

Dear Todd, Town Council Members and Planning Board Members,

I was not able to attend the Town Council meeting on Monday evening (6/3) however, I did have an opportunity to watch the broadcast on DCAT today. I would very much like to ensure that all parties are aware of the "permission" I provided to a member of Asplundh company when they came to my home asking if it was OK to remove a tree from my property.

I do not recall the exact day, but a representative from Asplundh pulled into my driveway, knocked on the door and said he'd like to speak to me about trimming a tree on my property that is/was affecting the power lines. I told him I was pretty sure I knew which one it was as there's a Cedar tree that surrounds the lines feeding the poles that run down my driveway and ultimately provide my home's electricity. As we walked together up the driveway, he said that particular tree was not an issue and it was a dead hardwood tree under the distribution line along Durham Point Road. The tree does in fact appear to be dead, the Asplundh rep said they need to take it down to prevent any issues and asked if I would like to keep the wood once it was removed. I said I would like to keep the wood and he had me sign a door hanger-type piece of paper so they know I wanted to keep it. He then tied a ribbon to branches near the base of the tree.

At no point was there mention that this was part of the 3-Phase upgrade and my permission was needed for taking this tree specifically for this project. If my name is used by Eversource, Asplundh or any another contractor stating that I, or any of my family members have given consent to, or agree with the 3-Phase upgrade project, that is not accurate. My name and signature associated with this is solely for the purpose of keeping the wood from a tree that I was told needed to be taken down because it is affecting the existing distribution line.

This is unfortunately highly indicative of how I and others, as private property owners have been treated and/or presented by Eversource throughout both the Seacoast Reliability Project process and apparently this 3-Phase distribution line upgrade project. Every time the Arborist from Eversource stated they were working directly with private land owners to get their permission, I cannot help but bristle and once again, feel completely taken advantage of by this company as they are simply not telling the truth.

I would like to state again, specifically to the Planning Board as a public comment regarding this project, that I oppose the extensive tree clearing on Durham Point Road for this proposed 3-Phase distribution upgrade and would like to see it not be granted permission to move forward.

Thank you,

Matthew Fitch
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