

**LACONIA CITY COUNCIL AGENDA  
MAY 23, 2022**

**STAFF REPORT  
AGENDA ITEM 22.C.  
DISCUSSION OF NH ELECTRIC COOP ANNOUNCEMENT  
REGARDING HERBICIDE TREATMENT ON TRANSMISSION LINE 124  
ON LEIGHTON AVENUE**

**Discussion:** At their April 20, 2022 meeting the Conservation Commission discussed the announcement received from NH Electric Coop and its contractor consultant, Vegetation Control Service, Inc. regarding application of herbicides to undesirable vegetation growing within the power line rights of way corridors, specifically on Transmission Line 124 on Leighton Avenue. A copy of that announcement is attached; the announcement states that treatments are scheduled to commence on or about June 15, 2022. The Conservation Commission noted that a number of homeowners in the Leighton Avenue area are concerned for their private wells and the lake's water quality.

At their May 9, 2022 meeting the City Council discussed the Conservation Commission's request that the Council not support the application of herbicides/pesticides along transmission lines with impacts to private wells and shorelands, and to not allow NH Electric Coop to proceed with the treatment as outlined in the announcement.

After discussion, the City Council tabled this matter to a future meeting pending additional information on the proposed herbicide treatment.

Subsequent to the May 9 Council meeting, the City Manager has received information from Vegetation Control Service, Inc. that the area to be treated this year would be along the southern end of Leighton Avenue, within the State forest ending at Tyler Shores. According to NH Special Permit #044, they must maintain a 75 ft. setback buffer for all private wells, a 250 ft. buffer for public wells, and a 25 ft. buffer for all water sources (lakes ponds, streams, vernal pools, culverts and all other wetlands). All landowners abutting the easement will be notified if treatment is to be done on their property. NH law allows landowners to opt out of any herbicide treatment.

**Fiscal Impact:**

**Staff Recommendation:**

**This report submitted by:** Scott Myers, City Manager

**Proposed motion:**

*"I move to take this agenda item off the table."*