

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

TO: Honorable Town Council Members

FROM: Karl F. Kilduff, Town Manager

DATE: January 4, 2023

Please find my report concerning various items of interest to the Town Council and community.

1. Council Business:

- Pierson Playground Removal – The playground located next to the Pierson School (on land leased from the Adam Stanton House) has been removed and set aside for installation at the beach in the spring. Public Works has some final site restoration work to perform on the site to complete and remove debris. The Town will have to determine with the Adam Stanton House if a final lease extension is warranted as final site restoration would include planting grass which is not feasible at present.
- FY2023-24 Budget – We are now in budget preparation season. Department requests were submitted in December. In keeping with the Charter, work on the budget at this point will be a staff driven document until the presentation of the Town Manager's budget to the Council in February. Council work on the budget takes place in February and March to prepare a funding plan that will go to a public hearing later in the spring. The Council can and should make adjustments after the public hearing in advance of moving the budget to the public to vote in May. In the near term, the Council will need to set its budget review calendar to work through the different parts of the budget. As a reminder, the Council holds a series of workshop meetings to review the budget and discuss possible changes to the budget.
- Possible Sale of 36R Killingworth Turnpike – As decided by the Council and reported earlier, all of the abutting property owners to 36R Killingworth Turnpike received written notification of their ability to purchase the property from the Town. The site became town property following a tax sale for tax delinquent property. The abutters have until January 9 to submit their interest in purchasing the property. Should we have an interested bidder(s), I will provide more information to the Council at your next meeting.
- Eversource Tree Work – Attached to this report is a notice received from Eversource outlining anticipated tree work in their right-of-way.
- Follow-Up from Last Meeting – During the last meeting in December, the developer of the former Unilever site opened a dialogue requesting some form of tax abatement on the property. I requested a number of pieces of information that would inform the decision-making process. I hope the requested information will be forthcoming. Having spoke with the developer's consultant, I know that the financial and economic impact study will be completed in January.

2. River COG:

The Council of Governments will meet again on January 25, 2023.

3. Miscellaneous:

- Fish Ladder – As has been reported previously, the Town received a grant to design a fish ladder to help bring spawning fish to the old pond next to the Indian River Shops. Assessments of the dam as part of the preliminary design work suggest that the dam could/should be removed. Removal of the dam would be the better project for migratory fish. However, The Connecticut Water Company has raised a concern that removal of the dam would negatively impact their water supplies upstream. At present, the water company has yet to offer anything definitive. Nevertheless, it is causing an issue with the design project moving forward. I will need to discuss the matter with the Town Attorney before we move further forward.



RECEIVED

P.O. Box 270
Hartford, CT 06141-0270

DEC 27 2022

Town Manager's Office
Clinton, CT

December 21, 2022

Dear Honorable Karl Kilduff,

As part of our everyday effort to deliver reliable energy to our customers and communities, we will be conducting vegetation management work in our rights of way (power line corridor) in Clinton.

Safety First and Always

The safety of our employees, our customers, and the public is our top priority during the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak. Our commitment to safety, first and always, is continuous. Eversource representatives will continue to abide by all COVID-19 safety guidelines, which include wearing personal protective equipment, following social distancing, enhanced sanitizing requirements and other federal and state health and safety guidelines.

Why Tree Work is Important

To protect the electric system, we remove tall-growing species from the rights of way and cut branches extending into the rights of way. These trees and branches pose a serious safety hazard, now or in the future, if they are too close or contact energized equipment. Vegetation too close or in contact with electric facilities may lead to power outages that could impact thousands of electric customers. The clearing of trees and branches in and along the rights of way will improve system performance, especially during severe weather events.

