



TOWN OF DURHAM
8 NEWMARKET RD
DURHAM, NH 03824-2898
603/868-8064
www.ci.durham.nh.us

Town Planner's Review
Wednesday, February 23, 2022

- X. **Public Hearing – Eversource Tree Cutting**. Application from Eversource to remove 145 dead, decaying, and hazardous trees and trim others on the four scenic roads – Bay Road, Bennett Road, Durham Point Road, and Packers Falls Road. Bob Berner, arborist with Eversource, applicant. Terry Cooper, Asplundh Tree Expert, contractor.
- I recommend that the board take final action if it is ready and otherwise to continue the review to March 23.

Please note the following:

The application is to remove 145 trees and to trim numerous others located on all four of the Town's scenic roads: Bay Road, Bennett Road, Durham Point Road, and Packers Falls Road. All of these trees are tagged on site with blue and white ribbons.

The Town adopted those four roads as scenic roads under RSA 231:158. Removal or trimming of trees within the road right of way of a scenic road requires approval by the Planning Board following a public hearing.

The list of 145 trees was emailed to the board and is included in the packet. The Public Works Department looked at all of these trees and concurs that these trees should be removed. Public Works Director and Tree Warden Rich Reine is a certified arborist.

Bob Berner, arborist for Eversource, said this about the trimming: "To clarify, the work that Eversource has planned for the Town of Durham in 2022 is considered "Standard Maintenance Trimming". This type of trimming occurs once every 4 years as part of our line maintenance program. It is not similar to the work performed a few years ago as part of the Seacoast Reliability Project. The scope of the work remains unchanged from the last cycle. Eversource will target for removal limbs and branches that are within 8' to the side, 10' below, and 15' above our conductors. In addition, brush growing under the wire zone will also be removed."

See the enclosed General Policy for Utility Maintenance Tree Trimming and Tree Removal on Scenic Roads in Durham, NH. This was adopted by the Planning Board in 2018 and modified in 2019.

In accordance with the policy, a certified arborist working for Eversource will be involved in the review process and in the oversight of tree trimming and removal. I believe this will be Bob Berner.