

Town of Carlisle

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Office of

PLANNING BOARD

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Report to Town Meeting on Article 19 **Amendment to Scenic Roads Bylaw, Article 12, Carlisle General Bylaws**

In the spring of 2022, the Carlisle Historical Society (CHS) submitted a request to the Planning Board that it consider recommending the designation of Martin Street as a Scenic Road. In support of its request, the CHS submitted historic maps showing the existence of Martin St over more than 200 years ago, photographs of the right of way along Martin Street showing the old stone walls and numerous shade trees, and also a photograph of the historic James C. Wilson house and barn (ca 1918) located at 78 Martin Street – a property that is included in the State’s Historic Resources Inventory. Photographs of the adjacent Cranberry Bog land were also provided. Members of the CHS attended the Board’s June 13, 2022 meeting to present this request, and the materials they submitted were discussed. At this meeting, while the Board indicated consensus on recommending the designation Martin Street as a Scenic Road, the Board agreed that the next step was to garner input from the residents of Martin St on this decision.

On July 20, 2022, the Planning Office reached out to the residents of Martin St with a memo mailed to every address noting the request from the CHS that the Board consider recommending Scenic Road designation for their road. The memo described the purpose of the Scenic Road Bylaw, noted the then 22 Scenic Roads in town, and described the process needed for Scenic Road designation by a majority vote at Town Meeting. The memo also detailed the requirements of the Scenic Road Bylaw so that residents would know prior Board consent would be required for certain proposed changes within the town’s right-of-way fronting their properties. The memo also encouraged residents to attend and provide input at the Board’s further discussion of this matter at its August 8, 2022 meeting.

Present at the August 8 discussion were Planning Board members Madeleine Blake, Court Herschelman, Adelaide Grady, Sara Smith, Peter Yelle, and Eric Adams, and Assistant to Planner Gretchen Caywood. Also present were Martin Street residents Angela and Dana Smith, Tracy Luiselli, and Laura Canina, along with *Carlisle Mosquito* reporter Bob Zielinski.

Planning Board Co-Chair Madeleine Blake provided background information on this CHS request to those in attendance, and the information from the request was reviewed with the residents. Blake explained the Board’s interest in obtaining input from the residents of Martin Street before proceeding further on this matter. The residents in attendance spoke in favor of Scenic Road designation for Martin Street, and in being in favor of any measures that will preserve the historic stone walls and shade trees along the right of way.

On the motion of Mr. Adams, seconded by Ms. Smith, **the Planning Board recommends that Town Meeting APPROVE Article 19 as proposed (6-0).**

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Mercier
Town Planner