

# Blue Hill pesticide ordinance on hold

## Awaits advice from Maine Municipal Association

BY LESLIE LANDRIGAN

BLUE HILL—Town Administrator Shawna Ambrose said on July 28 the fate of the Blue Hill Healthy Ecosystem Ordinance is in the hands of the Maine Municipal Association.

Town Meeting in July voted 2-to-1 in favor of the ordinance, which bans the use and sale of synthetic pesticides. The ordinance exempts commercial farming from the ban.

However, a 1988 state law requires the Maine Board of Pesticides Control to be notified of any upcoming vote on an ordinance that applies to pesticide storage, distribution or use. The Board must also receive a copy of the proposed ordinance at least seven days before a vote is taken, according to the statute.

After Town Meeting, the town learned from the pesticide board that the ordinance was voided because the board had not been properly notified.

Now, said Ambrose, the Town is working with the MMA to see if the Select Board can pass the ordinance itself. It would have to notify the pesticide board of the ordinance and then pass it during a meeting.

“We are working with MMA to see if this is something that can be turned into an ordinance or if we need another vote,” Ambrose said in a phone interview.

“It lies in MMA’s hands,” she said.