

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

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NOTICE

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 Food and Agriculture 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 Athol 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 Athol as submitted by: Andrew S. Powers. of Vegetation Control Services with Dick Kilhart. Superintendent of the Department of Public Works, Town of Athol.

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

Topic: Town of Athol VMP Public Hearing

Time: Apr 11, 2025 10:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89282926414?pwd=ST1KaNt35i5EJDgub3t230UsaDwNUt.1>

Meeting ID: 892 8292 6414

Passcode: 458980

Dial by your location

• +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 892 8292 6414

Passcode: 458980

Plans Available for Public Review Prior to 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:

Dick Kilhart
Superintendent
Department of Public Works
584 Main Street
Athol, MA 01331
(978) 249-4542

Copies of the proposed VMP can be viewed at the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources webpage at <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/rights-of-way-vegetation-management-vmmps-yops-and-notices> . The VMP is also available for review at the Reference Desk of the following public library:
Athol Public Library, 568 Main Street, Athol, Massachusetts

Written Comments Requested

The public hearings 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 Athol's VMP until the close of business (5pm): April 11, 2025.

Commentary should be sent to:

Clayton Edwards
Rights of Way Program
Massachusetts Department of Agriculture Resources
Pesticide Program
225 Turnpike Rd., 3rd Floor
Southborough, MA 01772