

AGENDA ITEM: **# 9B**

DATE: April 2, 2012

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

INITIATED BY: Strafford Regional Planning Commission

AGENDA ITEM: **PRESENTATION FROM KYLE PIMENTAL, STRAFFORD REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (SRPC), REGARDING THE “MILLS” SCENIC BYWAY CORRIDOR PROJECT ALONG ROUTE 108 AND SUBMISSION OF LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR SRPC’S APPLICATION FOR STATE SCENIC BYWAY DESIGNATION OF THIS PROJECT**

CC PREPARED BY: Jennie Berry, Administrative Assistant

PRESENTED BY: Kyle Pimental, Strafford Regional Planning Commission

AGENDA DESCRIPTION:

The National Scenic Byways Program is a grass roots collaborative effort established to help recognize, preserve, and enhance selected roads throughout the United States. The National Scenic Byways Program was established in 1991, under the Federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act. The vision of the program is to create a distinctive collection of American roads, which offer unique travel experiences. Roads are designated based on their scenic, natural, cultural, recreational, and archeological qualities. The program is managed at the State level by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) in concert with the New Hampshire Scenic and Cultural Byways Council. As a long-standing and popular program, Scenic Byways offer communities the chance to promote history, increase tourism, enhance economic development, and foster greater regional cohesion.

The Strafford Regional Planning Commission has been working with the communities of Newmarket, Durham, Madbury, Dover, and Rollinsford on the proposed Route 108 (the Mills) Scenic Byway project that will extend for 16.3 miles from Newmarket along Route 108 through Durham and Madbury to Dover and Rollinsford (along Route 4) to the Maine border. The long-term goal is to connect the byways with the other byways in the region and those in southern Maine to create a one-two day scenic loop.

The nomination process involves documentation of the resources. In order to be eligible for the program there needs to be planning and organizational support from the communities involved. The program is about recognition of a community's strengths and management of those assets. There are no regulations, other than restrictions on bill boards which all the communities already have in place in their local zoning regulations. More information regarding this program can be obtained by going to <http://www.nh.gov/dot/programs/scbp/index.htm>.

On Monday evening, Kyle Pimental of Strafford Regional Planning Commission will provide the Council with a presentation and overview of the program, the process for nomination, information about funding opportunities, and the next steps moving forward. As part of this process, the Council will be asked to formally support submission of this project to the State of New Hampshire for inclusion in its program. Attached is a draft letter of support for the Council's review and consideration.

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

Chapter 238, Highway Programs, Scenic and Cultural Byways System, RSA 238:19.

LEGAL OPINION:

N/A

FINANCIAL DETAILS:

N/A

SUGGESTED ACTION OR RECOMMENDATIONS:

Receive presentation from Kyle Pimental, Strafford Regional Planning Commission, regarding the Route 108 (the Mills) Scenic Byway project and hold a question and answer session if desired. After receiving Mr. Pimental's presentation, consider making the following motion:

MOTION:

The Durham Town Council does hereby support the Strafford Regional Planning Commission's application for State Scenic Byway designation of the proposed "Mills" Scenic Byway Corridor. In addition, the Town supports the preparation and submittal of associated application materials to initiate the corridor management planning process.