



STAFF MEMORANDUM

Date: October 8, 2019
To: Planning Board
From: Kellie Shamel, Town Planner
Subject: **Scenic Road Public Hearing:** In accordance with NH RSA 231:158, the Milford Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing for Eversource for tree trimming and removal, as part of routine maintenance, on the following scenic road: Mason Rd.

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

Eversource is before the board the Planning Board seeking approval to perform tree and brush maintenance along Mason Road. Eversource has requested to trim and remove trees/brush adjacent and beneath some of its distribution power lines along Mason Road. The work is needed to ensure the safe distribution of power and to improve reliability of electric service to customers.

In accordance with NH Planning and Land Use Regulation 231:158, the Board can deny the Companies' request to install poles/distribution lines and trim/cut trees on a designated scenic road if the action would (1) "lead to the deterioration of the scenic quality of the road" and (2) "because the request failed to mark all of the trees to be removed and failed to present a study or documentation about how removing the trees would affect drainage for other trees on the road." (Webster v. Town of Candia (2001))

Please find the attached information from Eversource regarding trees to be removed and trimmed.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

The maintenance plan is fairly straightforward and Staff finds no significant issues. The Planning Board will want to emphasize the need to preserve the rural character of these roads and trim only those trees/brush on approved roads which are necessary to ensure the public safety or pose a danger to the power lines. Further, the Board should direct Eversource to repair any stonewalls that may be disturbed during the tree/brush maintenance to their original state.

