



## STAFF REPORT

AGENDA ITEM #: 16-173  
COUNCIL MTG OF: December 6, 2016  
FROM: Michael Fowler, Acting Town Administrator  
OFFERED BY: Planning Staff  
PREPARED BY: Elizabeth Robidoux, Planning Assistant  
SUBJECT: Robert Frost/Old Stage Coach Scenic Byway – Memorandum of Agreement

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### PURPOSE

Signage has been posted for the Frost/Old Stage Coach Scenic Byway within rights-of-way maintained by the Town of Derry. In order to post the remaining signs within NHDOT maintained rights-of-way, NHDOT requires signature of a memorandum of agreement for administrative purposes.

### TOWN ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

I recommend Town Council approve the Town Administrator to sign the memorandum of agreement with NHDOT.

### BACKGROUND

A Scenic Byway is a road recognized by the State of New Hampshire and the U.S. Department of Transportation for its scenic, historic, recreational, natural, cultural and/or archeological qualities. The National Scenic Byways program was established by Congress in 1991 to preserve and protect the nation's scenic but often less-traveled roads and promote tourism and economic development. In New Hampshire the program is administered by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation.

### DISCUSSION

The Robert Frost/Old Stagecoach Scenic Byway connects the towns of Atkinson, Hampstead, Chester, Auburn and Derry, and is designed to celebrate and interpret the historic Boston-Haverhill-Concord Stage Coach route that followed what is today NH Route 121; as well as the New England landscape featured in much of Robert Frost's work, including the settings of some of his most famous poems. The Byway highlights the numerous historic sites, scenic views, outdoor recreational opportunities, and other attractions that the region has to offer - raising awareness among local residents and promoting visitation for economic development. It is anticipated visitors traveling the Byway will take advantage of Derry's restaurants and shops, providing an economic benefit to the community.

### FISCAL IMPACT

\$2520 was spent on the new signs along the Derry portion of the Byway, covered mostly by donations from Calvary. The memorandum of agreement obligates the Town to replace damaged or faded signs should there be a need to do so, but the short term cost is assumed to be zero.

### RECOMMENDED ACTION BY COUNCIL

Approve the memorandum of agreement.

### RECOMMENDED MOTION

**The Derry Town Council MOVES to approve a memorandum of agreement with the New Hampshire Department of Transportation for the purpose of installing and maintaining signage related to the Robert Frost/Old Coach Scenic Byway with NHDOT rights-of-way. Further, the Derry Town Council authorizes Dave Caron, Town Administrator, to sign the document on behalf of the Town of Derry.**