

## Karen Edwards

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**From:** Michael Behrendt  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2019 2:42 PM  
**Subject:** Eversource - Comments on the Eversource Durham Point Road Project from Deer Point Landowners Association Members

To the Planning Board,  
Please see the email from Jim Lawson and comments from residents below.

**Michael Behrendt**  
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**From:** Jim Lawson [mailto:lawsonje24@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2019 2:18 PM  
**To:** Michael Behrendt  
**Cc:** Todd Selig  
**Subject:** Comments on the Eversource Durham Point Road Project from Deer Point Landowners Association Members

Dear Michael and Members of the Planning Board,

The Deer Point Landowners Association is comprised of thirty homes on Deer Meadow Road, Fox Hill Road and one home on Durham Point Road. Our neighborhood is impacted by the Durham Point Road Eversource Project both from a power reliability and an aesthetic standpoint. Many of our residents have lived in Durham for more than 25 years, and we all have a great appreciation for the character of our town and Durham Point Road. Our association is also a good steward of the land and resources that have been entrusted to us.

Last week, I solicited feedback from neighbors about the Durham Point Road Eversource project. Residents are familiar with the project, and many (if not most) have received emails expressing great concern about the project and its impact on the scenic character of the road including the notice "Durham Point Road Residents Unite!"

If there had been a general consensus in the views then I intended to represent that view at the Planning Board meeting. Not surprisingly, there was not. About two-thirds of people responding are not opposed to the project if it improves power reliability, but this is obviously not a decision to be made based on polling. Most neighbors included some insightful comments that I have included in this email. Everyone that responded has given me permission to provide their comments to the Planning Board. I hope the information is helpful

Sincerely,  
Jim Lawson  
President - Deer Point Landowners Association

### **Laurie and Bob Potter – 1 Deer Meadow Road**

*Sorry for the late reply. Bob and I had driven down the length of Durham Point Road a few weeks ago to see what the power company proposed to remove. We also met with Eversource about trees proposed for removal on or near our property lines. We had a couple of concerns about selected trees from the original list near the former buffalo farm and between the Seymour's and the Harris' driveway, but still vote on the side of resiliency and support the proposed tree removal. If the list of trees has been reduced, we are even more supportive of Eversource's proposal.*

*We don't vote lightly. In past years we have not agreed with tree selection criteria used by the power company, but this effort seemed more thoughtful and the trees proposed did seem to present reasonable risk of danger to fall on the power lines.*

*Thanks for polling the community and for the efforts the HOA and you specifically as a Councilor do to keep us informed.*

### **Nancy Parnell – 2 Deer Meadow Road**

*I am in favor of whatever Eversource can do to improve the reliability of power supply to our area. If new poles and the removal of problem trees and branches will give us that reliability, then I think it is appropriate to accept what the "experts" tell us needs to be done.*

*I understand that Eversource is taking another look at the trees that they had planned to cut and the number will be reduced which may be a good compromise for those who would wish to have Durham Point Road remain untouched.*

*Thank you for your service to our Deer Point community and for your lengthy service on the Town Council of Durham.*

### **Elaine Tinetti – 4 Deer Meadow Road**

*I not only support removal of the red taped trees on Durham Point Road, I hope the board will consider removing overhanging branches and other dead and leaning trees that pose a threat to the power lines. Over the past 23 years, trees along the roadside have grown exponentially, encroaching on the road, causing poor visibility around curves and icy conditions in winter.*

*If healthy roadside trees are pruned high and vase-like with branches cut back to the trunk, they will not only help restore the rural character of the road, but enhance safety and reduce the number of week-long power outages during storms..... and the result would be considerably more attractive. Rural doesn't have to be ugly.*

### **Linnea Dwyer – 6 Deer Meadow Road**

*There are only two specially designated roads in the area that I know of, for their beautiful scenery: Durham Point Rd. and Wednesday Hill (I think that is the name!). Taking down healthy trees alone is highly unfortunate in our current global environmental crisis. On top of that, the beauty of the road will be forever changed. Our power outages are not extreme in the least and are infrequent at the most.*

