

# 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

KATHLEEN A. THEOHARIDES  
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 Sturbridge** 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 Sturbridge, as submitted by: Mr. Mark Augello, DPW Operations Manager, Town of Sturbridge

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

April 8, 2022, 11am-11:30am  
Meeting ID: 898 2512 3954  
Passcode: 910767

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89825123954?pwd=VmJUVe1aSXRpYWU2dmNOeis4c253QT09>

### **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:

Mark Augello  
DPW Operations Manager  
Town of Sturbridge  
1 New Boston Road EXT.  
Sturbridge, MA 01566

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:

Sturbridge Public Library, 306 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566

### **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 Sturbridge VMP until the close of business, 5pm. Friday, April 8, 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