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August 16, 2010

To the Editors:

As many people know, contractors for NStar began pruning trees to clear power lines August 7. We are very grateful to City of Newton Tree Warden Marc Welch and Parks & Recreation Commissioner Bob DeRubeis for moving very quickly to stop the pruning once it was clear that branches were being removed in excess of the guidelines previously established.

Although Marc Welch and the Tree Conservancy work extremely hard to plant and maintain the City's trees, Newton loses far more trees every year than can be replaced. We ask that NStar, as it resumes its work, remember this, and

- (1) prune carefully, only as much as necessary, and
- (2) provide written notice in each neighborhood, of the work and the guidelines being followed.

We are aware that power outages and other issues which come up when branches are too close to electrical lines are costly and disruptive; however, more thought and care needs to be put into the process of cutting branches to ensure that the goal of minimizing disruption is balanced against the need for Newton to maintain a healthy urban forest.

Jane E. Sender
President
Newton Conservators, Inc