

# SOMERSWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

---

City of Somersworth  
18 Lilac Lane  
Somersworth, NH 03878



Public Works and Utilities Department  
Phone: 603.692.4266  
Fax: 603.692.4281  
www.somersworth.com

"Proud past, bright future"

August 18, 2020

Ms. Debra A. Howland  
Executive Director  
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission  
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: Docket DT 20-104: Town of Durham Department of Public Works-City of Somersworth  
Letter to Intervene

Dear Ms. Howland:

This letter is on behalf of the City of Somersworth with respect to the above referenced docket. This letter supplements the original complaint filed and provide background information specific to the City of Somersworth with regard to the double pole issue as described in the initial letter from the Town of Durham and other communities, including the City of Somersworth. I understand that the PUC staff initially interpreted the letter of complaint to be singular to the Town of Durham's concerns and arranged an initial response to the Complaint by Consolidated Communications. It is important for your records to note that it was never the intent of the Town of Durham's original (6/19/2020) complaint to the PUC to be limited to the Town of Durham's issues with double poles, instead the letter of complaint that was endorsed by six (6) seacoast communities who face the same issue. Thank you to you and your staff for realizing the oversight and for allowing the other endorsing communities to add to the complaint docket in this matter.

The attached listing reflects the City of Somersworth's best knowledge of double poles located in the City and provides street location and pole ID #'s for your use and documentation. This listing has been prepared and updated by City staff. It was not provided to my office by Eversource or Consolidated. It is possible this list is not all inclusive, and Eversource or Consolidated may have an updated list as well for Somersworth, based on their working together when new poles are installed and requests are made to move equipment from the old pole to the new pole. As part of our complaint, we ask that Eversource or Consolidated provide the City with an updated spreadsheet showing what double poles exist in the City of Somersworth.

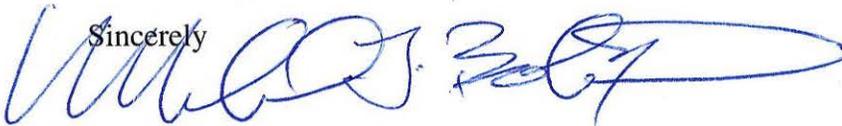
As stated in the original letter of complaint, double poles on City streets contributes to safety concerns, ADA accessibility issues and is a blight on our neighborhoods. In addition, some of

Ms. Debra A. Howland, Executive Director  
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission  
August 18, 2020  
Page 2

these double poles have been left in that current state for multiple years. We find that double poles: 1) contribute to sight line issues at street intersections, and where poles are bracketed to ensure they are secure; 2) create accessibility issues due to double poles occupying more sidewalk space and not allowing minimum of 5' clearance for sidewalk snow clearing equipment; and 3) the older poles left up tend to be degraded and unsightly impacting the aesthetics of the neighborhood. These conditions are unacceptable and must be addressed in a timely manner. The finger pointing between utility companies (i.e. Eversource stating that Consolidated is the primary reason why the old pole still remains next to new pole.) must stop and an improved manner of relocating equipment from the abandon pole needs to be developed and implemented. We seek the PUC's help with addressing this unacceptable situation by requiring the utility companies relocating equipment within 60-90 days of notice from either Eversource or Consolidated.

Thank you in advance for you and your staff's assistance with responding to the City's complaint. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please call me at 603-692-4266.

Sincerely



Michael J. Bobinsky  
Director of Public Works and Utilities  
City of Somersworth  
(603) 692-4266

cc: Gary Lemay, City Engineer