Town of Woodstock Conservation Commission November 15, 2022

415 Route 169

Woodstock, CT 06281

Dear Neighbor,

We are writing to update you on an important issue in Woodstock. Eversource, our residential energy provider, is planning a project called “Resiliency Project for Vegetation Management” in many CT towns including Woodstock.

**EVERSOURCE PROJECT:** Eversource plans to initiate the Resiliency Project to proactively remove every tree that could potentially fall on power lines within targeted zones in town. The project work along targeted highways could include:

* Cutting trees along the power line path that are taller than 30 feet
* Cutting trees that are expected to grow taller than 30 feet
* Cutting trees that are 30+ feet distant from the power lines. This could include trees that are up to 80 feet from the power lines but have the height or lean to meet project criteria
* Replacing some of the cut trees with native and non-native shrubs or trees that will not exceed 30 feet in height at maturity.

**TARGETED AREAS:** The areas targeted for this project include Child Road, Route 171 between the traffic light in South Woodstock to Rocky Hill Road, and National Scenic Byway Route 169 from the traffic light in South Woodstock southward.

**ISSUES:** The Woodstock Conservation Commission acknowledges the importance of a strong electric grid, and has concerns about the effects of this project on Woodstock. These concerns include: Increased cooling cost for homes in the targeted areas due to loss of tree cover

* Loss of scenic character on our roadways which is an important part of our town’s economic and aesthetic value
* Increased non-native and invasive plants along our roadways
* Loss of important wildlife habitat
* Threats to watershed health and climate health

**YOU CAN SAY NO** to Eversource cutting trees on your property. The only exceptions to this are if the trees are on a town right of way or are touching an electrical conductor. You can expect Eversource to deliver communication to your home directly in the form of a hanging note on your door. After this note is delivered you will have 10 days to contact Eversource to say “Yes” or “No”. If you do not contact within 10 days, it will be assumed by Eversource that you would like the project to move forward.

**LEARN MORE:** If you would like to learn more about this project, please attend the upcoming town forum, where we will be sharing more details of this project as well as our communications with Eversource. All are welcome!

**Town Forum on Eversource Resiliency Project**

**November 30, 2022 at 7 pm the Woodstock Town Hall**

Hope to see you there,

The Woodstock Conservation Commission