

Nov 6, 2023

To: Kensington Zoning Board of Adjustment

Re: Eversource Alteration of Terrain Permit for Highland Road

I am writing on behalf of the Kensington Conservation Commission. At our October meeting, the Conservation Commission discussed the alteration of terrain permit submitted by Eversource for installation of a new pole within the utility easement off Highland Road. There are stands of *Phragmites*, an invasive species, in the wetlands along the path that will be taken to the site of this pole. The commission is concerned about this plant being able to move into new areas because of the sediment disturbance created by the vehicles used for this project. The commission requests best management practices be followed to avoid this outcome and to have before and after images taken of the site and the area monitored for a least 2 growing seasons to determine if invasives are spread. We are particularly concerned with the wetland areas that are cattail marshes and would be destroyed should *Phragmites* get introduced. We request that Eversource be responsible for removal of any *Phragmites* that advances.

Sincerely yours,

Sydnee Goddard

Member, Kensington Conservation Commission