

Effective date: September \_\_\_\_, 2019

#### Why Ban Glyphosate:

Most of the glyphosate restrictions or bans throughout the world were introduced following the 2015 IARC report on glyphosate. The IARC report concluded that glyphosate is a "probable human carcinogen."

According to the report, the cancers most associated with glyphosate exposure were found to be non-Hodgkin lymphoma and other hematopoietic cancers. The report further concluded that glyphosate exposure caused DNA and chromosomal damage in human cells, as well as genotoxic, hormonal and enzymatic effects in mammals.

Other glyphosate studies have linked the chemical to a number of health issues, including, but not limited to ADHD, Alzheimer's Disease, Autism, Birth Defects, various forms of cancer, Celiac Disease, Colitis, Heart Disease, Inflammatory Bowel Syndrome, Kidney Disease, Liver Disease, and Parkinson's Disease.

Herbicides contaminate shellfish and marine mammals and accumulate in the food chain. An average, conventionally well-maintained urban lawn is estimated to receive an input of five to seven pounds of herbicides yearly. These chemicals pose a danger during application as well as when they run off of the lawn during a rain and are carried into nearby storm drains and flow to rivers, beaches, ponds, bays and estuaries.

Glyphosate is the active ingredient in many herbicides and poses harm to developing children, bees and other pollinators, and is found in food, water, air, soil and other resources we rely on. In more than a dozen recent studies within the last fiscal year, glyphosate is proven in to be not safe for applicator use and any use on land or elsewhere may be risky.

Reducing harmful chemicals on town-owned properties frequently used by residents and tourists alike will show residents and businesses in Dennis their town leaders are making decisions for the betterment of the town on a whole, and provides a model that all land owners should follow. Not using glyphosate products on any town-owned land eliminates concerns of pesticide exposure raised by parents with children who wish to play in parks or go to schools or on golf courses in Dennis.

It is important to note that even when applied according to the label on the product container, glyphosate can have a negative effect on the applicator's health at extremely low doses.

## **Section- 1: Findings and Purpose**

The Board of Selectmen of the Town of Dennis does hereby find that:

To eliminate the use of the herbicides that have glyphosate as an active ingredient (GBHs) for it is glyphosate that is proven harmful to developing children, pollinators, and is found in natural resources.

To not use GBHs on any town-owned properties, grounds, or facilities the town owns.

To have all Dennis departments that have jurisdiction of town properties or buildings adopt the same policy, including: conservation commission, school committees, library and board of trustees, DPW, water department, or other.

All pesticides are toxic to some degree and the commonplace, widespread use of herbicides is both a major environment problem and a public health issue; and

All citizens, and children in particular, as well as, other inhabitants of our natural environment, have a right of protection from exposure to hazardous chemicals and herbicides in particular; and

A balanced and healthy ecosystem is vital to the hearth of the town and its citizens, and as such is also in need of protection from exposure to hazardous chemicals and pesticides; and

When an activity raises threats of harm to the environment and/or human health, precautionary measures should be taken, even if some cause and effect relationships are not yet fully established or are slow to be manifested (as in the onset of cancer).

To form a new town committee that will help educate the citizens of Dennis why we need to eliminate the use of GBHs in the care and maintenance of properties throughout the town.

In the near future, adopt the NOFA (Northeast Organic Farming Association) Standards for Organic Land Care: Practices for the Design and Maintenance of Ecological Landscapes.

This policy, when adopted by the Board of Selectmen in Dennis, shall apply to the following spaces owned and managed by the town park commissioners, school committee, Dennis conservation commission and library board of trustees on the grounds listed below, but not limited to: athletic fields, playgrounds, grounds of town buildings (police, fire, town hall), traffic islands, parks, town greens, cemeteries, conservation areas, roadsides, golf courses, cranberry bogs.

It is in the best interest of public health and the environment to eliminate the use of toxic herbicides (and other synthetic pesticides) on town-owned/operated lands, ponds and waterways; to encourage the reduction and elimination of the use of toxic herbicides on private property; and to introduce and promote natural, organic cultural and other management practices to prevent and, when necessary, control pest problems on town owned/operated land without the use of toxic chemicals.

