

June 12, 2019

To the Planning Board from the Heritage Commission

The Heritage Commission at its meeting on June 6th heard the plan by Eversource Energy to expand 3-phase service on Durham Point Road and the projected tree cutting and limb trimming necessary for this work to move forward.

We relay to the Planning Board our serious concerns about this project. Durham Point Road is the oldest road in Durham, parts of which date from 1659, and was designated by vote in 1973 as a Scenic Road per RSA 253:17-18. It has a rich array of historic buildings, sites and resources; abundant and diverse conservation land along the Oyster River and Great Bay; and its winding curves, stone walls, hardwood trees and healthy canopy make it beautiful for motorists and bikers alike.

We understand that the plan presented on June 6th had been reduced in scope, especially with regard to the proposed number of trees to be removed. We thank Eversource for listening carefully to citizens' concerns and for working to reduce the cutting and trimming protocol.

We ask the Planning Board to incorporate these conditions into any approval:

1. That every effort be made to minimize impact to the conservation land and neighborhoods along Durham Point Road and to avoid damage to historic resources and attributes such as stone walls, fences, gates, etc.
2. That the absolute minimum number of trees be removed.
3. That the trimming area for vegetation-free corridors around the conductor wires be kept as small and limited as possible.
4. That Eversource establish a mechanism, preferably a resource person and a telephone number, for residents' concerns and/or complaints.

Faithfully yours,

Michael L. Bradley, Chairperson,
Durham Heritage Commission