

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

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Secretary

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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 Mansfield** 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 Mansfield, as submitted by: Mr. Mark Cook the Highway Operation Manager for the Town of Mansfield and Stephanie Hanson of Comprehensive Environmental Inc

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

Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at 11:00 AM until 12:30 PM
Meeting Room 2 AB, 2nd floor, Mansfield Town Hall
6 Park Row, Mansfield, Massachusetts

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. Mark Cook, Highway Operation Manager
Mansfield Department of Public Works
6 Park Row
Mansfield, MA 02048

Copies of the proposed VMP are also available for review at the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources website at <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/pesticides/vegetation-management-and-yearly-operation-plans.html>. It is also available for review at the Reference Desk of the following public library:

Mansfield Public Library, 255 Hope Street, Mansfield, 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 Mansfield VMP until the close of business **Friday, May 24, 2019**

Commentary should be sent to:

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