



**RECEIVED**

By Darlene Brady at 10:42 am, Jan 08, 2024

Kent Conservation Commission  
Wednesday January 10, 2024 @6:30pm  
Kent Town Hall  
Agenda

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89750854907?pwd=bFVPd2NHcEM3bER2cGNJZGR4NVpYdz09>

Meeting ID: 897 5085 4907 Passcode: 440469

1. Call to order
2. Welcome Alternate Jean Speck
3. Accept/Amend Agenda
4. Accept/Amend Minutes of Regular Mtg. November 8, 2023
5. Treasurer's Report
  - A. Budget Request FY'25
6. Public comment
7. Old Business:

Discussion items

- A. Street Trees
  - i. Update Swift Lane planting
  - ii. Defining & initiating Kent Street Tree Planting Program
- B. POCD - Planning & Zoning Update
- C. Materials Management in Kent –SAYT/organics recycling
  - i. black plastic
  - ii Take the Challenge survey

Updates (only as needed):

- D. Report on Farmer Protection Ordinance Revisions
- E. Kent Municipal Open Space Acquisition "Fee in lieu of Open Space" regulation
- F. Green Energy Task Force
- G. Housatonic Herbicide Working Group HHWG
- H. Sustainable CT
- I. Regional Recycling Task Force

8. New Business:

- A. Collaborative Conservation/Affordable Housing project.

9. Correspondence

12/15/23 letter from Tai Kern, Land Use Administrator re: 529 Skiff Mountain Rd.

10. Adjourn



# TOWN OF KENT

Conservation Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, November 8, 2023 @ 6:30pm

In attendance:  
Liddy Baker  
Melissa Cherniske  
Carol Franken  
Connie Manes  
Wendy Murphy  
Jos Spelbos

Members of the Public Attending:  
Bruce Bennett  
Jean Speck

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## Call to order

1. A quorum being present, Commission Chair Connie Manes called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.
2. Accept/Amend Agenda. *Upon a motion by Melissa Cherniske seconded by Mike Benjamin, the commissioners voted unanimously to accept the agenda.*
3. Accept/Amend Minutes of Regular Meeting October 11, 2023. *Upon a motion by Melissa seconded by Connie the commissioners voted unanimously to accept the minutes.*
4. Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Liddy Baker received a confusing statement from the Town Treasurer suggesting that the Commission's budget had been cut drastically. She will check to confirm the status of the budget. There is \$10,673 in the Kuga Fund and an additional \$387 in funds allocated to tree maintenance. There are 65 Kent Trails books in inventory.
5. Public Comment. None.
6. Old Business.  
*Discussion items*
  - A. Street Trees. The commissioners welcomed Bruce Bennett, Kent's Tree Warden.
    - i. Catalogue of town trees. Bruce has nearly finished a town-wide assessment of hazard trees to ready Kent for a new federally-funded program offering grants for removal of hazard trees. He estimates that Kent may receive as much as \$100,000 for this purpose and noted that Eversource spent about \$400,000 on tree removal in Kent last year.
    - ii. Other towns' sponsored tree planting programs. The commissioners took note of programs in other Connecticut towns for planting street trees including provisions for private property owners to care for and pay a proportion of the cost for trees planted on their land. Bruce and the commissioners discussed past town and commission-supported tree plantings in Kent.

These are draft minutes. Corrections may be made by the Committee at a subsequent meeting. Please refer to subsequent meeting minutes for possible corrections and approval of these minutes.

