

From: Carol Thrane

Sent: Sunday, October 11, 2020 1:57 PM

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

Cc: Robert Martin

Subject: Preserving SooNipi Park Rd

Adam Ricker, New London Town Planner

Kim Halquist, Town Administrator, New London

Dear Mr. Ricker, Ms. Halquist, and the New London Planning Board,

We are writing today to express our concern about the proposed changes to Soo Nipi Park, our beloved scenic road. We drive the road to our home, and we walk the road almost every day as well for exercise. It serves our 'nature walk' through all kinds of weather. I don't want to even imagine how the loss of even a fraction of the 75 trees slated for removal would destroy the scenic beauty of the road. It seems that if the trees are removed, there would be no more need for the designation "scenic road"; for it would look like every other over-developed highway with ugly electrical lines criss-crossing instead of a beautiful canopy overhead. SooNipi would no longer be a 'park'.

Each of the 7 scenic roads in New London should be preserved, including SooNipi Park. In order to preserve the character and quality of our wonderful town, we need to imagine other alternatives than the conventional approach of chopping trees down to make way for "progress". New London has a laudable history of conservation - of buildings, of the lake, of the shoreline, of the family-friendly/neighborly quality of life that so distinguishes the town and area. To preserve the beauty of SooNipi Park Rd is an essential element in the overall conservative approach to preserving what is best and accentuating it.

There are costs to conserving what is best, and we need fertile imaginations to come up with better alternatives to the typical pragmatic mindset that sacrifices quality of life for economic/technical gain. Eversource has not shown that there are not viable alternatives to plowing down SooNipi Park. As we have talked with other neighbors and even with Eversource staff, ideas arose that included burying the lines (as a cooperative endeavor between Eversource and residents) or running the new lines from the northern or eastern direction along an existing route (which would be much closer to the property in question). We believe that a more prudent approach would be to either bury the line along Soo Nipi Park Rd., improve the existing line or approach the new lots via a different and more direct route, perhaps from Hastings Landing.

We understand that new development requires bolstered electricity in this area, but we would encourage you to support a more collaborative approach to solving this problem.

The residents along Soo Nipi Park, Lighthouse View and Pike Brook Roads would like to collaborate with Eversource and the town of New London to identify and fund a solution. We request that all parties involved take the time necessary to put our heads together to work out a solution that preserves the scenic beauty of SooNipi Park and provides needed electricity.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Carol Thrane

Robert Martin

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