Karen Edwards

From:

Michael Behrendt

Sent:

Tuesday, July 24, 2018 4:39 PM

Subject:

Eversource - tree cutting - updated list of trees

Attachments:

mfp_sender@ci.durham.nh.us_20180724_142625.pdf; ash tree 2.jpg; Ash tree.jpg; dead

tree.jpg; ashs trees 4.jpg; Ash tree 3.jpg; Sycamore.jpg

To the Planning Board (and citizens who sent emails about the project), Mike Lynch, Bob Berner, Nick Fontaine (consulting forester with Bob Berner), and I drove around today to look at the trees proposed for removal by Eversource. Please note the following:

- Eversource looked more closely at the proposed trees and realized that most of the 50 that were listed originally are actually outside of the road right of way. Trees on private property are not subject to review under the scenic road provisions. Bob told me that if any part of the base of the tree is in the right of way then it is reviewed. If the tree is entirely outside of the right of way (even if the trunk overhangs the road) then it is not part of the Planning Board review. For trees on private property, Eversource still needs to obtain the property owner's permission to cut. The location of the right of way in some sections such as where there is not a stone wall marking the boundary was clarified by Mike Lynch during our drive around.
- See the attachment. There are 13 trees in the right of way that are subject to review. This includes 3 trees on Packers Falls Road and 10 on Bennett Road. See #37 on the attachment: there are actually 4 ash trees here to review.
- Eversource will remove the ribbons from the other trees that were marked for removal today or tomorrow morning.
- If you look on the attachment, the third column shows the poles that the trees are situated near. 11 and 70 refer to the route. 27-28, for example, means the tree is located between the two poles marked 10 and 11.
- Mike Lynch said that he did not see any concerns with removing the trees that are identified as they appear to be either dead or in failing condition such that there is a risk to the lines. He noted also that some branches are overhanging the road and could fall onto the road causing a hazard and blocking the road. Some of the trees have holes indicating insect infestation, weak branches, and seams indicating cavities in the middle. Mike stated that he believes Eversource is being surgical in its approach and selecting only those trees which are problematic.

- Bob Berner notes that a number of the trees to be removed are ash trees. Unfortunately, many ash trees are now vulnerable to the emerald ash borer including some shown here.
- Beth Olshansky expressed concern in an email about a sycamore tree on Packers Falls Road. I included a photo. There are several holes high up in the tree indicating cavities and possible insect infestation.
- The wires for Eversource are the top wires on the poles and may include additional wires just below the top wires. If there are 3 wires at the top this is 3-phase power; if there is 1 wire at the top this is single-phase power.
- There are other wires below for cable television and telephone. Those utilities generally do not trim the trees because Eversource's trimming usually provides enough clearance and because those lines are not as potentially hazardous as the Eversource power lines. The Eversource lines are thinner so they snap to avoid having a tree hanging on a live wire.
- Eversource will also be doing a fair amount of tree trimming but that is not subject to review by the Planning Board. Eversource trims trees in what is called a "box cut:" 10 feet below the line, 15 feet above the line, and 8 feet to either side of the line.
- Eversource generally cuts and trims on a four year cycle so they will return in four years unless something pressing arises.
- Nick Fontaine will attend the meeting tomorrow evening.

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