- iii. Kent Street Tree Planting Program. Following discussion, the commissioners agreed to move forward with a program that includes private landowner cost share and maintenance. Bruce has identified as many as 50 prospective planting locations. Bruce also found grant programs that can support town tree planting including grants offered by Sustainable CT. *Upon a motion by Liddy seconded by Wendy the commissioners indicated willingness to allocate funds from the Kuga Fund to support the program. The program would be first come, first served up to a certain amount each year, and would provide funding for up to 50% of the cost for trees purchased and planted, beginning in 2024. The commission will develop guidance and forms for publication and administration of the program, such forms to include a form for obtaining the written commitment of property owners.*
- iv. Swift Lane proposal. The commissioners discussed the proposal to plant a memorial Linden tree for shade and aesthetic benefit to residents and visitors to Templeton Farms. *Connie made a motion to approve the allocation of \$350, to be matched by at least that amount by the landowner, to purchase and plant a native Linden Tree on Swift Lane. Melissa seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Connie will correspond with the landowner.*
- B. Report on Farmer Protection Ordinance Revisions. The Planning and Zoning Commission discussed the proposed revisions at its meeting on Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup> and suggested a few slight revisions as indicated in the materials sent prior to the meeting. The commissioners reviewed and *upon the motion of Melissa seconded by Mike Benjamin, adopted the changes.* The revisions still need to go before the Board of Selectmen prior to a Town Meeting for discussion and vote.
- C. Materials Management in Kent – SAYT/Organics Recycling. There was no report about the October 25<sup>th</sup> Trash Talk. The commissioners discussed the issue that the Transfer Station has been instructed not to accept black plastic for recycling by Winter Brothers, which reportedly says that its sorting equipment does not have the ability to pick the black plastic out of the stream with other plastic, leading to contamination and inefficiencies. *Connie will write a letter to Winter Brothers to ask what can be done to address the issue, including whether a separate collection would work.*
- D. POCD – Regulation revisions to Open Space set-asides. Jos reported that the Planning & Zoning Commission has recommended environmentally-beneficial changes to open space set-aside provisions within the Subdivision Regulations. There will be a Special Meeting of the P&Z on November 16<sup>th</sup> to continue working on the regulations concerning Conservation Subdivisions.

#### *Updates*

- E. Kent Municipal Open Space Acquisition. No update.
- F. Green Energy Task Force. No update.
- G. Housatonic Herbicide Working Group. Bruce Bennett reported that the Housatonic Railroad has refused to engage in communications with the group. The HHWG next plans to work with the Housatonic River Commission.
- H. Sustainable CT. No update.
- I. Regional Recycling Task Force. No update.
- 7. New Business.
  - A. Succession Planning. The commissioners discussed the role of Chair. Connie said she will not continue as Chair beyond April 2024.

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8. Correspondence.
  - A. CACIWC Annual Meeting Saturday, November 11, 2023.
9. Adjourn. *There being no further business before the Commission and upon the motion of Melissa seconded by Carol the meeting was adjourned at 8:11pm.*

*NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Wednesday December 13th @ 6:30pm*

Respectfully submitted by: Connie Manes, Chair

These are draft minutes. Corrections may be made by the Committee at a subsequent meeting. Please refer to subsequent meeting minutes for possible corrections and approval of these minutes.

41 Kent Green Boulevard, P.O. Box 678 Kent, CT 06757-0678  
Phone: (860) 927-4627 ☐ Fax: (860) 927-1313 [www.townofkentct.org](http://www.townofkentct.org)



## TOWN OF KENT LAND USE OFFICE

To: Inland Wetlands Commission and Conservation Commission  
From: Tai Kern, Land Use Administrator  
Date: December 15, 2023  
Re: Scenic Road Referral – Skiff Mountain Rd.

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Application SC1-23, Town of Kent (Brown), Skiff Mountain Rd. (529), Map 7, Block 17, Lot 6, Scenic Road Alteration for the removal of trees to meet sight line requirements.

Per Section 17-7.9(b) of the Scenic Road Ordinance, the Planning and Zoning Commission voted at their December 14, 2023 Regular Meeting to forward the application and map to the Conservation Inland Wetland Commission for referral. Since a Conservation Inland Wetlands Commission no longer exists, the Land Use Attorney has directed that both the Conservation Commission and the Inland Wetlands Commission shall be forwarded this proposal for referral. Attached please find the application and associated documentation.





## TOWN OF KENT LAND USE OFFICE

### STAFF REPORT

December 7, 2023

Re: (529) Skiff Mountain Rd  
Map 7 Block 17 Lot 6  
Scenic Road Alteration Application

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#### **PROPERTY INFORMATION:**

- The property is located in an area of Scenic Road Designation and is owned by the Town of Kent

#### **APPLICATION:**

This application is in association with the proposal to construct an accessory dwelling unit on the property at 529 Skiff Mountain Road. The applicant requests the removal of 3 trees on Town property within the Scenic Road Designation. The removal of the three trees is to allow for the required driveway sightlines for the proposed ADU.

