

**Town of Effingham, New Hampshire
Historic District Commission**

**Public Hearing Minutes
Eversource Energy – Hobbs Road Tree Cutting
March 13, 2017**

Present: E. Chick (Chair), S. Finn (Assistant Chair), E. Jones (Secretary)

Absent: L. Espie (Selectmen's Representative)

The public hearing was called to order by the Chair at 6:34 p.m.

Members of the public in attendance were: J. Meisner, M. Cahalane, J. Finn, B. Bernier, and M. Amaral.

The Chair first explained that this was a public hearing required by RSA 231:158 for the purpose of accepting questions and/or comments from the public on the proposed treeing cutting and/or pruning by Eversource Energy along Hobbs Road, a designated scenic road under RSA 231:157. The Chair then explained the process by which the Public Hearing would be conducted.

B. Bernier (representing Eversource Energy) and M. Amaral (representing Lewis Tree Services) explained the reasons for trees to be listed for removal or pruning. It was noted that on scenic roads, tree removal is done judiciously, with a preference for trimming wherever possible, while still ensuring the safety and reliability of power lines and other infrastructure. It was noted by Mr. Bernier that the first three trees (all ash variety) will not be removed but rather trimmed.

Members of the commission posed questions to Mr. Bernier and Mr. Amaral with regard to the timeline for this project, as well as the timeline for such requests in the future. In particular, the idea that the request be submitted at a time of year when trees would be in leaf, in order to make it easier for members of the Commission to make reasonable and informed decisions as to whether particular trees require the work requested. Mr. Bernier indicated that this should be possible. **In addition, Mr. Bernier indicated that additional dead trees could be removed if marked.**

There being no further discussion or comment from the public, the Secretary moved that the request be approved as discussed, with the request that wherever possible pruning be utilized instead of outright removal of the tree. Seconded by the Chair. Passed and carried. **The Secretary will send the necessary approval letter.**

The public hearing was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erik Jones
Secretary