### **Practices for use of herbicides:**

The Board of Selectmen in Dennis hereby adopts the following best practices by any town employee and private contractors working on behalf of the town:

- A. To develop and follow organically-based integrated pest management practices for all land management and building maintenance.
- B. Seek alternative methods to eliminate the use of GBH products on any town owned/operated land.
- C. Use an organic herbicide, physical, or other intervention when needed to eradicate invasive species
- D. If there is no other alternative method or organic product that will eliminate the problems or reduce the problem to acceptable levels, then an herbicide can be used only if all possible non-toxic products/interventions are used in the situation, if approved by the Board of Selectmen who have the jurisdiction over the town-owned properties.
- E. A policy plan is written and discussed on a Board of Selectmen's agenda for public awareness. At the public meeting, sufficient time will be set aside so the public may have input.

## **Section- 2: Authority**

This land management policy is promulgated under the authority granted to the Town of Dennis Board of Selectmen under Massachusetts General Law providing that Boards may make reasonable policy and under the authority granted to the Town of Dennis Board of Selectmen to make policy for the protection of public health, safety and the environment. On a quarterly basis, the Board shall seek the advice and counsel of independent experts and scientists in the fields of organic landscape management and organically-based integrated pest management on fulfilling the requirements of this land management policy.

## **Section-3: Definitions**

**Pesticide:** a substance used to kill or control any pest (insects, rodents or birds, unwanted plants ("weeds"), fungi, or microorganisms such as bacteria and viruses. The term *pesticide* applies to insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, microbiocides, rodenticides and various other substances used to control pests. Pesticides can have profound impacts on the developing child; even minute amounts can adversely affect the developing brain, endocrine system, etc. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends implementing public policies that prioritize least toxic pesticide use.

**Herbicide:** a substance that is toxic to plants, used to destroy unwanted vegetation.

**Pest:** any animal or plant that is unwanted in a particular place at a particular time; it may or may not have a harmful effect on humans, their food or their living conditions.

**Glyphosate:** the primary ingredient in many broad-spectrum herbicides (e.g., Roundup<sup>®</sup>, Rodeo<sup>®</sup>); and is a microbiocide; and is also a metal chelating agent that binds macro- and micronutrients, essential for many plant growth and development processes and pathogen resistance (patented to remove mineral deposits from boilers and steam pipes).

**Imminent Threat to Public Health:** an unpredictable, significant outbreak of poisonous, stinging, or biting insects or other pests, including poisonous or stinging plants that threaten public health. Such events should very rarely, if ever, occur.

**Organic land management:** see [www.organiclandcare.net](http://www.organiclandcare.net) for NOFA's Standards for Organic Land Care: Practices for the Design and Maintenance of Ecological Landscapes

**Alternative management practices the town of Dennis will use instead of GBH products:**  
~ examples: mowing, use of salts or vinegars, smothering, controlled fires, goats, hand pruning

#### **Section- 4: Prohibition**

The use and application of toxic chemical herbicides by the Town of Dennis employees and/or by private contractors for managing lawns, turf, ornamental beds, and trees is prohibited on all town-owned/operated lands unless an exemption has been granted by this Board, with corroboration by the Board of Health, due to an imminent threat to public health. This includes all herbicides of known and unknown hazard.

#### **Section- 5: Management of potential pest problems**

OLM (Organic Land Management) shall be the methodology of choice to understand, prevent and manage potential pest problems;

Management products and interventions approved by NOFA and/or OMRI or the equivalent as determined by the Board of Health.

Includes: regular soil testing; addition of soil amendments; selection of plants appropriate for local conditions, disease and pest resistance and efficiency of maintenance; and organically based IPM practices

#### **Section- 6: Inventory of herbicides**

All the above products currently stored in or on two town-owned premises shall be compiled by the DPW director who shall have the authority to dispose of any such products, including all GBHs, through the County's Hazardous waste collection program.

#### **Section-7: Exemptions**

None

#### **Section-8: Training and Education**

All personnel involved in the approval, implementation or evaluation of true and landscape maintenance and outdoor pest control should receive training and education in natural, organic cultural and technical methods effective immediately.

The Town of Dennis serves as an appropriate model for residents and businesses to encourage the voluntarily adoption of the same organic practices on their own properties for the betterment of all town residents and visitors.

Educational programs will be set up to educate both town workers and residents on safe alternatives.

**Section- 9: Complaints**

The Town of Dennis shall investigate complaints received about any parties or acts that may violate any provision of this policy.

**Section- 10: Effective date**

This policy shall be effective upon publication. Town of Dennis Selectmen sign and date and share with all town residents and businesses their decision to do more to help protect us all.

~ Signatures of all members of the Board of Selectmen in Dennis with effective date of policy