

From: jody spear [<mailto:lacewing41@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2015 1:42 PM
To: Jennings, Henry
Subject: another response to Justin Nichols complaint of June 1, 2015

Dear Henry,

Nichols describes his experience as "fairly nightmarish," but his assessment of what needs to be done as corrective -- centered on posting requirements -- seems to me to fall far short of what is in order. He is quite right to conclude, nevertheless, that his "nightmare" is "indicative of broader systemic issues," and thus we must be thankful that it has led Paul Schlein to express his outrage, prompting letters from major environmental groups with large constituencies.

There are serious medical consequences beyond nausea and skin irritation to be expected from all five of the pesticides used cosmetically in Falmouth on May 26 (dithiopyr, MCPA, dicamba, 2,4-D, and imidacloprid). You know them all too well. Environmental fate, though not a focus of Nichols's message, is an important consideration too -- one that posting revisions (EPA numbers, telephone numbers) will not address. Contamination of groundwater and toxicity to fish, birds, bees, and domestic animals, as well as to people, makes this an issue that demands attention on several levels

Some questions you posed at the July 10 meeting, transcribed into the minutes, are troubling: "Who is entitled to pesticide-application information? What if a pesticide-opposition group started calling these numbers?" I would say, in response, that we **all** have a right to know what chemicals are applied (especially those sprayed cosmetically) and that it should not be necessary for us to have to find out through back channels what is putting us, the unsuspecting, unconsenting public, in harm's way. I've tried calling those 800 numbers myself, and it's true that they "go to nowhere" in Dr. Eckert's phrasing.

The movement to enact ordinances town by town is the best way we have right now to bring awareness of toxic trespass to the general population, and there are several other large environmental groups we can enlist in the effort. We will bring all those collaborators to Augusta to counteract the proposed legislation from industry supporters -- Jeffrey Timberlake leading the charge at the moment.

But for the matter under discussion on Friday in Agenda Item 4, I urge you to acknowledge that negligence occurred and should result in a steep fine. How else is TruGreen to get the message that spraying pesticides without signs along 200 feet of heavily traveled sidewalk is unacceptable? How else can we be confident that the board will hold violators to account?

Yours respectfully,
Jody Spear

P.S. This should have been sent sooner, but I've only just realized that the deadline was 8 am, not 5 pm. Since you do have it in hand well in advance of Friday's meeting, I hope you'll join it to the other letters in Agenda Item 4.