



TOWN OF MILFORD, NH
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1 UNION SQUARE, MILFORD, NH 03055

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STAFF MEMORANDUM

Date: March 9, 2020
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 roads: Joslin Road, Jennison Road, Osgood Road, Ball Hill Road, Emerson Road, Federal Hill Road, Foster Road, Mason Road, Mile Slip Road, North River Road, Ponemah Hill Road, Ruaonala Road, Savage Road, Young Road.

BACKGROUND/PROPOSAL:

Eversource is before 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 the roadways listed above. The work is needed to ensure the safe distribution of power and to improve reliability of electric service to customers. The applicant has provided maps and a narrative indicating the areas scheduled for enhanced tree trimming and scheduled maintenance trimming.

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.

Dear Municipal Official,

I'm writing to inform you that portions of Eversource electrical circuits in the Town of Milford have been selected for our Enhanced Tree Trimming (ETT) program. ETT is a reliability-based tree trimming and removal program focusing on protecting the main power source (or "backbone") of each of our electric circuits in New Hampshire. The leading causes of power outages in New Hampshire are tree related and this enhanced clearance zone around our electrical facilities helps our system to better withstand large storm events and reduce the possibility of tree-related outages.

In the following months both Asplundh Tree and Northern Tree Service will be reaching out to meet with individual property owners who live along the proposed routes to discuss our proposed tree trimming and/or removal plans. Attached to this letter are maps showing the routes for our Enhanced Tree Trimming initiative in Milford. The following roads have been selected for this reliability improvement program:

- Joslin Rd
- Jennison Rd
- Osgood Rd

Any property owned by the Town of Milford will be individually permissioned with the appropriate town official through our permission process.

Eversource is committed to making an investment in your community to improve your electrical reliability. Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have any questions or concerns regarding our proposed work.

Sincerely,

Rick Sullivan *Richard Sullivan*
Eversource Arborist
603-634-2617
Richard.a.sullivan@eversource.com

"Safety First and Always."



13 Legends Drive
Hooksett, NH 03106

Rick Sullivan
Arborist

Dear Municipal Official,

I'm writing to inform you that several Eversource electrical circuits in the Town of Milford have scheduled maintenance trimming (SMT) planned for 2020. Eversource trims our overhead electrical circuits on a four-year trim cycle. The leading causes of power outages in New Hampshire are tree related and this cyclical maintenance ensures maintaining a clearance zone around our electrical facilities and helps our system to better withstand large storm events and reduce the possibility of tree-related outages. The following scenic roads have scheduled maintenance trimming planned on them:

• Ball Hill Rd
• Emerson Rd
• Federal Hill Rd
• Foster Rd
• Jennison Rd
• Joslin Rd
• Mason Rd
• Melendy Rd

• Mile Slip Rd
• No. River Rd
• Osgood Rd
• Ponemah Hill Rd
• Ruonala Rd
• Savage Rd
• Young Rd

As part of the planning for this work our certified arborists have done an assessment on the trees abutting our electrical infrastructure and have identified trees that are hazardous to future reliability. Individual property owners have signed consent forms to have hazard trees removed as part of this work on their property. Trees that have been permissioned for removal are marked with white + blue checkered flagging ribbon.

Eversource is committed to making an investment in your community to improve your electrical reliability. Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have any questions or concerns regarding our proposed work.

Sincerely,

Rick Sullivan *Richard Sullivan*
Eversource Arborist
603-634-2617
Richard.a.sullivan@eversource.com

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