
Dear Members of the Planning Board

I am writing about the pine trees near the corner of Sunnyside and Durham Point Road that are part of the request for removal from the scenic Durham Point Road. These trees, which tower above the road, the utility line and our home, are presently dangerous. Tall broken trunks are a testimony to the size of the two that have fallen in the last five or so years. Remarkably the first of these fell towards the house at 1 Sunnyside and spared the house (and the treehouse our former neighbor had just built for his son). The second fell in a microburst on May 5th, 2018 and fell across Durham Point Road and amazingly spared both the house and the barn, though as the tree hit the ground the whole house shook. Further, in its aftermath Durham Point Road was out of power for a considerable amount of time and was a big mess for the Public Works crew to dismantle. A third was struck by lightning and substantively compromised on July 13th, again blocking Durham Point Road, but as luck would have one of the vehicles blocked contained a tree removal crew who jumped out to make light work of the blockage in the continuing thunderstorm. In big storms my daughters remain scared to be in their rooms, which are at the front of our 1790 home, which is part of the Town Historic District.

Because of these dangers and apparent compromises to the tree health (visible lightning marks, clear disease in the remaining substantive trunks from the recent falls) and the considerable damage these towering trees pose to our home and my family, I approached the town about their removal. I am grateful to Eversource, the Public Works Director and the Town Planner for working expeditiously to document the need for and make a plan for the removal of these three trees.

I hope you will approve this request, and I thank you for your service to our town.

Thank you,

Julie Bryce

17 Durham Point Road