

SCENIC ROAD APPLICATION

OUTLINE OF POINTS TO BE MADE AT AUGUST 4 PLANNING AND ZONING MEETING

SUBMITTED BY RITA BAKER AND CANDACE GARTHWAITE

Three questions remained at the end of the June 30th meeting for which the Planning and Zoning Commission requested more information:

1. Must each segment of the Scenic Loop be at least .5 mile in length or is it the intent of the statute that the entire length be .5 of a mile of continuous roadway?

To answer this question, we did extensive research examining 153 municipal codes in Connecticut which were available to us online. (See attached documents) We will present the findings which show several precedents of state and local scenic roads which are made up of several segments of varying lengths and have different names but which constitute a continuous roadway. These segments together total the minimum length requirement although the individual segments are less than the minimum. We will also show you a precedent for a Scenic Loop around Lake Waramaug. Our conclusion is that precedents do exist and the intent of the statute is that a scenic road may be made up of segments of different but continuous roadways which total the minimum length but individually are less. The Binney Park Loop satisfies this criterion.

2. What is the definition of “intensive?”

We searched the online municipal codes of the 51 Connecticut municipalities which have scenic road ordinances to see if any one of them attempt to define “intensive.” We find a few definitions such as “having a high level of congestion resulting in unreasonable delays for vehicular traffic.” (Sound Beach Avenue does not have that level of congestion.) Other towns say specifically: “Roads designated collector or local streets are eligible for scenic road designation.” (Sound Beach Avenue is designated a collector.) We emphasize that Sound Beach Avenue is less than half (.4) the length of the entire Loop.

We have seen the new DPW traffic study which shows the daily traffic counts of the roads of our scenic loop as well as the counts of the five scenic roads in Greenwich. We find no new information here. We agree that Sound Beach Avenue is a busy street, but without a clear definition of “intensive” it is still up to the Planning and Zoning Commission to decide what this means.

We question, however, the usefulness of these numbers in measuring **average** traffic on the LOOP. Our volunteers were physically on site counting the cars. When a car turned right off Sound Beach Avenue onto Wesskum Wood, they did NOT count them AGAIN on Wesskum Wood. We found that 60% of the total cars on Wesskum Wood had made that right turn from SBA. The same would apply to the traffic count on Arch Street where we did not double count the cars turning right off Wesskum Wood. I doubt DPW did a manual count as we did, and hence, many cars were counted twice. Therefore, you cannot add up their traffic counts for the three roads and divide by three to get the average. Our manual count that we presented to you in June gives you a more accurate picture of the average traffic as required in the scenic road application.

Also, we feel that comparing the traffic numbers of the five scenic roads with the traffic on the Scenic Loop is irrelevant. Those roads are rural roads mostly in the backcountry. The fact that our Scenic Loop is in the heart of Old Greenwich, with obviously more traffic, does not make it less scenic. To the contrary, beautiful Binney Park and the historical structures on Sound Beach Avenue make our Loop just as worthy of the special designation and preservation.

3. We will provide answers and discussion for the following questions asked by the Commissioners and/or the public at the last meeting:
 - Is the Scenic Road designation even necessary? “It’s not protecting the park, Perrot or the church. It’s only protecting the roadway.”
Yes, the designation is crucial to protect the scenic and historic streetscape that is so cherished by the community.
 - Will a scenic road designation preclude upgrades to road improvements and public safety standards?
Absolutely not. See Greenwich Municipal Code Article 3 Section 11-13 (d)
 - By designating the Binney Park Loop a Scenic Road, are we going down a “slippery slope” to be barraged with more such applications?
We hope so. This application addresses precisely the goals of the 2019 POCD which encourage the designation of more scenic roads throughout the Town.”
The number one guiding principle of this Commission’s own POCD is to “Preserve our community character and sense of place.” A “barrage,” however is unlikely when considering the rigorous, time consuming, and expensive application process.

In conclusion, we feel this application has tremendous merit and overwhelming neighborhood and community support. It is a win/win situation which would show the residents that you mean what you say in your POCD and you would be giving the residents of Old Greenwich and Riverside a seat at the table in discussions affecting this treasured Gateway to the oldest section of the Town of Greenwich.

