

On August 15, 2020, I was out walking and noticed a tree laying on the power line at 64 Cedar Hill Road, Easton, CT. I called UI, and after over 15 minutes, someone finally picked up the phone. I find that wait time on a quiet Saturday afternoon unacceptable. I told him what the situation was, noting that the people potentially affected had just been without power for 7 days, and then it went out again for hours a few days later. About 2 hours later, I see a bucket truck go up the road. So I assume that the tree is going to be removed. But a few days later, I see that the tree is still there, but there is a protective cover on the wire. I was driving, and couldn't see if the cover was under the tree, as it would need to be to protect the wire from the tree. It was 2 more days before I went up with the camera to see if the tree was still there. That's when I saw that the protective cover must be an anti gravity device (humor, folks), since it wasn't protecting the wire as you can see in the photos, nor had the tree fallen. It is now over 7 days since I called. Why is the tree still on the power line? Note that this tree was marked for removal years ago, but none of planned tree trimming/removal has occurred, even though 8 years has gone by since Hurricane Sandy, and the conversation about tree removal began.

On Monday night, August 24, 2020, 9 days after I called, I see a bucket truck come up the road all lit up. I walked up to see. Contractors had come from North Haven, because they were told that the power was out. It was not. I was told that they were still doing tree work related to the storm. It was the first he'd heard of the problem here. But of course no work was done, and he didn't put the insulator under the tree. He'll call it in. I'd hoped that my above message to my State and Federal Legislators, PURA, and the governor caused action. It is a sad state of affairs that what did occur accomplished nothing. I'd like to hear how they manage the tree removal priority list. I'd also like to know when they will trim/remove my trees, all 27 of them. In the 8 years since superstorm Sandy, no tree trimming by UI has occurred, and in the 21 years I've lived in this neighborhood, I can't remember any tree trimming by UI. I do recall being told that tree trimming would be done every 7 years instead of 4. What we have here is gross negligence, not effective management.

On Wednesday, August 26, I saw a UI vehicle go up the road, and then come back down. The driver stopped, so we had a chat. He said that he was checking to see that the power lines were securely fastened to the poles, and that everything was in order. I asked him if he saw anything. He said that there is a lot of tree trimming that needs to be done here. He made no comment about the tree on the power line.

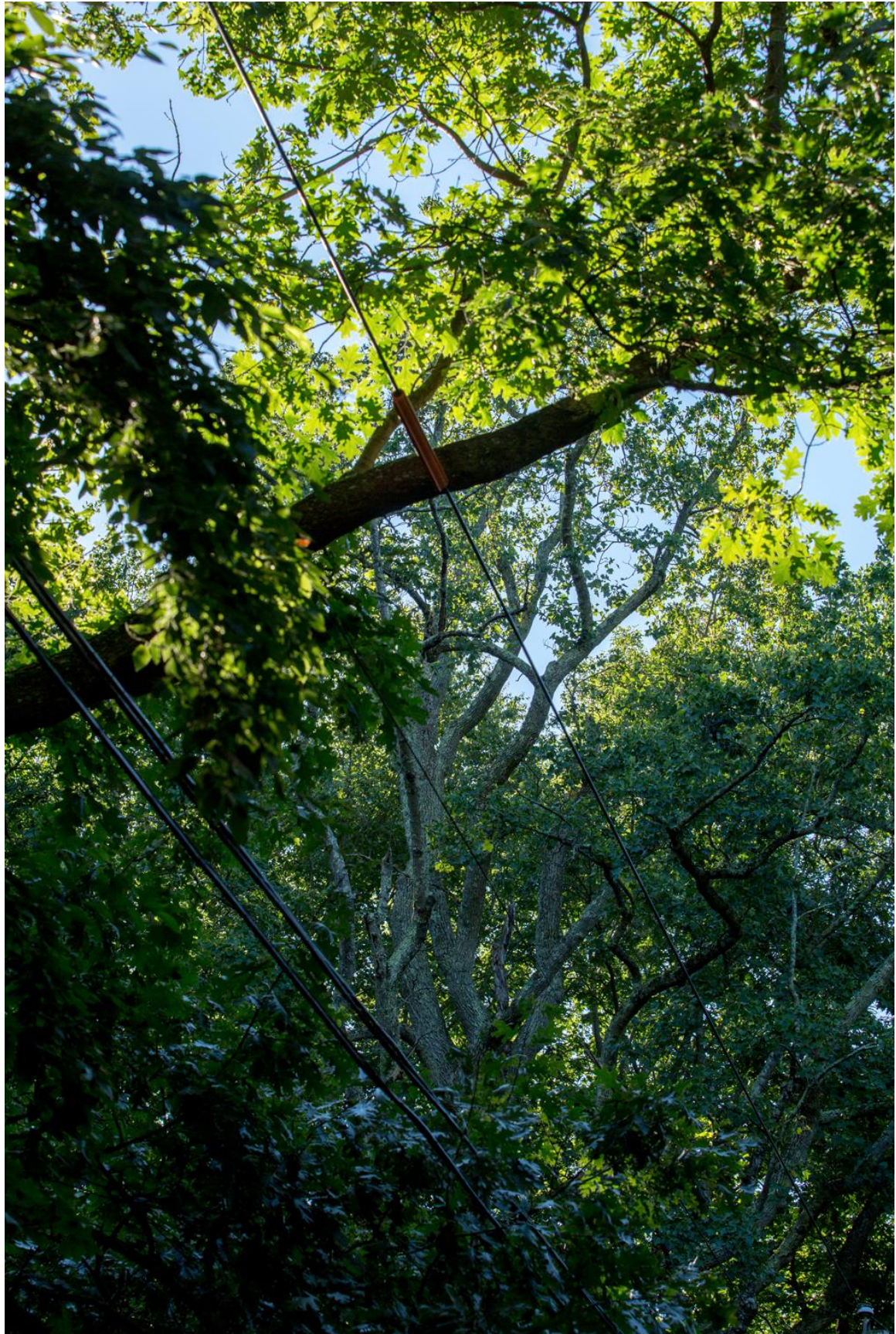
As of 8 am on August 27, 12 days later, the tree is STILL on the power line. Will it be addressed only after it takes the power out?

