

# THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



## Department of Agricultural Resources

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Commissioner

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES ("MDAR") HEREBY GIVES NOTICE OF A GENERAL HEARING, PURSUANT TO M.G.L. C.30A, § 2 and 950 CMR 20.04, which require the Commissioner of MDAR to hold a public hearing to amend the following regulation: 330 CMR 22.00, Agricultural Preservation Restriction Program ("Regulation"). The purpose of this Regulation is to provide guidance for persons who apply for the Agricultural Preservation Restriction ("APR") program and owners of land who have sold an APR to the Commonwealth. The Regulation includes procedures for: the Agricultural Lands Preservation Committee ("ALPC") review and approval of the acquisition of APRs; APR applications; project eligibility; project review criteria; MDAR approvals; notification procedures; and enforcement of APRs. MDAR is proposing to amend the Regulation to be consistent with statutory amendments and United States Department of Agriculture funding requirements. The public will benefit from these amendments as it clarifies roles, obligations, and responsibilities.

All persons desiring to provide oral testimony are hereby notified to appear upon the following date and time at the respective designated location:

Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Richard Cronin Building Room 110, Westborough, MA, for a public hearing to be held on September 21, 2016, from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

In addition to oral testimony, written comments will be accepted before and at the Hearing. MDAR will continue to accept written comments until September 21, 2016, at 5:00 P.M. Written comments should be addressed to Gerard Kennedy, Director, Division of Agricultural Conservation & Technical Assistance, Department of Agricultural Resources, 251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114.

The full text of the regulations and background information is available at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/proposed-amendments-to-regulations.html>. A hard copy of the full text of the regulation and background information are also available upon written request made to at the address set forth above.

By: John Lebeaux, Commissioner