

Summary from PFAC and New Garden Township Meeting on 4/10/2017 at 2pm

PFAC attendees: Colin Carson, Margo Woodacre, Tracey Haun

NGT: Tony Scheivert

Chester County Conservation : Michael Zuk

American Mushroom Institute(AMI) : Bev King

Penn State Extension: Maria Gorgo-Gourovitch

Apologies: Marion Carson, Joe Miscione

PFAC Mission: The mission of PFAC is to educate residents, government officials, and government agencies about the phorid fly. PFAC welcomes all residents who are suffering from this fly invasion of their homes. We support and take action in defense of our property, we offer and assist government agencies, state officials, community organizations, and academic research in the eradication of this infestation.

☐ News and Social Media

- Membership of the Facebook Public group is now 222
- There are reports of phorid fly activity in Southern Chester County already this year
- The EPA article from the New York Times regarding the decision not to ban an insecticide generated interest
- A Summary of the meeting will be posted on the Facebook Public page

☐ Harrogate PFAC/ HOA update

- Harrogate HOA has set up a team to develop a testing plan for the community and are looking for volunteer to participate in the 'experiment'
- Some residents are making changes in the mulch surrounding their homes to deter the phorid flies as we are 'on our own' this year

☐ NGT update

- PA State Rep. Eric Roe will be at the New Garden Township Building on April 20 and all are encouraged to make him aware of the phorid fly issue.
- The Township are ramping up inspections on property maintenance
- No grant money has been provided yet
- Tony is following up on the PA DEP reports from the 2016 inspections of mushroom houses (as per M. Zuk)
- Tony provided an email string from G.Emery/ T.baker regarding phorid flies in Florida

☐ Update from Fred Strathmeyer, PA Dept of Agriculture

- There is no update on the availability of PHOR-EX for use in the mushroom houses

☐ Update from Penn State Extension

- PSU are trying to determine where the flies are in the various seasons, and their behavior patterns

- they are testing 7 different pesticides to determine effectiveness

- 3 posters have been developed for placing in mushroom houses showing Insect Pests, Virus Disease, Fungal Pathogens and their impact on the mushroom growers

☐ Chester County Conservation District update

- the mushroom houses adjacent to Harrogate have been doing a trial on growing organic mushrooms and this has meant virtually no spraying of pesticides

☐ American Mushroom Institute update

- a grant application has been filed for Integrated Pest Management educational training

- there is no update on the availability or use of PHOR-EX