

Dear Michael,

When Eversource made its presentation about the life of wooden poles and that three new wooden poles had to be replaced after only one or two years-service because of Pileated Woodpecker damage I was wondering why we are still using wood and more importantly, why is Eversource considering wood? In the rowing industry, we stopped using wood in boats and oars in the 1980s. When the question came up at our Conservation Commission Meeting, last Thursday, about how the wood is treated, the answer was some environmentally friendly material.

However, it appears that the new material used to preserve the wood is so friendly that the new wooden poles would not be as reliant as the older version. Evidently where Pileated Woodpeckers build their nests, is in dead trees. Since a wooden utility pole looks like a dead tree, they see it as an ideal place to build their nests. The Pileated Woodpeckers are literally all over Durham especially in the wooded rural areas, like Durham Point Rd.

Considering this matter more, I believe continuing to replace wooden poles with more wooden poles is not the sound strategy to replace old infrastructure.

Following is the first company that popped up on the web when searching for composite utility poles:

<https://www.creativepultrusions.com/index.cfm/fiberglass-pultruded-systems/composite-utility-poles/>

Other articles that support this type of structure are as follows:

<https://www.utilityproducts.com/test-measurement/article/16003265/use-of-composites-increases-in-the-utility-and-telecommunication-industries/>

<https://www.energycentral.com/c/tr/composite-transmission-and-distribution-poles-new-trend/>

My comment as a citizen in Durham: **"is to insist that Eversource address why they are not using composite poles. These poles are environmentally friendly, nonconductive, resist salt spray/corrosion (i.e., Durham Point Road is adjacent to**

Little Bay a saltwater estuary), do not rot in wet areas, are smart looking, stronger, stiffer, and they last longer.”

Sincerely yours

Coleen Fuerst, President
Durham Boat Company, Inc.
Durham Conservation Commission/