TAC Recommendations for Turf Management Practices

1- Use non-chemical alternatives for turf care to improve the growing conditions of the turf. For this purpose, Leaf Compost Tea (LCT) is recommended.

This product has been successfully used for a number of years by our landscape contractor. It has a proven track record of improving soil quality, leading to healthier turf that is able to outcompete weeds for sun, water and nutrients.

2- Use chelated iron (Ex: Fiesta) *selectively* in areas where weeds have taken over.

Reduce the application of herbicides from the current practice of coverage of ALL turf areas, to selective use where weeds are concentrated to the point turf cannot succeed..

3- Use flexible mowing, mulching, and other practices to support the non-chemical turf care alternatives.

Turf health is impacted by mowing practices, such as the timing of the first mow of the season; the frequency of mowing, especially during hottest, driest months; and the height of mowing blades. Although the mulching of shrub beds was not within the purview of this committee, turning and mulching earlier in the spring may deter weeds spreading into the grass.

4- Use alternative ground covers where turf is not viable or optimal.

TAC acknowledges that there are places where turf struggles for various reasons (thin or no topsoil, erosion, compacted soil, deep shade, etc.) In those areas, alternative ground covers should be used to replace turf.

- 5- Establish policies and procedures to implement, monitor and maintain new practices.
- 6- Provide opportunities for the FV Community to learn more about turf care alternatives and their benefits.