Revised October 1, 2018

<u>ROUTE</u>	<u>TOWN</u>	<u>DATE DESIGNATED</u>	<u>MILES</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
1	Madison	October 14, 2008	2.30	From Neck Road #2 north to Lovers Lane
1	Old Lyme	June 8, 2012	1.00	From Lieutenant River Bridge (I-95) to Griswold Avenue
4 179	Farmington	March 26, 2013	3.98	From Huckleberry Hill Road/Perry Street, northerly to the Burlington/Canton town line
4	Sharon	July 26, 1990	3.10	From Route 7 west to Dunbar Road
4	Sharon	October 22, 1992	0.80	From Dunbar Road west to Old Sharon Road
4	Harwinton	July 29, 1996	1.60	From Cooks Dam west to Route 118
118	Harwinton	July 29, 1996	0.10	From Route 4 west to Cemetery Road
7	Sharon	July 26, 1990	4.29	From the Cornwall Bridge crossing of the Housatonic River north to Route 128 at the covered bridge
7	Kent	October 17, 1991	10.50	From the New Milford town line north to the Cornwall town line
7	Cornwall	January 3, 2002	3.56	From Kent town line north to the North Canaan town line
7	Sharon, Salisbury, Canaan	January 3, 2002	10.26	From Route 128 north to the North Canaan town line
10	Farmington	April 13, 1999	1.00	From Route 4 south to Tunxis Street
14	Windham, Scotland	January 13, 1999	4.40	From the Windham Center School to 0.3 miles east of Scotland Center
14A	Sterling	February 2, 1995	0.70	From Route 49 east to Porter Pond Road
15*	Greenwich to Stratford	January 28, 1993	37.50	the Merritt Parkway from the New York state line to the Housatonic River Bridge
17	Durham	June 26, 2001	1.40	From Route 77 north to 125 feet north of Talcott Lane
27	Stonington, Groton	August 9, 2004	0.83	From 0.25 miles north of Jerry Browne Road north to Route 184
33	Wilton	November 3, 1997	4.90	From the Wilton/Ridgefield town line south to the intersection with Old Ridgewood Road #1
41	Sharon	July 26, 1990	4.00	From Boland Road north to Cole Road
41	Sharon	October 22, 1992	2.20	From Cole Road north to the Sharon/Salisbury town line
41	Sharon	October 22, 1992	2.20	From Boland Road south to the New York state line
41	Salisbury	December 20, 1993	8.01	From the Sharon/Salisbury town line north to the Massachusetts state line
44	Salisbury	December 20, 1993	8.83	From the New York state line east to the Salisbury/North Canaan town line
45	Washington	June 8, 2010	0.50	From the intersection with Route 202 northerly to the southern limit of the section noted below
45* SR 478**	Washington, Warren	December 26, 1996	6.90	From Washington/Kent town line on SR 478, east to Route 45 north on Route 45 to the northern junction of SR 478 and west on SR 478 to Warren/Kent town line

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SR 478**	Kent	December 6, 2000	1.00	From the Washington/Kent town line north to the Warren/Kent town line
49	North Stonington	February 2, 1995	10.90	From Route 184 north to 0.10 miles before Route 165
49	Voluntown	February 2, 1995	7.90	From the Boat Launch area north to Route 14A
53	Redding	December 18, 1992	2.03	From Redding/ Weston town line north to the southern junction of Route 107
58	Easton	May 6, 1994	3.14	From Fairfield/Easton town line north to Freeborn Road
63	Litchfield	January 4, 2002	3.37	From Morris town line north to Freeborn Road
67	Roxbury	November 14, 1993	0.87	From Ranny Hill Road south to 0.30 miles south of Route 317
67	Roxbury	August 23, 1996	2.90	From the Roxbury/Bridgewater town line east to Ranny Hill Road
69	Burlington	March 26, 2013	2.64	From the vicinity of Bradley Road, northerly to Saw Mill Road
74	Tolland	September 26, 2018	3.10	From the intersection with Merrow Road (Route 195) westerly to 200 feet west of Gottier Road
75	Suffield	February 23, 2001	4.30	From the southern end of the bridge over Stony Brook north to the Massachusetts state line
77	Guilford	May 3, 1991	11.56	From Route 146 north to the Durham/Guilford town line
77	Durham	June 26, 2001	2.30	From the Durham/Guilford town line north to Route 17
80	Madison	December 17, 2010	2.00	From Killingworth town line westerly to Squire's Road
82	Haddam, East Haddam	February 17, 2004	0.29	From the Haddam shoreline of the Connecticut River east to Route 149 (includes the swing bridge)
97	Pomfret	April 11, 2001	4.50	From Route 44 north to Route 169
109	Washington	March 9, 2017	3.30	From Route 47, northerly to the intersection with Wood Creek Road
118	Litchfield	January 4, 2002	2.77	From Clark Road west to Route 63
136	Westport	July 6, 2016	1.82	From Route 1 to the intersection with Bridge Street, then westerly to the west abutment of the Sugatuck River Bridge
146	Branford Guilford	May 29, 1990	12.20	From Eades Street, Branford to US Route 1, Guilford
148	Chester	June 5, 2003	1.60	From the Chester shoreline, easterly via the Chester-Hadlyme Ferry to its intersection with Route 82 in Lyme
149	East Haddam	February 17, 2004	2.31	From Route 82 north to Creek Row
151	East Hampton	February 17, 2004	1.51	From 1.0 mile north of SSR 439/Hurd Park Road north
154	Haddam	January 13, 1994	9.16	From the Chester/Haddam town line north to the Haddam/Middletown town line
154	Old Saybrook	December 17, 2004	6.10	From Route 1 north to Old Boston Post Road
156	East Haddam	June 5, 2003	6.24	From Route 82 in East Haddam easterly to the Lyme/Old Lyme town line

