



## Spring 2019 Program Advisory Committee Minutes

**Program:** Landscaping & Turf Management

**Date:** 4/2/19

**Members Present:** Billy Butts, Brad Chase, Anthony Cina, Greg Cormier, Joe Crowley, Nick DiBenedetto, Bill Freitag, Lisa Giannino, Brittany Malgieri, Scott Parisi, Bryce Marquis, Jake Marshall, John Marshall, Jordan Marshall, Travis Reardon, Kevin Szczechowicz, Andrew Travers, Kevin Richardson, Mike Semenchuck, Alexander Daly

**Program Facilitator:** Tim Graham

**Committee Chair:** Billy Butts

**Subject:** Minutes from Fall meeting

**Discussion:** The minutes from the fall meeting were accepted

**Subject:** Freshman and Sophomore Curriculum

**Discussion:** Tim Graham talked to the committee about the freshman and sophomore curriculum. Tim explained to the committee that the freshman landscape class had been placed and that there was 7 students in the class. The committee commented that that was a lower number than in years past and asked Tim if thought that there was any reason for this. Tim told the committee that he believes that it was just a case of the freshman class having other interests this year. Tim also told the committee that he had spoken to all of the freshman guidance counselors about this. The counselors all informed Tim that they thought it really was just a case of students having different interests this year. It was noted that the construction academy in general had lower numbers this year than in years past. At this time the committee asked what they could do to help spread the word about what a great industry this is. Tim and Jack both expressed the need to reach parents as early as possible and to educate parents about all the career opportunities that are available. The group then decided that one way to do this was for each company to submit a list of opportunities that their company offered. This list would then



be displayed in the shop and especially at open house. The committee agreed to start working on this with the hope that it will be ready for fall. Tim then spoke about the sophomore class. Tim spoke about how the sophomores would be working on spring clean up, ball field maintenance and mowing.. The committee was pleased with this.

### **Subject: Junior and Senior Curriculum**

**Discussion:** Jack Domoracki talked to the committee about the junior and senior curriculum. As this is still his first year, Jack was honest with the committee about the year has gone and what he is looking forward to in the future. Jack explained that he felt that the smaller group projects that he was working with the students this winter worked well. He was also happy that he was beginning to add a design aspect to the class. He also continued to express that he has found the idea of having weekly “foreman” very beneficial. He spoke of how it has helped the students see things from a management aspect as opposed to just labor. Jack also spoke of how Billy Butts had introduced himself and Tim to a new software from LMN that is designed to help landscape companies track every aspect of the business. The committee all agreed that this new generation of ladcaper is much more tech savvy than in the past, and that it is important to expose them to this part of the business. Jack also spoke of the need to acquire air suction tools for setting pavers. The tools were demonstrated at the hardscape expo this spring in Rhode Island. It is becoming the industry standard to use these tools to help minimize fatigue and injuries to employees, to reduce labor costs and help employers retain employees. Jack then spoke of the Techo-Bloc seminar that he, Tim and the students attended. Jack impressed onto the committee that he believes that modern labor saving devices are the future of landscape construction. He spoke of the new excavator that the school is considering as the most vital of the tools but he also spoke of suction devices that are designed to move heavy hardscaping material around on a job site. Jack listed several companies that are already using them and for a desire to obtain them in the near future. The committee agreed that labor reducing equipment is the future and encouraged Jack to get a s much info on it as possible to share with the group.

**Subject:** Industry recognized credential survey (please complete as a group)

**Discussion:** At the time of the meeting, the instructors were having a difficult time accessing the survey so they decided to list credentials with Tim Graham entering them at a late time. The group thought the following three where the most important:

OSHA 10

MA Pesticide license



ESSEX NORTH SHORE  
AGRICULTURAL & TECHNICAL SCHOOL

MA  
license  
ICPI

hoisting

The group thought the following were also worth exploring:  
Interlocking Concrete Paver Institute's Certified Paver Installer  
LMN software certified

The group agreed that they would think about if there was any other certifications that they thought were prevalent in the industry.

Click on About You under the Fill in About You Page.

<http://massconnecting.org/credentials/default.asp>

**The meeting adjourned at (time): 8:00 PM**