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TOWN OF CHILMARK

CHILMARK, MASSACHUSETTS

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July 14, 2016

Paul Sellers, Arborist
Jerry McDermott, Community Relations, Cape Cod & Vineyard
EVERSOURCE
One NSTAR Way – Yarmouth
Westwood, MA 02090

Dear Messer. Sellers & McDermott:

The Chilmark Board of Selectmen and many residents here are concerned about the wholesale marking of trees along the public ways by your vegetation contractor, Christopher Gallant of ACRT Inc. The abundance of blue flagging tape has been noticed by everyone in our community.

While we all would like our power to be uninterrupted by falling trees, none of us want to see a clear cut along the public ways. Chilmark highly values its tree canopied roadways.

Residents, but not the town, have received a letter on EVERSOURCE stationary from Mr. Gallant purporting to be your Utility Forester. The letter includes information about why the trees are marked and asks for people to complete the permission form to remove the trees. However the phone number on the letter is not in service and there is no email address shown for this person.

The removal of trees along public ways is regulated by the town. Chapter 87 governs the removal of shade trees, Chapter 40, section 15C regulates the removal of trees on scenic roads, and local zoning, bylaws, and DCPC Overlay Districts (through the MV Commission) protect our Roadside Districts.

In the past NSTAR would provide the town with an annual vegetation management plan. Why has Eversource stopped sharing their annual vegetation plan with the town? Please consider this a formal request for the plan.

In an article written by the Vineyard Gazette, Eversource employees are quoted as saying that the Cynipid gall wasp is affecting the health of the Oak trees. Yet much of the blue flagging tape is on other tree species, such as pine and maple.

The Board of Selectmen request a response from EVERSOURCE regarding their intentions to remove a substantial number of trees from along the public ways in Chilmark.

Sincerely,


Tim Carroll, Executive Secretary

Enclosure: Letter from David Damroth- June 8, 2016