

**LACONIA CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
JUNE 27, 2022**

**STAFF REPORT
AGENDA ITEM 22.B.
REQUEST TO DE-DESIGNATE A PORTION OF THE SCENIC BYWAY ROUTE
IN THE CITY OF LACONIA**

Discussion: Kevin O’Leary, is the owner of the Craft Beer Exchange, Home of the Witches Brew Pub located at 59 Doe Avenue in Weirs Beach. Mr. Leary was notified by the NHDOT Bureau of Traffic that his off-premises sign for his business is located on a Scenic & Cultural Byway, which is in violation of RSA 238:24.

As a portion of the Lakes Region Tour Scenic Byway route is in the City of Laconia, the City may request that a portion of the Scenic Byway Route that lies within Laconia be formally de-designated per the NH Scenic Byways Rules of Procedure. This would eliminate the issue of an off-premises sign being in violation of the Scenic Byway Sign Statutes.

A formal letter of request sent to the state for de-designation is required to begin the process.

Please refer to the two attached maps; one shows the current location of the Scenic Byway as it relates to Laconia, and the other with the yellow highlighted area shows the area that is proposed to be de-designated.

At the June 13, 2022 Council meeting a motion was approved to table this agenda item pending additional information. The Lakes Region Scenic Byway was established in the early 1990s with a Corridor Management Plan created by a local working group in 2015. That Plan is attached as additional information. Karmen Gifford from the Lakes Region Chamber and Amy Landers at Lakes Region Tourism have both stated that de-designating a portion of the Scenic By-Way as proposed would have no impact on marketing the Lakes Region.

Recommendation:.

Report submitted by: Scott Myers, City Manager

Proposed motions:

“I move to take this agenda item off the table.”

“I move to approve the de-designation of a portion of the Lakes Region Tour Scenic Byway Route as requested and as shown on the attached map with the yellow highlighted area depicting the portion of the Byway proposed for de-designation. I further move to authorize the City Manager to send a formal letter to the NH State Scenic Byways Coordinator as required to initiate the process.”