

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS



Department of Agricultural Resources

225 Turnpike Road, 3rd Floor, Southborough, MA 01772
www.mass.gov/agr



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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 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 Southborough 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 Southborough as submitted by: Abdul Alkhatib, Interim DPW Superintendent with Christopher Leroy Department of Public Works Supervisor, the proposed VMP, a public hearing will be held via Zoom:

Town of Southborough VMP Public Hearing
Time: Apr 21, 2023 08:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87012562644?pwd=MXNYaHowVVByWUd5Vzc0TEJsT09sZz09>

Meeting ID: 870 1256 2644

Passcode: 157694

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,87012562644#,,, *157694# US (Washington DC)

+13052241968,,87012562644#,,, *157694# US

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 386 347 5053 US

+1 507 473 4847 US

+1 564 217 2000 US

+1 669 444 9171 US

Meeting ID: 870 1256 2644

Passcode: 157694

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87012562644?pwd=MXNYaHowVVByWUd5Vzc0TEJsT09sZz09>

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:

Christopher Leroy
Public Works Supervisor
Department Public Works
Town of Southborough
147 Cordaville Road, Southborough, MA 01772
(508) 485-1210

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>, or on the Town of Weston’s Website. The VMP is also available for review at the Reference Desk of the following public library:

Southborough Public Library, 25 Main Street, Southborough, MA 01772

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 Southborough’s VMP until the close of business: Friday, April 21, 2023.

Commentary should be sent to:

Clayton Edwards
Rights-of-Way Programs
Massachusetts State Pesticide Bureau
225 Turnpike Road, 3rd Floor
Southborough, MA 01772

Public comment period closes at the close of business (5pm): Friday, April 21, 2023