

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114
617-626-1700 fax: 617-626-1850 www.mass.gov/agr



CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lt. Governor

BETHANY A. CARD
Secretary

JOHN LEBEAUX
Commissioner

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 Franklin** 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 Franklin, as prepared and submitted by: Ms. Stephanie Hanson, Project Manager and Principal Scientist, Comprehensive Environmental Inc.

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

July 21, 2022, 10:30am-11:00am

Meeting ID: 827 6634 1511

Passcode: 301441

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82766341511?pwd=MnQ2SzlyL3RJQkVGdmQxT2ZiZnZXZz09>

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:

Mr. Robert Cantoreggi
DPW Director
Franklin Department of Public Works
257 Fisher Street
Franklin, Massachusetts 02038

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:

Franklin Public Library, 118 Main Street, Franklin, MA 02038

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 Franklin VMP until the close of business (5p.m.) **Friday, July 22, 2022**

Commentary should be sent to:

Rights-of -Way Program
Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources
Pesticide Bureau
251 Causeway Street
Suite 500
Boston, Massachusetts 02114