Please return our utility service to locally owned and controlled, with real oversight, accountability, fines and consequences for failure to act. The fines should be paid by executives, not by the corporations, who would then just pass those fines on as rate increase to the customers, or as tax write-offs. Please make the customers the corporation's priority, not profits for shareholders. For all the utilities, their ownership should be limited to ONE sector, not multiple sectors, as UI's parent Avangrid controls both the electric and natural gas services, and Eversource controls electricity, natural gas service and water service. No monopoly should have that kind of control over all those critical services.

Note that after Isaias I was without power, phone or internet for 3 days (I'm on a different part of the grid than where the tree is), and if I'd had an emergency like a heart attack, since I had no way to communicate, I wouldn't be writing this - I'd be dead.



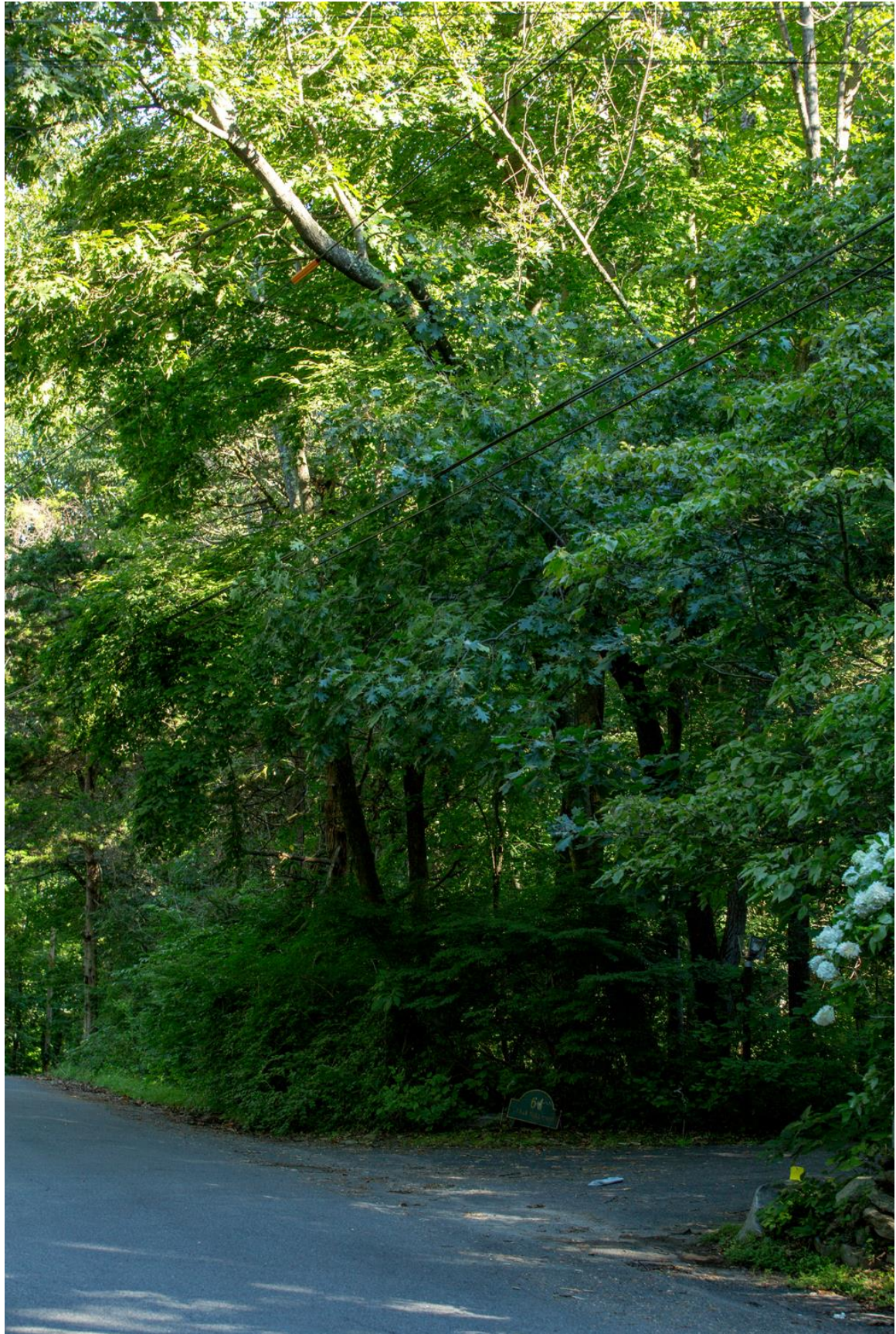












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