

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

MATTHEW A. BEATON
Secretary

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Commissioner

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 Massachusetts Department of Agriculture (MDAR) 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 City of Lowell proposes to utilize herbicides to treat their Rights-of-Way.

PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED:

In accordance with 333 CMR 11.05 MDAR will conduct a regional hearing to receive public comment on the proposed Vegetation Management Plan for the City of Lowell as submitted by: Andrew S. Powers. of Vegetation Control Services with Christine Clancy, Commissioner of the Department of Public Works, City of Lowell.

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

Friday, May 29, 2020 from 11:30pm until 12:00pm

Join URL: <https://zoom.us/j/94877327592?pwd=RmFPWHVmU01oU0ZKejVIS1E0REhoZz09>

Zoom ID: 948-7732-7592

Password: 874-664

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:

Christine Clancy, P.E.

Commissioner of Public Works

Department of Public Works

The City of Lowell

1365 Middlesex Street | Lowell, MA 01851

(978) 674-4111

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-vmps-yops-and-notices>. The VMP is also available for review at the Reference Desk of the following public library:

Lowell Public Library, 401 Merrimack Street, Lowell, 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): Friday, June 5, 2020.

Commentary should be sent to:

Clayton Edwards

Director of Rights-of-Way Programs

Massachusetts State Pesticide Bureau

251 Causeway Street, Suite 500

Boston, MA 02114-2151