

October 7, 2020

Dear Members of the New London Planning Board,

Where do you go to find peace in the crazy world we live in? Hopefully you have somewhere near your home which offers peace, quiet and a natural beauty that calms your soul. We are lucky to have that a stone's throw away from our house. Soo Nipi Park Rd and Lighthouse View Rd offer an oasis away from the hustle and bustle of normal life. It's not hard to understand why Soo Nipi Park Rd has been designated a scenic road. It truly is a wonder to experience. In the height of the summer the trees shade the street, making it a comfortable walking environment even at the hottest part of the day. We take our dog there daily. I can't often drive down the street without seeing other neighbors out with their dogs or simply walking or running. Some even drive to our street to be able to walk the area. Since the trees grow very close to the edge of the road, we often see various forms of wildlife including our fox, numerous deer, hawks, and once in a while (fortunately!) a bear.

I recently heard that Eversource was planning on constructing power lines down the streets and am deeply disturbed by the thought of ruining this precious neighborhood. The number of trees that are marked to be removed will destroy this beautiful scenic road. It will no longer offer the shade for the summertime our pets need to get their exercise in the heat of the summer. The wildlife won't feel as welcome to exist in that area as they lose their habitat.

The current lines go through the trees, leaving the street in its natural state. Why is this not being considered an appropriate alternative? When we built our house, we chose to bury our power lines in order to maintain the natural beauty of the area. Why is that not required of Eversource? Why are alternate routes through the back side of the land not being considered? Why not a more direct route through the land/houses on the north side of Soo Nipi Park Rd where power already exists? The cheapest solution isn't always the right solution.

The designation of a scenic road should be taken very seriously. There are not many left in our town and therefore should be revered and preserved, somewhat like an historical building. Once it is destroyed, it is gone forever. I urge the planning board to come to our neighborhood and experience the beauty of the scenic road before making any decisions allowing Eversource to destroy it.

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