*Taking down the trees is an unnecessary and destructive step backwards in long term planning. I feel it is a terrible idea and not well thought out. Please do not take down the trees along Durham Point Rd. It will be an irreversible mistake.*

### **James Ehlen – 12 Deer Meadow Road**

*I strongly urge you to deny the Eversource request to cut trees. My reasons are summarized below.*

- 1. It is difficult to see why it is necessary to cut trees between the Transfer Station and 238 Durham Point Road while not cutting along the full 3 phase path from rt 108 to the UNH Lab at Adams Point. Does Eversource really think that the uncut areas do not present a risk?*
- 2. It appears that the real Eversource motivation is to provide 3 phase service from the transfer Station to the switch at 238 Durham Point enabling an alternative 3 phase source for the UNH Lab as well as to increase their rate base. Residential users need only single phase power. Thus, the whole exercise benefits only one customer, while potentially raising distribution rates for all.*
- 3. Existing 3 phase service to the UNH lab from 238 Durham Point and from rt 108 to the Transfer Station now utilize older and lower poles. Why the need for higher poles in just this one area when most of the distance from rt 108 to Adams Point will not have new poles? They could simply add 3 phase capacity to existing poles.*

4. *With one possible exception, the extended power outages in recent years were not due to line damage in the area where the cutting is proposed. Adding 3 phase capacity to a small section along Durham Point Road will not necessarily mean fewer and shorter power outages in the future. Delayed service restoration has generally been a function of an Eversource policy of restoring service to densely populated service areas first. Does Eversource plan to change this policy?*

5. *Regulated utilities such as Eversource are permitted to earn a return on their investment. Incremental investment in generating and distribution facilities is the path to increased profits. Allowing an increase in investment (cost of new poles and tree cutting) will potentially lead to higher bills for residential customers without any real benefit, while giving the UNH lab an alternative power source.*

6. *Eversource management must think their Durham customers are dumb and will accept whatever they offer as gospel.*

### **Ray Belles – 14 Deer Meadow Road**

*I want reliable power, but don't believe for a minute that the only solution is to remove the tree canopy that makes Durham Pt. a scenic road. I believe there is a right answer, but Neversource Has no interest in providing it. The have consistently ignored the options that can provide reliability. But are more inexpensive or inconvenient to the corporation. Please stop them from removing trees and the canopy that makes Durham Road a cherished part of our community. They are ready to jeopardize the Bay and ignore all the protests from the town and the citizens now they want to provide themselves protection from failed service in exchange for our heritage. They are obligated to give us service, but are asking too high a price. Have they really installed all the poles without approval? Will the town just stand by and let them do what they want at the cost of hundreds of trees and the tree canopy the makes our road so special? Please do everything you can do to protect us from Neversource. Do we really need three phase power, or does Neversource need it for their own planning?*

### **Joel Blumenthal – 19 Deer Meadow Road**

*My thoughts on the trees are that cutting what is needed to be cut is fine. Improving our power service is important.*

*The road is deep in trees and any trees cut will in a short time not be missed as there are many trees behind them that will become the new "visual boundary".*

*It will NOT impact the "scenic characteristic" of the road one bit.*

*If we were talking about cutting the only trees on the road, I might have a different opinion.*

*Also, in looking at the trees marked, many appear to be old and not healthy....they NEED to be taken down. They are actually, to my eye, unsightly.  
That's my 2 cents worth....thanks for asking!*

### **Guy Esposito – 20 Deer Meadow Road**

*As far as I'm concerned this is the classic tempest in a teapot. Durham Point Road is over grown and many of the trees are hazards since they now overhang the road and intrude into the road in certain spots as far as I can observe from Deer Meadow Road to Route 108. In my opinion they should cut down more trees than they've already marked. Removing the trees that are that are marked will hardly make much difference and hardly be noticed.*

