

OFFICE OF THE
Board of Selectmen of the Town of Petersham.
NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER.

You are hereby required on or before Dec. 1, 1909, to destroy the gypsy and brown tail moths on your property in the town of Petersham.

This notification is in accordance with chapter 381, Acts of 1905, as amended by Chapter 268, Acts of 1906, which requires cities and towns to destroy the eggs, caterpillars, pupae and nests of the gypsy and brown tail moths under heavy penalty for failure to comply with the provisions of the law.

If a property owner fails to destroy such eggs, caterpillars, pupae and nests, then the city or town is required to destroy the same, and the cost of the work, in whole or in part, according to the value of the land, is assessed upon and becomes a lien on the land. (See Section 6, Chapter 381, on reverse.)

The selectmen ask owners and tenants to co-operate with the town in its work on highways and other public grounds by doing effective work on their premises. Citizens who have cleaned their premises of the moths, but find their trees endangered by the neglect of owners of adjoining estates should make complaint to the Selectmen. The infestation of a residential neighborhood by the neglect of a few will not be tolerated.

The eggs of the gypsy moth should be destroyed at once with creosote. They should never be scraped off the object on which they are laid. Careful search should be made for gypsy moth egg clusters, not only on trees but also on house walls, stone walls, fences and in rubbish heaps, etc. Trees in which cavities occur and which it is not desirable to cut should have the cavities tinned or cemented. This is important. The present and future cost of combating this insect can be greatly reduced by cutting and burning worthless brush, hollow trees, etc. A few trees well cared for are more valuable to the property owner and the community than a large number of neglected trees.

The nests of the brown tail moth should be cut from the trees, carefully collected and burned in a stove or furnace.

Full instructions as to best methods of work against the moths may be obtained from the Local Superintendent, Frank Hathaway, or from the State Forester, Room 1009, 6 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.

Work done by contractors should be inspected and approved by the Local Superintendent before payment for the same is made.

M. E. HILDRETH, Chairman of the Selectmen.

Petersham, Mass., Oct. 15, 1909.

[CHAPTER 381, ACTS OF 1905, AS AMENDED BY CHAPTER 268, ACTS OF 1906.]

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR SUPPRESSING THE GYPSY AND BROWN TAIL MOTHS.

SECTION 6. The mayor of every city and the selectmen of every town shall, on or before the first day of November in each year, and at such other times as he or they shall see fit, or as the state superintendent may order, cause a notice to be sent to the owner or owners, so far as can be ascertained, of every parcel of land therein which is infested with said moths; or, if such notification appears to be impracticable, then by posting such notice on said parcels of land, requiring that the eggs, caterpillars, pupae and nests of said moths shall be destroyed within a time specified in the notice.

When, in the opinion of the mayor or selectmen, the cost of destroying such eggs, caterpillars, pupae and nests on lands contiguous and held under one ownership in a city or town shall exceed one half of one per cent. of the assessed value of said lands, then a part of said premises on which said eggs, caterpillars, pupae or nests shall be destroyed may be designated in such notice, and such requirement shall not apply to the remainder of said premises. The mayor or selectmen may designate the manner in which such work shall be done, but all work done under this section shall be subject to the approval of the state superintendent.

If the owner or owners shall fail to destroy such eggs, caterpillars, pupae or nests in accordance with the requirements of the said notice, then the city or town, acting by the public officer or board of such city or town designated or appointed as aforesaid, shall, subject to the approval of the said superintendent, destroy the same, and the amount actually expended thereon, not exceeding one half of one per cent. of the assessed valuation of said lands, as heretofore specified in this section, shall be assessed upon the said lands; and such an amount in addition as shall be required shall be apportioned between the city or town and the Commonwealth in accordance with the provisions of section four of this act. The amounts to be assessed upon private estates as herein provided shall be assessed and collected, and shall be a lien on said estates, in the same manner and with the same effect as is provided in the case of assessments for street watering.