

Mr. Carroll,

Fri 7/15/2016 12:55 PM

Hopefully I can ease some of your concern regarding our current efforts within the Town of Chilmark and our identification of trees for possible removal.

We are in the process of reviewing numerous trees throughout sections of Chilmark. Our tree removal process starts with the dispatching of a forester to review trees and identify those we feel may cause an impact to the electric distribution system. The types of trees being reviewed do include oaks being damaged by gall wasp, but several other species due to decline, decay, structural defects or proximity to the primary wires.

As potential tree removals are identified, a blue tape is used to indicate to property owners and abutters what trees we are requesting their permission or consent to remove. Once we have surveyed the area we send letters out with permission / consent forms allowing us to proceed with the tree removal. The Town would not be notified at this point as we have no information to share during this part of the process. No trees are removed without a signed permission / consent form from the property owner or direct abutter to a tree within the road layout. When we receive the signed forms we return and place a blue painted marking at the base of the tree. This marking helps our contractor and the Town Tree Warden locate the trees in the field. We will have foresters back in Chilmark next week marking trees.

When we have concluded our survey and marked all the trees we have gained permission for, we then present the Tree Warden with a Hazard Tree Removal Plan outlining all the trees located within the road layout. The Tree Warden can approve, or approve the plan with modifications agreed to by both parties. The Tree Warden has the ability to reject any tree in the Hazard Tree Removal Plan. No trees will be removed without the approval of the Tree Warden as outlined in MA Gen Law Chap 87, Sec 14. We can also provide you with a copy of this information and be available to meet if further clarification is necessary.

We are unaware of any roads within the Town of Chilmark being designated as scenic under MA Gen Law, Chap 40. It should be noted that this provision of the law is specific to trees during road construction and maintenance. We do not see any Chilmark bylaws or local zoning regulations that address trees within Town. We would appreciate any information regarding this if it is available.

We have been very consistent in the past with providing the Town of Chilmark with an annual Yearly Operational Plan (MA Gen Law Chap 87, Sec 14) that outlines any upcoming pruning efforts within the town. This year you did not receive one as we are not performing distribution circuit pruning in 2016. We do expect to be back in 2017 pruning numerous areas and will provide that detail sometime in the last quarter of 2016.

Kyle Barry is the EVERSOURCE Arborist responsible for this effort and the ongoing vegetation maintenance throughout the vineyard. Both he and I are glad to provide you with any other information you may need. We're also happy to perform a drive thru with you once our Hazard Tree Removal Plan is complete. Please don't hesitate to contact us.

Thank you

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