

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

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PUBLIC HEARINGS: VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Pursuant to the Rights-of-Way Management Regulations (333 CMR 11.00) in order to apply pesticides to control vegetation to maintain Rights-of Ways, the Department of Agricultural Resources must approve a Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) and a Yearly Operational Plan (YOP). The VMP is intended to justify the need to control vegetation, identify target vegetation, describe the intended methods of control, describe methods for identifying sensitive areas, describe operational guidelines for applicators, outline a program of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) designed to reduce the use of herbicides, and describe alternative land use activities. The following community is advised that the **Town of Ashland** proposes to utilize herbicides to treat their Rights-of-Way.

PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED:

In accordance with 333 CMR 11.05 the Department of Agricultural Resources will conduct a regional hearing to receive public comment on the proposed Vegetation Management Plan for the Town of Ashland, as submitted by Evan White, Senior Engineer, Town of Ashland.

To provide all interested parties an opportunity to comment on the proposed VMP, a public ZOOM hearing will be held at the following location:

Topic: Ashland VMP Public Hearing

Time: Apr 18, 2025 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83105587485?pwd=AX63ZC1fmmlLFSGD8Z7bohslC6HYMN.1>

Meeting ID: 831 0558 7485

Passcode: 049466

Dial by your location

• +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 831 0558 7485

Passcode: 049466

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbovUBAJxr>

Plans Available for Review Prior to Public Hearings:

Section 11.05 (3)(d) of the ROW Management Regulations provide: "At least 21 days prior to the end of the public comment period, the applicant shall send a copy of the proposed VMP to the chief elected official, the Board of Health, and the Conservation Commission in affected communities upon their request." Such request should be made to:

Evan White
Senior Engineer,
Town of Ashland
20 Ponderosa Road
Ashland, MA 01721

Copies of the proposed VMP are also available for review at the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources website at <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/rights-of-way-vegetation-management-vmps-yops-and-notices> . It is also available for review at the Reference Desk of the following public library:

Ashland Public Library, 66 Front St, Ashland, MA 01721

Written Comments Requested

The public hearing listed above will give interested parties the opportunity to present data, views or arguments, orally or in writing concerning the proposed VMP. Persons giving testimony are also requested to provide written comments. Written comments in advance of the hearing dates are welcome. The Department will accept written testimony concerning the Town of Ashland VMP until the close of business (5p.m.) **April 21, 2025.**

Commentary should be sent to:

Rights-of -Way Program
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources
225 Turnpike Road, 3rd Floor
Southborough, MA 01772