

The following is a condensed version of an article I was asked to write for Granby's local news paper. At issue was the cutting of trees within the Town's right of way on a Designated Scenic Road, by a new homeowner. It was decided that we would take a kinder and gentler approach and push the honor of living on a designated scenic road, rather than threaten the dire consequences that can be imposed under the law. (See CGS **Sec. 23-65). The hope is that by reminding people of the honor they enjoy by having their road recognized and designated as scenic they will be more likely keep it that way.**

Scenic Roads and Restrictions within the Town's Right of Way.

Recently the Planning and Zoning Commission discussed the cutting of trees within the public way on a designated scenic road. While many Granby roads are scenic, only 5 roads have been officially designated as such under the Town's scenic road ordinance. These are; Lost Acres Road, Barndoor Hills Road, Day Street, Silver Street and Doherty Road. Scenic roads are established by residents who petition the Town to designate their roads as scenic. In the petition the residents must gather support from a majority of the residents who have frontage on the road and meet certain criteria. Residents considered it an honor to have their road designated as scenic. With this honor come restrictions designed to keep the road scenic.

On a designated scenic road restrictions are placed on any straightening, widening and re-grading of the road. Restrictions also apply to the removal of mature trees and other vegetation and changes to special features such as stone walls that are within the public way. These restrictions primarily impact the activities of the Department of Public Works.

Whether or not you live on a scenic road, there are restrictions on the work you can do within the public way. The public way is the area that includes the street pavement and an additional area that extends beyond the pavement width. In Granby the pavement width of most streets is between 18 and 26 feet, while the public way is typically 50 feet wide. The area that the Town owns from the pavement will vary based on the actual pavement width and the width of the public way for each individual street. To be clear, in most cases your private property does not extend to the street pavement and determining the front property line of your property is not a simple task. Therefore, if you wish to do work that is close to the roadway; you should contact the Department of Public Works. The DPW can offer advice and grant permission for work within the public way.

However, on a road that is designated scenic, the permission that the DPW can provide will be very limited. On designated scenic roads most activities will require an approval from the Planning and Zoning Commission and the PZC is required to hold a public hearing on the matter before making a decision.

In an effort to make residents more aware of the scenic road designation the Town has begun to note the designation on the individual Town assessment cards and in the Town building department records. Periodic postings may also be made on the Town's Website and the matter will be discussed at future staff meetings.

If you are thinking of cutting trees, putting up a fence, building or removing stone walls, excavating, filling, etc, within 15 feet of the roads pavement, please take a moment to call the DPW for information.

A Scenic Road is a special designation to be proud of.

Perhaps you live on a Granby road,
That falls under the Town's Scenic Code.
The Scenic Sign says "take a peek".
Enjoy the drive, this road's unique."
Take a moment to observe,
The lovely sights at every curve.
Delight in scenes on straight-a-ways,
Enjoy the views of changing days.
Perhaps your scenic road is known,
For wonderful, old, walls of stone,
For majestic trees that line the street,
And shade the road from summer's heat.
Or offers up a distant scene,
Of hills and dales and fields of green.
The road's not just a travel means,
It's a painting of attractive scenes,
Providing us with a window view,
Of Granby's beauty as we drive through.