

Durham Town Council and its Planning Board.  
Durham, N.H.

June 3, 2019 **RECEIVED**  
Town of Durham

**JUN - 4 2019**

Planning, Assessing  
and Zoning

Members,

Since 2005 my wife and I have lived at 177 Durham Point Road. We drive it regularly and have biked its length and walked parts of it over the years that we have lived here.

Its glory is the dense, overhanging cover of branches. No doubt, it was this feature of several of Durham's, roads that provided the justifications for designating DPR and other town roads scenic roads under state statute.

As Eversource contractors this week appeared along our road we found out, by talking with the crews, that the road's telephone/power poles are to be replaced by much taller poles carrying more wires with separators every few feet along their free length and that the taller poles will require heavy pruning or cutting down of many, many trees in order to create a sixteen foot wide clear space around the new wires. All of this is apparently to happen without there having been public notice or a hearing on the reason for the work or the options that the company has for accomplishing whatever is its goal. This is not the planning process that we have come to expect from our town authorities.

Eversource says that it has to get permission from the owner of each tree it proposes to cut. Our observation of the ribbons on trees along DPR is that most of the trees proposed to be cut lie between the stone walls and the road. That means that the town must have someone who has to be convinced of the need for and plan for felling each individual tree. Who is going to spend the time to do that? What will be the standards he or she will apply in making each of the 130 or so decisions?

The company says that it has permission to put up the new, higher poles. If the town turns down its request to trim the surrounding branches or to remove the trees it will go ahead and put in the new system anyway and risk what happens from future falling branches. Company representatives at the Council meeting last night seemed to blow off councilman Lawson's suggestion that the situation calls for an innovative solution, not simply applying national code standards; a solution that would be a win, win for all parties, not applying to a New Hampshire scenic road "national standards" that may work well in Iowa or Arizona but not here.

In short, Eversource's proposal is an outrage that must be prevented by the Town Council and its Planning Board. We endorse the facts and arguments set out in the articulate and well stated letters to you from long time DPR residents Messrs. Sandberg and Hoffman laying out the background of this looming desecration. Surely one of our town's most attractive neighborhood's--enjoyed by a large swath of residents from dog walkers to motorcyclists--should be protected by the Council and the Planning Board rather than to let happen what apparently is happening and, indeed, partially effected as we speak.

We urge your attention to this issue and ask your help in preventing or substantially blunting it.

Sincerely,

*Bob and Heidi Fly*