

**Minutes of the
Barnstable County Ad-Hoc Committee on
Risk Analysis Vegetation Management**

The first meeting of the Barnstable County Ad-Hoc Committee on Risk Analysis Vegetation Management was held at the Superior Court House in Conference Room 11/12 on the first day of October, 2010.

Members Present:

Michael McClean	MA Department of Agriculture Resources
Andrew Gottlieb	Cape Cod Water Protection Collaborative
Leo Cakounes	Cape & Islands Farm Bureau
Roberta Clark	Barnstable County Cooperative Extension
Laura Kelley	Landscape Professionals
Sarah Peake	State Representative
Gabrielle Sakolsky	Cape Cod Mosquito Control
Sue Phelan	Green Cape
Jared Collins	Cape Cod for a Truly Green NSTAR
Sheila Lyons	Barnstable County Commissioner
Patty Daley	Cape Cod Commission
Kevin McCune	NSTAR
Mark Begley	Environmental Management Commission
Dennis Galvam	NSTAR
Dottie Smith	Legislative Aide for Representative Sarah Peake
Steve Spear	USDA-NRCS

Others present:

Terence Noonan	Representative Sarah Peake's Office
Roberta McDonnell	Public
Beverly Callistini	Public
Alexandra Grabbe	Public
Steve Brown	Red Lily Pond Project
Lee Roscoe	Green Cape
Sheila Place	Barnstable Unitarian Church
Diane Suhm	Barnstable Unitarian Church

Commissioner Sheila Lyons called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

I. Introduction

Committee Members went around the room and introduced themselves.

Commissioner Lyons expressed that she felt remiss for leaving the golf course group off the list to be represented in this group, and she would include a golf course representative going forward. She also discussed including another landscaping representative to add to the current appointment of a landscaper that uses strictly organic methods.

Commissioner Lyons spoke briefly to the group about how this issue was brought to the County's attention, and she described Commissioner's discussions about how to best approach the County's and public's concerns. The Committee has been charged with defining short-term goals and to make a preliminary report to the Barnstable County Commissioners no later than December 31, 2010. The final Committee report including a list of short-term strategies, and recommendations for long-range actions, will be reported to the Commissioners no later than June 30, 2011.

II. Discussions

Representative Sarah Peake spoke regarding the need to gather basic facts and data. She suggested that they look across the Country and that maybe the Cape Cod Commission staff would be able to assist them with gathering information. She also emphasized that facts and data would be needed in order to bring anything to legislation.

Committee members had a discussion on NSTAR's vegetation management plan including how often it is updated and how often they cut and spray rights of way.

Leo Cakounes expressed his desire that the committee follow the open meeting law and to make sure that the subject matter of any discussions by the Committee be posted on the agenda. He reminded the group that the meeting agenda posted was to have a discussion on organization of committee and short term goals. He stated he would like to see the group pursue a short term goal. He also stated his problem with committee members sharing information through email and suggested a point person should be designated for communication.

Committee members had a discussion about testing herbicide use at three different areas of the Cape, creating a county wide model, and pursuing special legislation for the region. Steve Spear mentioned data already collected by the USDA-NRCS.

Sue Phelan stated that labels and materials safety data sheets for herbicides proposed for use by NSTAR are on the state website, mass.gov.

The committee discussed the scope of their efforts, and agreed that they are focused on herbicides (not pesticides).

III. Mission Statement

Commissioner Lyons read the mission statement drafted by the County Commissioners:

“Vegetation management on Cape Cod is undertaken by individual residents, local businesses, farmers, golf courses, utilities, corporations, non-profits and others. The impacts of some of these vegetation management practices on our drinking water and environment are not sufficiently understood. The mission of this Committee is to develop recommendations for short-term and long-range strategies to reduce or eliminate certain vegetation management practices (including mechanical and chemical applications) that are not known to be safe for Cape Cod drinking water or the environment.”

The Committee agreed to work on finalizing a mission statement. It was suggested to keep the Commissioner’s statement but to shorten the length.

IV. Meeting Schedule

Members discussed the meeting schedule and agreed to meet on a bi-weekly basis on Friday mornings starting at 9:00 a.m.

Members discussed and agreed that Kevin McCune and Dennis Galvam from NSTAR would give a presentation at the next committee meeting on Friday, October 15, 2010. Hotze Wijnja from the Department of Agriculture Resources will give a presentation on how materials are placed on the sensitive materials list on Friday, October 29, 2010.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Note: No materials were distributed during the meeting.