



**TOWN OF DURHAM**  
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**Town Planner's Review**  
**Wednesday, June 12, 2019**

**X. Eversource Energy – Distribution Line Upgrade.**

- A. **Courtesy presentation by Eversource about overall project.** The following roads will be affected: Colony Cove Road, Cutts Road, Durham Point Road, Frost Drive, Langley Road, Longmarsh Road, Mathes Cove Road, Sandy Brook Drive, Sunnyside Drive, Winecellar Road, and several private drives off these roads.

This is a courtesy presentation of the overall project. Eversource presented to the Town Council on June 3 but that was only regarding the component on Durham Point Road. We do not have any written material from Eversource about the overall project but there is some in the documentation submitted for C, below.

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- B. **Public Hearing – Cutting of Trees on Durham Point Road.** Review of proposal to trim and remove trees along Durham Point Road, a designated scenic road, in accordance with RSA 231:158. Approval by the Planning Board is required for cutting any tree within the Town right of way with a diameter of 4-3/4 inches or greater. Ian Farley, Arborist with Eversource. William Burleigh, Asplundh, contractor.
- The Planning Board can act to approve, approve with conditions, or deny the request when it deems appropriate.

The Planning Board held a drive around with Eversource on June 6. I will forward draft minutes of the drive around and post them to the Town website shortly. An updated lists of trees proposed for removal is enclosed. Eversource updated the list today/June 7. Eversource met with the Historic District/Heritage Commission last night to discuss the proposal. The policy for tree removal and tree trimming adopted by the Planning Board is also enclosed in the packet (and posted on the website).

One issue that has caused some consternation is that Eversource says it will use the same box around the area for trimming branches for lines that are part of the spacer (or Hendrix) cables as for the individual, uninsulated lines. That box is 15 feet above the line, 10 feet below the line, and 8 feet to either side of the line.

The Heritage Commission discussed whether there could be some kind of additional oversight or regular meetings included as part of this project. An arborist is not included on the crews but Eversource says they provide much training and oversight for the crews. Eversource said it would not be workable to include an arborist with the crews. The commission also discussed whether there should be easier contact information should concerns arise beyond use of the 800 phone number.

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C. **Installation of New Poles in WCOD and SPOD.** Request to install 13 new poles in the Wetland Conservation and Shoreland Preservation Overlay Districts in various locations off Durham Point, Longmarsh, and Winecellar Roads. Reviewed as Permitted Use B. William McCloy, Normandeau Associates, wetland scientist and agent for Eversource.

➤ I recommend the board take final action if all is in order.

See the detailed packets describing the proposal. The Conservation Commission reviewed the application on May 30 and voted to recommend approval. This application is not a conditional use but rather a “Permitted Use B.” There is no hearing, fee, nor notice involved with a permitted use B and the Planning Board may take action at one meeting if all is in order. The requirements for the WCOD and SPOD are identical so the board need only review the proposed activity for compliance with a), b), and c), below.

**175-60. Permitted Uses in the WCOD.**

...B. *The following uses or activities, including any necessary grading, shall be permitted in the WCOD if they are permitted in the underlying zoning district provided that the Zoning Administrator issues a permit for the activity after the Planning Board, with the advice of the Conservation Commission, determines that: a.) appropriate erosion control measures will be used, b.) any disturbed area will be restored, and c.) the activity will be conducted in a manner that minimizes any impact on the wetland.*

**175-71. Permitted Uses in the SPOD.**

...B. *The following uses or activities, including any necessary grading, shall be permitted in the SPOD provided that the Zoning Administrator issues a permit for the activity after the Planning Board, with the advice of the Conservation Commission, determines that: a) appropriate erosion control measures will be used, b) any disturbed area will be restored, and c) the activity will be conducted in a manner that minimizes any impact on the shoreland:*