

Greetings Corridor Advisory Group members,

We wanted to touch base and send you a brief progress report on the Essex Heritage Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan. As you all know, Bonnie Sontag from our consultant team has been working with each of you to compile a list of community members to sit on the Local Advisory Groups. For more information about the purpose of the Local Advisory Groups, please check out the information on the [project web page](#) (this page can also be accessed through Essex Heritage Corridor's [web page](#).)

Many thanks to those of you who have already provided Bonnie with a list of names, we would like to hold the first round of those meetings in September. **If you haven't had a chance to get back in touch with Bonnie with your suggestions, please do so by the end of July.**

In addition to organizing the Local Advisory Groups, the consultant team has been assembling data and reports to prepare the baseline existing conditions report on the scenic byway corridor -- more information on that at our **next Corridor Advisory Group meeting in October** (date and location TBD).

As a point of clarification, we also wanted to share some information about the **Massachusetts scenic roads law**. The Essex Heritage Scenic Byway **is not** a Massachusetts scenic road. Chapter 40, Section 15C of the Mass. General Laws authorizes a municipality to designate scenic roads in their community for the purpose of regulating removal of trees and tree cutting or alteration of stone walls. Any road *other than a state numbered route or highway* is eligible. As the entire byway follows state numbered routes, **none of the byway is eligible for this designation**.

At present, the Essex Heritage Scenic Byway **is** a designated **Massachusetts Scenic Byway**. Scenic byway programs are about recognition, not necessarily regulation. Roadways are designated as scenic byways based on qualities (archeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational and scenic) that make them distinctive and provide a unique (and appealing) travel experience. State designation is the first step to getting a byway designated as a National Scenic Byway (one of the goals of this project.) Producing a corridor management plan is a requirement for the **National Scenic Byways** program and will outline some management strategies (which may or may not include locally adopted regulatory measures) to help maintain and enhance the qualities of the byway corridor. Please check out the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) section of the [project web page](#) for more information.

We have recently sent a press release to local media and community contacts. You can view the [Press Release](#) on the web page, please feel free to share it with others in your community.

See you in October!

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