### **Jeannie Poore – 22 Deer Meadow Road**

*Thanks for reaching out regarding the Eversource Project. It is always hard to see beautiful trees removed and scenic property altered. However as the area becomes more populated and the integrity of the aging current power supply system becomes more and more an issue, I believe it is necessary to make changes to insure the safety and well-being of the residents of DPR. Eversource appears to be making an effort to respect the sensitivity of the issue by reducing the tree count substantially and it would seem the DPR residents should meet them halfway as they work to provide a system of a more reliable power supply.*

### **Heather Cloitre – 23 Deer Meadow Road**

*I received your e-mail regarding the Eversource project to remove trees along Durham Point Road. I have driven down Durham Point Road and evaluated the trees with the "red tape" indicating that Eversource intends to remove those trees. I did not get the impression that the removal of the "red tape" trees would have a significant impact on the "scenic" presence of Durham Point Road. I believe that these trees need to be taken down as they appear to present potential future problems with the supply of power to the homes in our area. Removal of a specific number of trees as indicated by the "red tape" could prevent severe power outages as our Durham Point neighborhood has experienced a number of times over the past 7-8 years!! I specifically remember a power outage that started on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and continued through the entire Thanksgiving weekend!! Fortunately, I had prepared most of my Thanksgiving Day meal by Wednesday (with the exception of the Turkey) and had a family of four visiting us for Thanksgiving weekend! We were able to cook our turkey at our son's home and enjoy our FEAST there!! However, it was not easy to entertain a*



*family of four along with our own family when the temps were below freezing and continued for 4-5 days!!*

*Again, I have assessed the situation on Durham Point Road and agree that it is reasonable for Eversource to remove the "red tape" trees as they present potential threats to providing power to our area in the event of severe weather!!*

*Thanks for providing a means of voicing my concern; I will not be available to attend the scheduled hearing on June 12<sup>th</sup> but I would like my observations and concerns considered.*

**Dave and Michelle Harriton – 25 Deer Meadow Road**

*We would lean towards leaving the road as a scenic passage.*

**Michael and Claire Merenda – 2 Fox Hill Road**

*Thanks for keeping us informed regarding the possible cutting of trees on Durham Pt rd. Claire and I are split - I say no - do not cut and she has no problem with cutting them. My reasons for not cutting are:*

- 1. I like the beauty of Durham Pt road and its scenic designation*
- 2. This is a selfish reason (which should not over rule the majority) - I have spent approximately \$15,000 for a full house generator (and one portable before the automatic one) because of the power outages.*

*Saying this, I'm not strongly opposed so if they are allowed to cut them. I'm OK with it.*

**Cathy O'Rourke – 3 Fox Hill Road**

*From a professional perspective driving down DPR with clients new to the area is fantastic. People really appreciate the feel of the area with the trees creating a canopy.*

*From a resident perspective, we have learned and prepared to deal with power outages. To us, it's part of living in NH. Sure having consistent power would be much appreciated and perhaps a happy medium would be great, but taking all the trees down that are currently marked is to many.*

**Cheryl Clark – 6 Fox Hill Road**

*As much as we like the trees, Steve and I like our electricity more. Let Eversource do what is necessary to provide more reliable power. Thanks for asking for our input and for all you do for our Town.*

**Diane Bierman-Carson – 163 Durham Point Road**

I am the one house in Deer Point Landowners with three poles...all already impacting my property....and after driving around Maine and New Hampshire and looking at trees and poles, and where spacers are placed....the reliability project on Durham Point Road seems a little over the top...

I am already very unhappy about the three poles...especially the two with the yellow covers.....and there has been a small amount of damage and pounding as a result of their placement.

I agree that there should be improvements to the power lines...but it appears that we are treating a residential area in the same manner as more industrial areas are wired.

Additionally...as long as we still keep any large trees...we will still have the potential for outages. The 32.000.000 spent in one year would certainly be better spent. If over let us say a ten year timeframe that 320.000.000 was spent putting wires underground.....we have already done it to preserve the integrity of the University where there certainly is not the same density as a scenic Historic road.

Thanks for listening....a bit late...but better late than never.