

May 13, 2003
Conservation Commission
Approved Special Meeting Minutes

Meeting to review Yearly Operating Procedure (YOP)
for Vegetation Management Plan (VMP)
prepared by Somerville Department of Public Works (DPW)

Meeting opened at Winter Hill Community School cafeteria, at 7:07 pm. Conservation Commissioners present were chair, Delia Kaye, members Janet McGowan, Michael Fager, John Reinhardt, Cassandra Koutalidis, and Lisa Brukilacchio, and agent Anne Phelps. Also present were Joe Foti, Director of Operations, Somerville Department of Public Works, and Stephen Morrison, contractor for the Vegetation Management Plan.

Introductions were made.

The meeting began with a summary by DK. The YOP was submitted to the CC about 2 weeks prior to the meeting. DK received a call from Gale Doane that DPW needed approval for its YOP. DK told Gale that we needed to meet on it, and vote on our approval. The VMP is for spraying curbsides and roadsides with herbicides (in combination with other, mechanical, means) for the purpose of vegetation control.

DK said the CC has several questions, since there is no map included with the submission, and it is difficult to determine exactly what roadways are being proposed for spraying. JF produced a map that the CC reviewed. DK asked whether all roads in the city would be treated. SM replied they would not all be sprayed. JF said the roads on which the herbicide "Roundup" would be used are main roads which have a lot of traffic, but are not in residential neighborhoods (where residents help control vegetation, are not easily managed by mechanical means (mowers), but which have plant growth that needs to be controlled.

DK noted the only area indicated on the map for spraying that is near wetland areas is the end of Broadway at the intersection with Rte 16. JM asked if Route 16 is maintained by the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC), and JF replied that DPW would not go onto Rte 16, but yes, MDC maintains that area. DK asked whether that was still within 100 ft of Alewife Brook. After discussion, it was agreed that the end of spraying at Broadway, as indicated on the map, was very close to being within 100 ft of the river. The CC said that DPW may not spray past the end of Broadway (before it crosses Rte 16).

CC Requests for Additional Materials

DK asked that CC receive materials listed in Appendix A of YOP, but not present in copy delivered to CC, 1) the marked-up map, and 2) the MSDS, herbicide fact sheet. The CC also asked for a copy of the 5-yr. VMP.

Changes in wording of YOP

Additional changes in wording were required for the YOP, including wording to clarify that Joe Foti is the responsible contact person for any questions regarding the VMP. DK asked for wording to be added, "...all work will be performed within the roadway right-of-way, except to allow for control of poison ivy near the roadway."

LB said DPW should also give us a copy of the report on work done. SM said he would supply that to Joe, and Joe will forward a copy to us for the previous year's work, and for each year work is performed.

JR said the YOP states that use of herbicide is part of "Integrated Pest Management", (IMP), which is supposed to reduce the use of chemical (toxins), but that the YOP is not clear in reporting any reasoning/procedures used to reduce the use of herbicide. SM said that the VMP makes that clear.

LB asked if there were any more questions on this document.

DK summarized the requests for additional materials and changes to YOP:

- Copy of letter of approval for YOP signed by Michael McClean from MA Dept. Food & Agriculture
- Copy of signature page from Municipal Roadway Vegetation Management Plan (undated) with signature of authorized Conservation Commission member
- Copy of 5-Yr. Street Vegetation Management Plan
- Copy of MSDS (fact sheet) on glyphosate, active ingredient in Roundup, used in VMP
- Copy of marked-up map showing planned area(s) of application, in relation to "sensitive areas" – areas within 100 ft of waterways
- Copy(s) of "work performed" by contractor Steve Morris, for each yr. work is performed

CC also reviewed changes requested in wording to the YOP, including changes to clarify that Joe Foti is the main contact person.

JR moved to approve YOP contingent on JF providing the CC a copy of the approval letter for the VMP signed by MA Department of Food and Agriculture. DK amended proposal to approve, contingent upon receipt of 1) last year's letter of approval from MA Department of food and Agriculture, 2) the MSDS sheet(s), 3) the marked-up map showing the roads to be treated , and 4) the revisions to the YOP discussed.

CK seconded motion, as amended.

Vote: All in favor.

LB moved to empower Anne to sign indicating CC approval of the YOP, if all requested material is delivered.

DK seconded.

Vote: All in favor.

LB moved to adjourn. MF seconded. Vote: All approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Phelps, Agent