

Town Article 26 - Citizen Petition: Designation of Scenic Road

This Citizen Petition states, "To see if the Town of Raymond shall vote to designate as a scenic road Old Fremont Road and Extension, pursuant to RSA 231:157?" The intent is to designate Old Fremont Road and Old Fremont Road Extension as a scenic road. The scenic road recognition has been allowed by state law since 1971 on any town road that voters believe is worthy of the recognition. (1) Scenic Road designation provides some extra protection for historic stone walls and healthy big trees along the road. (2) Dangerous trees may still be removed, and landowners still have rights over trees and stone walls on their property. (3) The purpose of a scenic road is to "encourage the tourist attractiveness of our scenic roads in our towns and... permit retention of trees and stone walls so characteristic of our New England scenery."(4) The Town of Raymond may place "Raymond Scenic Road" signs on Old Fremont Road, as has been done on Long Hill Road, Raymond's other official scenic road. (5) Old Fremont Road is the location of Raymond's first neighborhood and oldest home (Bean Tavern, depicted on the Town Seal) and has numerous other historic features. (6)

A YES vote will designate and recognize Old Fremont Road and Old Fremont Road Extension as an official scenic road (under RSA 231:157).

A NO vote will not designate Old Fremont Road and Old Fremont Road Extension as a scenic road.

Reasons why some voters might vote yes:

- To officially recognize Old Fremont Road and Old Fremont Road Ext. as an official scenic road.
- To provide healthy big trees (with trunks at least 15 inches in diameter 4 feet off the ground) and historic stone walls along the road with some protection. (2) (3)

Reasons why some voters might vote no:

- So that Old Fremont Road and Old Fremont Road Extension are not designated as a scenic road.

References:

1. NH Revised Statutes Annotated (RSA) 231:157 Scenic Roads; Designation.
2. NH Revised Statutes Annotated (RSA) 231:158 Effect of Designation as Scenic Roads.
3. NH Municipal Assoc. (NHMA) publication: *A Hard Road to Travel - New Hampshire Law of Local Highways, Streets and Trails*, edited by Susan Slack, Legal Services Counsel, Local Government Center, 2004; "Chapter 5: Special Categories of Layouts and Roads: Scenic Roads," pages 80-83.
4. *Webster v. Town of Candia* (146 N.H. 430 (2001)).
5. Anthony Dickerson, primary petitioner.
6. *History of Raymond, NH*.