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160	Glastonbury	January 18, 1991	1.06	From the Roaring Brook Bridge west to the Connecticut River
164	Preston	February 1, 1994	2.58	From Old Shetucket Turnpike north to the Preston/Griswold town line
169*	Lisbon, Woodstock	April 15, 1991	32.10	From Rocky Hollow Road in Lisbon north to the Massachusetts state line
179	Canton	February 25, 1991	0.30	From the Burlington/Canton town line to the junction with SR 565
181	Barkhamsted	January 10, 1995	1.10	From Route 44 north to Route 318
183	Colebrook	May 20, 1994	3.10	From Route 182 north to Church Hill Road
195	Tolland	September 26, 2018	0.37	From 150 feet south of Cider Mill Connector, northerly to the intersection with Tolland Stage Road (Route 74)
202	New Hartford	August 12, 1991	5.10	From the Canton/New Hartford town line west to the Bakersville Methodist Church
202	Litchfield	January 4, 2002	0.47	From Route 118 west to Russell Street
202	Washington	June 8, 2010	2.80	From Rabbit Hill Road, southerly to Route 45
203	Windham	January 13m 1999	1.70	From Route 32 northerly to Route 14, Windham Center Green
219	Barkhamsted	January 10, 1995	2.60	From Route 318 south to the end of Lake McDonough Dam
219	New Hartford	September 24, 1998	0.70	From Lake McDonough Dam southerly to the south side of the "Green Bridge" (Br. No. 1561)
234	Stonington	February 20, 1990	3.16	From North Main Street west to Route 27
244	Pomfret	February 21, 2003	3.10	From Route 97 westerly to Ragged Hill Road
254	Litchfield	January 4, 2002	3.98	From Camp Hill Road in Northfield west to Route 118
272	Norfolk	May 13, 1996	11.00	From the Norfolk/Goshen town line north to the Massachusetts state line
317	Roxbury	November 14, 1990	0.40	From Painter Hill Road west to Route 67
318	Barkhamsted	January 10, 1995	2.60	From Route 181 to Route 219
SSR 431	Lyme	June 5, 2003	0.26	From its intersection with Route 148 in Lyme northerly to the Lyme/East Haddam town line
SSR 431	East Haddam	July 24, 2003	0.54	From the Lyme/East Haddam town line northerly to the entrance to Gillette Castle State Park
565	Canton	February 25, 1991	0.70	From Route 179 northeast to Allen Place
<u>TOTAL MILES</u>			<u>314.39</u>	