#### **REGULATION THAT APPLIES:**

*Per 17-7.9 of the Scenic Road Ordinance alteration or improvement of scenic roads shall be discouraged except for reasons of public safety. Applications for alteration shall be submitted to the Planning and Zoning Commission, referred to the Conservation Inland Wetlands Commission and a public hearing must be scheduled.*

The following has been received as part of this application:

1. Scenic Road Alteration Application SC1-23
2. Driveway plan dated 12/5/23
3. Location Map
4. Letter dated December 4, 2023 from Patrick Hackett, PE

#### **CONSIDERATION OF THE COMMISSION**

Per Section 17-7.9(b) of the Scenic Road Ordinance, at this time the Commission should determine whether a suitable map detailing the proposed alteration has been received and forward the application and map to the Conservation Inland Wetland Commission. Since a Conservation Inland Wetlands Commission no longer exists, the Land Use Attorney has directed that both the Conservation Commission and the Inland Wetlands Commission shall be forwarded this proposal for referral.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tai Kern, Land Use Administrator

41 Kent Green Boulevard, P.O. Box 678 • Kent, CT 06757-0678

Phone: (860) 927-4625 • [www.townofkentct.org](http://www.townofkentct.org)

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# SCENIC ROAD ALTERATION APPLICATION



PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION  
41 Kent Green Blvd.  
P.O. Box 678  
Kent, CT 06757

(FOR OFFICE USE ONLY)  
App. #: SC-1-23  
Fee received: N/A  
Date of receipt: 12/5  
Official date of receipt: 12/14

Name of property owner: TOWN of KENT

Owner's mailing address: P.O. Box 687 Kent, CT 06757

Telephone number: 860-927-3491 E-mail address: n/a

Applicant's name: BARBARA A. BROWN

Applicant's address: 530 SKIFF MTN RD KENT

Applicant's telephone: 860-248-0741 E-mail address: AustiB@gmail.com

Road name: SKIFF MOUNTAIN RD (SMRD)

Detailed description of work to be performed (include engineered drawings and designs, if applicable). The description of the work should specifically relate to the stated criteria for scenic roads to be found in the Town of Kent Scenic Road Ordinance, Section 10 (a) – (i) copy attached. (Please use a separate sheet if necessary.)

Removal of 3 trees, 2-3 stumps (as req'd.), re-grading, plus trimming of multi-floral rose, barberry, bittersweet & other miscellaneous vegetation beside SMRD to achieve required sightlines from proposed new driveway serving 515 SM Rd.  
Applicable sections: 10(f.) & 12(b.)  
Attached please find Driveway Plan, Location Plan & Pat Hackett Letter 12/4/23.

Please fill out this section if activity is located on private property.

Property address:

Map:  Block:  Lot:

Signature of applicant: [Signature] Date: 12/5/23

Signature of property owner:  Date:



## Sec. 17-7. Scenic Roads

1. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 7-149a of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Planning and Zoning Commission of the Town of Kent may designate town roads or portions thereof as Scenic Roads. No state road or portion thereof may be designated as a Scenic Road under this ordinance.

2. (a) To be designated as a Scenic Road, a road or portion thereof must be free of intensive commercial development and intensive vehicle traffic and must meet at least one of the following additional criteria:

- (1) It offers scenic views;
- (2) It is bordered by mature trees or stonewalls;
- (3) It blends naturally into the surrounding terrain;
- (4) It parallels or crosses over brooks, streams, lakes or ponds;
- (5) The traveled portion is no more than twenty (20) feet in width;
- (6) It is unpaved.

(b) No road or portion thereof may be designated as a Scenic Road by the Planning and Zoning Commission pursuant to this ordinance unless the owners of a majority of lot frontage abutting the said road or portion thereof agree to such designation by filing a written statement or statements of approval with the Town Clerk of the Town of Kent who shall immediately transmit a copy thereof to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

3. (a) The Planning and Zoning Commission may on its own initiative consider a road or portion thereof for designation as a Scenic Road hereunder.

(b) Any property owner who owns land within the town may apply to the Planning and Zoning Commission for designation of a highway or portion thereof as a Scenic Road.

### 4. Application

(a) Property owners seeking scenic road designation shall submit an application to the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Town Clerk requesting Scenic Road designation. The application shall contain the following information:

(1) The name of the road sought to be designated or a description of such portion or portions of a road sought to be designated, together with a statement of the total length of said road or such portion or portions thereof.

(2) A description of those characteristics of the road or portion of a road which qualify it for Scenic Road status, including, but not limited to, the criteria the road satisfies as set forth in Section 16-7.2 of this ordinance.

