

From: t cott

Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2020 3:30 PM

To: Town Administrator <TownAdmin@nl-nh.com>; Adam Ricker <planning@nl-nh.com>

Subject: Letter for NL Planning Board: Eversource Application for Soo-Nipi Park, 10/13/20

TO: NEW LONDON PLANNING BOARD

FROM: THE COTTRILLS, 320 SOO-NIPI PARK ROAD

DATE: 10/12/20

RE: EVERSOURCE - UTILITY LINE PROPOSAL FOR SOO-NIPI PARK ROAD/LIGHTHOUSE VIEW ROAD

We write to express our heightened concern and strong opposition to the Application and Plan submitted by Eversource Energy (9/17/20) where they propose to “... *extend our primary lines along Soo Nipi Park dr to provide safe reliable electric service for land owners on Soo Nipi Park dr and Light House View rd.*”

The reality of this Application and Plan is to move the utility lines servicing the Soo-Nipi Park area from the woods to aerial lines over and along Soo-Nipi Park Road and Lighthouse View Road.

Such action would drastically change the nature, beauty and scenic quality of these roads.

Our family has occupied our home year-round (including winter) every year for decade - since 1970. Our electricity, telephone and cable services are perfectly adequate. Sure, there are times in any of the four seasons when the utility service lines are severed or simply unable to deliver one or any of the utility services. And, sometimes, it may be several days before service is restored for which we have installed an auto-switch generator for electrical service.

We are satisfied and believe we have “safe reliable electric service.”

We understand however, the catalyst for this application is the serviceability of two new lots at the far end of Lighthouse View Road with frontage in the Hastings Landing area of the lake, thus “... *to extend our primary lines...*” as proposed by Eversource. Added to those two lots is the possibility in the future of servicing five more new lots along Lighthouse View Road. Eversource’s proposed solution of moving the entire utility supply line (from Route 103-A) seems like a substantial amount of work and investment by Eversource... in our neighborhood.

There may be other worthy options for servicing the new lots aside from adding more capacity to the existing utility line. The most obvious is to place utility lines underground on both roads. We know this would be a more expensive proposition initially but probably less expensive for Eversource on an annual maintenance basis than installing aerial lines along both roads which would still be subject to weather-related problems.

We think Eversource should first share with Soo-Nipi Park property owners the “master plan” for Soo-Nipi Park utility service. And together, we should work toward a neighborhood and scenic-road friendly solution.

We consider ourselves very lucky to live on such a “scenic” road. The trees provide a wonderful visual canopy especially this time of year. A reduction of 70+ trees along with countless other smaller saplings and hundreds of other limbs would create a wide-open scalped effect, common along several other roads... an unsightly effect.

For now, we ask the New London Planning Board to seek more information, options and alternatives prior to making any decision on the Eversource Application. We’d also ask that the Planning Board urge Eversource to commit to interaction and solutions with the neighborhood.

Sincerely,

The Cottrill Family