

TO: New London, New Hampshire Planning Board  
RE: SooNipi Park Road-Designation as "Scenic Road"

Dear Chair and Members of the Planning Board:

I understand that SooNipi Park Road is one of **only seven** roads with the distinct designation as a "Scenic Road" in the town of New London. At the very outset, given the beauty of the entire town, this designation (March, 1982), was most certainly made with the upmost care and thought by the Planning Board. It is my understanding that "the designation of a road as scenic is a declaration by the town that the road has important visual qualities which must be recognized and treated with care." More specifically, in its designation the Planners found "the trees along SooNipi Park Road significantly contribute to the visual quality of the road enjoyed by those who travel along it."

We are now faced with a request that this designation, made after careful thought and due diligence by the Planning Board in 1982, be reversed so as to allow the removal of approximately seventy-five trees (excluding trees that will be pruned or have branches removed). It is stating the obvious to say that the removal of these trees and the installation of proposed utility poles and wires criss crossing this "Scenic Road" would do nothing but destroy all the natural beauty of SooNipi Park Road, as well as completely undermine the intent of the its' original designation.

Change is inevitable and with that the need for variances of all sorts, good and bad. Alternatives to preserve this Scenic Road and protect the integrity of its' original designation are fortunately available, and must be thoroughly explored. (i.e., burying the line, using the existing route, or another route not along a "Scenic Road.") As a longtime resident of Pike Brook Road, and one that drives, bikes and walks on SooNipi Park Road on a daily basis, I am requesting that this Planning Board recognize what the Planning Board of 1982, recognized, that SooNipi Park Road is a unique gem of this community, to be protected now more than ever. Its' continued existence as such is dependent upon this Board's recognizing that there are few roads as beautiful in the town of New London as SooNipi Park Road (except maybe six others!).

Thank you for your careful consideration of this important matter.

Regards,  
Roberta Woeltz  
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