

## John Henel

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**From:** John Henel [henel@pacbell.net] on behalf of John Henel  
**Sent:** Monday, October 01, 2012 2:03 PM  
**To:** Sarah Gurney; guywlaw@yahoo.com; michaelkyes@sbcglobal.net; ktsrrg@gmail.com; Patrick Slayter  
**Cc:** Mary Gourley; lwmclaughlin@juno.com  
**Subject:** Leaf blowers on October 2 2012 City Council Agenda  
Hello Councilmember Gurney and the Sebastopol City Council,

I have looked over the [packet for the leaf blower](#) item on the agenda for tomorrow's meeting. I must say I find the timing of placing this item back on the agenda after about a year and a half of no action a curious thing.

Nonetheless, here is my take:

The minutes from May 17, 2011 only task the subcommittee "to review specific issues related to hardscape maintenance and multi unit complexes." This is found on the list of action items on page 12 of those minutes. All other action items were directed to staff. The items you describe under Discussion – responsibility for suggesting days/hours of operation and evaluating conflicts with the Noise Ordinance – were not tasked to the subcommittee, but rather to staff. Thus, I would not expect a report from the subcommittee on those items, since they did not address them.

There was also a very brief report (not included in tomorrow's packet, but relevant to this topic) from Jack Griffin before he left, from the May 1, 2012 (yes, one year later) meeting minutes on page 13: "stated the City did not use leaf blowers through the winter and that the City will continue to not use leaf blowers other than in an emergency situations."

I understand it is not my place to speak for the subcommittee, but I did make a report of its actions as one of three Sebastopol Citizens that attended the single meeting of the subcommittee. This brief report was posted on our website back at the time of the meeting, and can still be found there on our [Leaf Blower](#) page. It states:

**July 13, 2011 Sub-Committee Meeting.** The "hardscape" sub-committee (Kathleen Shaffer and Guy Wilson) holds a meeting, open to the public. Also present to provide input are 3 landscape contractors, the manager of Petaluma Homes, and 3 representatives from Sebastopol Citizens. With the emphasis on education and communication to solve problems, and the use of best practices and common sense, no additional restrictions are proposed.

Additionally, in my conversations with Jack Griffin all year long from July 2011 until he left last May, he said that Guy Wilson seemed to have no interest in putting Leaf Blowers back on the agenda, so staff did not expend resources to work on the other items.

Best Regards,

--John Henel  
SebastopolCitizens.org