

Hillsboro Cove Homeowners Association
Pesticide meeting
August 18, 2021 at the Webster Library

Attending; Board of Directors, RPG representatives, Neighbors who filed Variances for no pesticide applications, Cornell Cooperative representative, Trimline representative and Association attorney.

Purpose of meeting:

To understand what those neighbors feel about the application of pesticides to their yards and common areas.

To learn from the “experts” about the applications and the safety of those products.

To explain what steps the Board and RPG have taken to eliminate some of the applications.

To gain understanding and information about the issues so that the Board can make informed decisions on behalf of the entire community.

Cornell is not opposed to chemicals or organic applications. Commercial applicators are required to take a 30 hour course working under someone who has a license. They must pass a test to become a pesticide technician. Training is extensive and strict records are kept concerning dates of applications, weather conditions, and target pests. In the contract phase, the property managers discuss the issues and plants and then set up a program of treatment. They perform integrated pest management and use chemical spray as last resort. Disease and insects are specific to species in most cases. Insects only damage during certain times of their life cycle. Plants can survive a certain amount of abuse before they are permanently damaged. Warnings on products mean different degrees of potential harm (i.e. Caution, Danger, etc.) Warnings are for the concentrated product, not what we are spraying on our lawns. Protective gear for applicators is dependent on what they are spraying. Some chemicals are able to be mixed (weed killer and insect control). Time when pets are free to re-enter lawn areas depends on the chemical being sprayed. 24 hours is standard. Today's practices are much safer than twenty years ago. Licenses can be removed if safety precautions are not adhered to. In addition, insurance will not be provided if there are unsafe practices performed by provider. The property manager has a list of the potential products that can

be used. Cornell has a HELP line to call their master gardener with any questions.

One time due to rain there was an uncoordinated application of lawn care prior to lawns being mowed. It is important that the vendors coordinate services.

Neighbors suggestion

Grant waivers (variances) again for the 15 homes. Neighbors will pay for alternative products which are organic.

Have a lot of designated land to pilot alternative products and evaluate after four years.

Add more top soil to encourage growth of lawn.

The board assign someone to over see the company applicators that they are adhering to safety measures. (Trimline has a supervisor on site.)

Every two to three years have a presentation such as this provided to the entire community.

A neighbor will put together what the one-year trial would look like including specifics and a budget.