

**Brent & Marcia Hiller**

141 Wachusett Street  
Holden, MA 01520

10/7/2020

New London Planning Board  
375 Main Street  
New London, NH 03257

**RE: Soo Nipi Park Road Tree Removal/ October 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

Dear Planning Board Members,

Over the last 6 years, my family has been fortunate to spend summers on the lake living on Lighthouse View Road. In addition to enjoying water of Lake Sunapee, we often walk up Soo Nipi Park Road to take in its beautiful scenery and scout for wildlife. At night, we drive the road slowly hoping to catch a glimpse of a deer in the moonlit woods. It was with great disappointment we learned of the plans to install utility poles and remove 75 trees on this "Scenic Road". We fear this work will destroy the beauty of one of the few remaining scenic roads in New London.

It is our understanding that the proposed project is designed to improve the reliability of power to properties in the area as well as add capacity needed for recently created lots being marketed on Lighthouse View Road. I believe a better solution needs to be found that preserves the beauty of Soo Nipi Park Road while accomplishing these goals. A few questions came to mind as soon as we read about this project:

- Is there a reason why the current utility lines that run through the woods parallel to Soo Nipi Park Road cannot be upgraded? While Eversource likely prefers to abandon lines like this that are difficult to service, is there a technical reason they can not accomplish the same goals through this less invasive method?
- Has Eversource looked at the feasibility of burying the lines along Soo Nipi Park Road?
- Are there plans for the addition of poles on Lighthouse View Road to supply the newly created lots? While this project focuses on Soo Nipi Park Road, we believe it is being primarily driven by

the need for additional capacity on Lighthouse View Road. Will additional poles and tree removals be needed on Lighthouse View Road to provide service to these new lots? While Lighthouse View Road does not have the protections of a designated "Scenic Road", its beauty deserves to be preserved.

At the October 13<sup>th</sup> hearing relative to this matter, we would ask that the Planning Board not vote on this matter and instead ask Eversource to provide alternatives that would not destroy the beauty of Soo Nipi Park Road. This additional time could also be used for a site visit, provide additional details about the project, and answer the questions us and many other have likely asked concerning this project.

Sincerely,

Brent and Marcia Hiller