMCC) who then introduced us to other professionals such as Forrest Bell Environmental, Vegetation Control Specialist (VCS) and Jeff Taylor (formerly of VCS).

We have also been in close communication with our neighbor, Maine Audubon about their invasive management efforts. In fact, for our Ocean Avenue parcel (i.e. the property for this second variance application) we are mimicking on a smaller scale what they did at their South Point property close by. We share their dedication and commitment to the preservation and protection of the geography that supports local birds, wildlife and fauna.

Ultimately, our goal is to use our few properties as models for our neighbors so they can learn from and hopefully adopt methods for the control of the invasives because it takes the whole village to combat this

scourge. The Ocean Avenue property, on the advice of several experts, is the only location that we have employed pesticides (i.e. one application in September/2018). On our other properties we are employing cutting (i.e. carbohydrate depletion) and the planting of native species to combat the invasives. We have also hosted volunteer events to manually remove the unwanted plants, had speakers at our annual meetings and will continue to educate our neighbors about what we can all do to abate the encroachment.

Finally, we understand there was some concern on social media about BPLT planning to have broadcast spraying to eradicate *rosa rugosa*. This is completely false. We are only targeting bittersweet at Ocean Avenue and there has never been and nor will ever be any broadcast spraying in our efforts.

I hope this brief overview helps you better understand our intentions. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,
Greg Tarbox
Vice President, Biddeford Pool Land Trust

On Thu, Sep 12, 2019 at 3:04 PM Couture, Amanda <Amanda.Couture@maine.gov> wrote:



Hi Greg,

Here's a link to our webpage with Board meeting info:

<https://www.maine.gov/dacf/php/pesticides/meetings.shtml#nextmtg>

If no one can attend tomorrow but you would still like to make a statement I can ask the Board to take a look at it.

Amanda

Amanda Couture, Environmental Specialist III

Maine Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry

Board of Pesticides Control

Office Phone: (207)-287-7593

www.thinkfirstspraylast.org

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415.290.6996 - cell / txt

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