* Nationally designated scenic road

**NOTE: Completes loop around Lake Waramaug

SCENIC ROAD ORDINANCES IN LOCAL MUNICIPAL CODES

DOCUMENT #2

TOWN/CITY	QUALITATIVE TRAFFIC CRITERIA	HISTORIC CRITERIA	NUMBER OF CRITERIA/TOTAL	SPECIFIED LENGTH	NOTES
ASHFORD	NO	NO	1 of 6	NO	
BETHANY	YES	YES	2 of 7	NO	A road is not eligible "if it carries intensive vehicular traffic, such that a high level of congestion results in unreasonable delays for vehicular traffic."
BETHLEHEM	NO	NO	1 of 6	NO	
BLOOMFIELD	NO	YES	1 of 6	YES	Must have a minimum length of 2500 ft. unless the Commission finds that "the road segment contains unique scenic features and/or is located between identifiable environmental features and/or intersections." 0.5 in length
BROOKFIELD	NO	YES	1 of 6	YES	
CANTON	YES	NO	1 of 6	NO	"Roads designated collector or local streets are eligible for scenic road designation."
CLINTON	NO	NO	2 of 6	NO	
COVENTRY	NO	NO	1 of 6	YES	Minimum length is 500 feet Scenic Road can be less than .5 of a mile if it abuts another scenic road.
DANBURY	NO	NO	1 of 7	YES	
EAST HADDAM	NO	NO	2 of 6	NO	
EAST LYME	NO	NO	1 of 7	NO	
EASTON	NO	YES	1 of 6	NO	
ENFIELD	NO	NO	1 of 6	NO	
FAIRFIELD	YES	NO	1 of 6	NO	No mention of traffic at all
FARMINGTON	NO	NO	1 of 6	NO	
GRANBY	NO	YES	1 of 6	YES	Minimum length of 2500 ft. unless "the Commission finds that the road segment contains unique scenic features." 0.5 in length
GREENWICH	NO	NO	1 of 6	YES	
GROTON	NO	NO	1 of 6	NO	
GUILFORD	NO	NO	1 of 6	NO	

HEBRON	NO	NO	3 of 6	NO	
KILLINGLY	NO	YES	1 of 7	NO	
KILLINGWORTH	NO	NO	1 of 6	NO	
LEBANON	NO	NO	1 of 6	NO	
MANSFIELD	NO	NO	1 of 6	NO	
MIDDLEBURY	NO	NO	1 of 6	NO	
MONROE	NO	NO	3 of 6	YES	0.5 in length 0.5 in length, but can be less if "at least one end of the highway abuts a highway already designated as scenic". However, "Mine Road from its intersection with Barker Road to its intersection with North Road is a distance of 1900 feet."
NEW MILFORD	NO	NO	1 of 6	YES	"The section to be designated should have a minimal length of at least 30% of the length of the entire road."
NEWTOWN	NO	NO	1 of 6	YES	
N. STONINGTON	NO	NO	1 of 6	NO	
NORWALK	NO	NO	1 of 6	YES	0.5 in length
NORWICH	NO	NO	1 of 6	NO	
OLD SAYBROOK	NO	NO	1 of 6	NO	Lee Lane Scenic Road is .32 of a mile in length. Mark Twain Lane is .25 in length. Old Hattertown Road is .43 in length. Station Road is .44 in length.
REDDING	NO	NO	1 of 6	NO	
RIDGEFIELD	NO	YES	3 of 9	YES	0.5 in length
ROXBURY	NO	NO	1 of 6	NO	
SHELTON	YES	NO	1 of 6	NO	No mention of traffic at all
SHERMAN	NO	NO	1 of 6	NO	
SIMSBURY	NO	YES	1 of 6	NO	
SOMERS	YES	NO	2 of 6	NO	No mention of traffic at all
SOUTH WINDSOR	NO	NO	1 of 6	NO	
SOUTHBURY	NO	YES	1 of 6	NO	
STAMFORD	NO	NO	1 of 5	YES	0.5 in length or less if it abuts another scenic road
STONINGTON	NO	NO	1 of 6	NO	
TOLLAND	YES	NO	1 of 6	NO	"Roads designated collector, residential or neighborhood roads in the subdivision regulations are eligible for scenic road designation."

TRUMBULL	NO	NO	1 of 6	NO
VERNON	NO	YES	1 of 7	NO
WALLINGFORD	NO	NO	1 of 6	NO
WASHINGTON	NO	NO	1 of 6	NO
WILTON	NO	NO	1 of 6	YES

0.5 in length

A road is not eligible if it "carries intensive vehicular traffic, such that a high level of traffic congestion results in unreasonable delays for vehicular traffic." "If only a portion of a road is to be designated as a scenic road, that portion must extend from the intersection with a different road to the intersection with another road."

WOODBURGH	YES	YES	1 of 7	YES
WOODBURY	NO	YES	1 of 6	NO