Work in Clinton

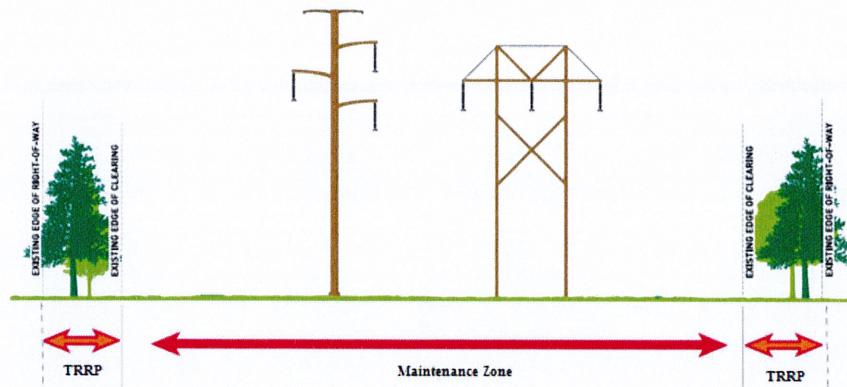
Transmission Right of Way Reliability Program (TRRP)

The vegetation management work may include:

- Clearing of incompatible trees and/or removal of branches that are encroaching into the right of way.
- Removing tall-growing tree species that are incompatible to the transmission system, using manual climbing crew or mechanical tree-harvesting equipment, and tree-chipping machinery.
- Removal of vegetation within the cleared areas of the right of way, through cutting, and/or mowing.
- The Additional Right of Way to be Cleared is the area from the existing maintained edge to the edge of easement or up to 100 feet from the outside wire.
- In certain areas, this vegetation management work may be more than what has been experienced in the past.

Based on the width of the right of way, the type and number of transmission lines, the location of the lines within the right of way and the topography, Eversource employs a “one-zone” vegetation maintenance method. This method establishes the following:

- One-zone maintenance occurs within a right of way wire zone, which is the area directly under the transmission lines, extending to the edge of the easement or the width of the maintained area. Eversource manages the wire zone to promote a low-growing plant community dominated by grasses, flowers, ferns and small shrubs under 3 feet in height at maturity. Within this zone, trees and brush are selectively removed to allow for the establishment and preservation of these native, low-growing plant communities in non-lawn areas. Only established compatible species with a mature height of 15 feet or less at maturity may be allowed to remain in the wire zone, depending on location. All other plants with a mature height greater than 15 feet will be removed.



The diagram illustrates a typical right of way condition. This work is occurring within the existing edge of clearing. Your neighborhood may have a different configuration of transmission structures.

What You Can Expect

We want you to know that this work will not interrupt electric service to residents or businesses. Work hours will typically be 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Due to weather or other unexpected circumstances, from time-to-time crews may need to work longer hours or on a Sunday.

Work Performance

Eversource is using approved contractors to conduct this work. The work may be completed in several stages, or at various times during the year. Work may also be performed by different contractors depending on the scope of work required in the particular right-of-way. Trimming and tree removal is performed throughout the year. Herbicide application may be used to treat cut tree stumps or stems throughout the year, and selective leaf treatment can be performed when leaves are present.

Keeping the Wood from Cleared Areas

Eversource asks property owners if they want to keep the wood from the trees cut on their property. The wood that is to be kept for personal use will be placed along the edge of the maintained area within the right-of-way and outside of the wire zone and environmentally sensitive areas. Wood and cut branches not left for personal use will be chipped and removed, slashed, or diced and left within the right-of-way. Diced vegetation will not be left on manicured lawns, right-of-way access areas or within the cleared areas around structures and guy wires. Debris will also be kept out of water courses, stream and riverbanks, and bodies of water including standing water in wetland areas.

Other Upcoming Eversource Work

There may be additional work within this electrical corridor later this year. We will be in touch with more details about that work once the full scope has been developed.

Always Working to Serve You Better

Keeping the lines of communication open is an important part of our work in your community. We can be reached at **888-673-9943** or **CTVegMaintenance@eversource.com**

Thank you for your patience and cooperation while Eversource performs this important system reliability work.

Sincerely,

John Pagano

John Pagano

Transmission Arborist, Vegetation Management

