



Town of Reading
16 Lowell Street
Reading, MA 01867

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May 16, 2022

Scenic Road DECISION

Project: Walnut Street, Mill and Overlay

To the Town Clerk:

This is to certify, at a public hearing of the Reading Community Planning and Development Commission (CPDC) which opened and closed on May 16, 2022 by a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted:

“We, the CPDC, as requested the Reading Department of Public Works, under the provision of Article 8.2 Public Order Scenic Roads of the General By-Laws of the Town of Reading, to consider the milling and repaving within a portion of the scenic right-of-way known as Walnut Street, do hereby vote XXX to _____ the proposed project subject to the Findings and Conditions below:

Materials Submitted:

The following materials were submitted into the public record:

- a) Certified List of Abutters, dated 3/31/22;
- b) Legal Notice published in the Daily Times Chronicle on 4/27/22 and 5/4/22;
- c) Draft Decision, dated 5/16/22.

Findings:

- 1) **Scenic Roads:** Scenic Roads are regulated under *Reading General Bylaw Section 8.2* and also the local *Reading CPDC Scenic Road Regulations*.

Per the General Bylaw,

*“After a road has been designated as a scenic road, **any repair, maintenance, reconstruction or paving work done with respect thereto shall not involve or include the cutting or removal of trees or the tearing down or destruction of stone walls or portions thereof, except with the prior written consent of the Community Planning and Development Commission after a public hearing...**”*

And per the Scenic Road Regulations,

*“Any person, organization, public agency, or utility company proposing the cutting or removal of any tree, the moving, alteration, tearing down, or destruction of any stone wall or portion thereof, or of any other feature within the public right-of-way, which contributes to the character or quality of the Scenic Road, **in connection with any repair, maintenance, reconstruction, or paving work shall first obtain the written consent of the CPDC** by filing a request for such work with the Commission...”*

- 2) Overview: Walnut Street, a public right-of-way and designated scenic way, is scheduled for milling and repaving in 2022. The road is located in the southwest portion of Town, between Hopkins Street and South Street. Limit of work runs from Hopkins Street to Curtis Street (approximately 0.33mi); however, if funding allows for such the work may be extended to South Street. The milling and repaving work shall take place entirely within the existing roadway layout and shall not impact any existing stone walls or trees within or abutting the scenic road. There are no existing sidewalks on Walnut Street and none are proposed.
- 3) Conservation: Notice of the hearing has been provided to the Conservation Administrator and the Conservation Commission. There are not wetland or jurisdictional boundaries present within the limit of work.
- 4) Public Safety: Coordination with Public Safety officials shall be completed as needed for work within the roadway.
- 5) Landscaping: With no sidewalks or public tree lawns on Walnut Street no new street trees are proposed at this time.

Conditions:

1. **Accidental Damage**: In the case that any existing tree and/or stonewall is damaged during the milling and overlay work such shall be restored to its condition prior to construction.

Signed as to the accuracy of the vote as reflected in the minutes

Andrew MacNichol, Staff Planner
Cc: Applicant, Town Clerk, DRT Staff, planning file

Date