

From: PAMELA LANGLEY [mailto:pamelalangley@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, June 26, 2019 1:02 PM
To: Michael Behrendt
Subject: Regarding Durham Point tree removal

Dear Mr. Behrendt - As a property owner (with my mother, Helen Langley) with a combined mile or more of frontage on Durham Point and Langley Roads, and at the risk of alienating my neighbors along the road, I would like to express my support for the upgrade to electrical service, utility pole replacement, and tree removal proposed by Eversource. In fact, I had approved the removal of more than a dozen identified trees on my property prior to the removal of the markers after the recent review.

I have lived at 247 Durham Point Road for 66 years (i.e., all my life...), and my mother has lived here since 1945. My family has lived on Durham Point since the 1730s, originally owning property in the current Deer Meadow development and at one time owning all the property currently known as Colony Cove. We operated a dairy farm on our current property until my father's retirement in the mid-1970s. So, for me, the historical perspective may be slightly different from those who spoke against the project at the last public hearing. I would also venture to say that my family's stewardship of these properties over the years has helped to earn Durham Point the prized "scenic road" designation that is the basis for neighbors' concerns.

When my mother came here in 1945, much more of the land along the road was open for agricultural purposes. Even in my youth, the area was much more open. The properties just up the road from

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ours still bore the scars from the devastating forest fire in the 1940s that burned from up the Longmarsh Road down to the river. The road was, in my opinion, just as "scenic" then, even without the "tree tunnels" that were brought up in arguments at the last public hearing. My mother, who remembers the terror of the fire, is probably a little more extreme than most (including myself) in her desire for tree removal. However, I am also in favor for removal of the undergrowth in the right-of-way - something that was done annually by the town throughout my youth - for safety reasons. Clearing the low growth in the right-of-way would reduce the risk of fire from a carelessly discarded cigarette (something that used to happen more often than it does now) and increase the visibility of wildlife crossing the traveled way, which happens much more frequently than it did in my youth.

Besides trees and wildlife, there is one other thing that there is a lot more of since the road was given the "scenic" designation in the 1970s - people. If there were only the number of homes down here that there were in the 1970s, then I might agree that 3-phase power was not necessary. I might even agree now, if I were not myself an elderly person caring for an even more elderly mother and were unaware of the risks to our health and safety posed by extended power outages. It is only in the past 20 years that I have witnessed power outages lasting multiple days and the extreme distress those extended outages caused my mother. I have appreciated efforts by Eversource in recent years to keep the lines trimmed out and have actually been surprised on a few occasions that we did *not* lose power.

I am unable to attend tonight's public hearing and hope you will convey to the Planning Board my support for the project to upgrade to 3-phase power, to replace utility poles with the taller poles, and to remove and/or trim trees in the right-of-way as best serves the safety and security of electrical lines and workers, as well as local residents and first responders.

Sincerely,

Pamela M. Langley

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