(3) A written statement of approval signed by the owners of a majority of lot frontage abutting the highway or portion thereof stating that they approve of designating the road or portion of road as a Scenic Road.

(4) The names and addresses of all owners of lot frontage abutting the road or portion thereof and the length of their frontage along the road.

(b) If the Planning and Zoning Commission itself initiates the scenic road designation procedure, it shall file with the Town Clerk for public inspection the above listed data at least ten days prior to taking any further action on such designation.

5. (a) Upon receipt of an application for Scenic Road designation, or upon its own initiative, and when all necessary information is complete, the Planning and Zoning Commission shall notify

the Board of Selectmen of such proposed designation. Upon receipt of notice of such proposed designation, the Board of Selectmen shall not change, alter or authorize a change in or alteration to such road unless it first finds that such change or alteration is necessary to keep such road reasonably safe for public travel and unless it also finds that such change or alteration cannot reasonably be delayed until conclusion of the scenic road designation process. The Planning and Zoning Commission shall consult with the Conservation Inland Wetlands Commission and with the Board of Selectmen and may, if it deems appropriate, hold a public hearing on the Scenic Road designation.

(b) If a public hearing is held, such hearing shall commence within sixty-five days after receipt of such application or, when applicable, within sixty-five days of the date that the Planning and Zoning Commission itself initiates the scenic road designation procedure. Any such public hearing shall be completed within thirty days after such hearing commences and all decisions on such scenic road designation shall be rendered within sixty-five days after completion of such public hearing.

(c) If a public hearing is not held, a decision on the proposed scenic road designation shall be rendered within sixty-five days after receipt of such application, or, when applicable, within sixty-five days after the Planning Commission itself initiates the scenic road designation. For purposes of this section, the date of receipt of an application for scenic road designation shall be the day of the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Planning and Zoning Commission immediately following the day of submission of such application or thirty-five days after submission, whichever is sooner.

(d) The Planning and Zoning Commission decision shall be based upon the criteria set forth in Section 7-149a of the Connecticut General Statutes. The grounds for the designation or non-designation of scenic road status shall be stated on the record of the Planning and Zoning Commission and shall include either a detailed description of the special features which make the road so designated scenic or an accounting of the reasons why designation was denied.

(e) Notice of the decision of the Planning and Zoning Commission shall be published in a newspaper having a substantial circulation in the Town of Kent and sent by certified mail to the owners of lots fronting on the road in question within 16 days after such decision is rendered. Such notice shall be a simple statement that the road or portion thereof was or was not designated as a Scenic Road by the Planning and Zoning Commission together with the date and time of such action.

6. The designation of a road or portion thereof as a Scenic Road may be rescinded by the Planning and Zoning Commission using the above procedures and provided that the owners of the majority of the lot frontage abutting the road or portion thereof concur with such rescission as set forth in this Ordinance.

7. Any person aggrieved by a designation of a road or portion of road as a Scenic Road, or by a rescission of such designation, pursuant to this ordinance, may appeal such designation or rescission, in the same manner and utilizing the same standards of review provided for appeals from the decisions of the Planning and Zoning Commission under Section 8-28 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

## 8. Alterations

(a) Preservation Objective. Routine maintenance and the regulation of future alterations and improvements of such designated roads or portions thereof shall be carried out so as to preserve, to the highest degree possible, the aesthetic, historic and/or rural characteristics of the roads or portions thereof which are indicated in the records of the Planning and Zoning Commission as the basis for the designation.

(b) Routine Road Maintenance. Routine maintenance of roads designated as scenic roads shall be permitted. Such maintenance shall include removal of dead and seriously diseased or damaged trees and branches of trees; trimming of the tree branches that encroach on the traveled portion of the highway below the height needed to allow school buses and emergency vehicles to pass; trimming or removal of brush and removal of boulders or other obstacles that encroach on the traveled portion of the road; necessary trimming for utility lines; trimming of brush or such other activities as would clearly enhance and protect scenic views, stone walls, mature trees and other characteristics of the Scenic Road set forth in the decision designating it as a Scenic Road; correction of drainage problems; and graveling, retreatment and repair of existing roadway surfaces. Such maintenance shall NOT include widening of the traveled portion of the road; paving of dirt or gravel roads or portions of roads except for safety reasons at the intersections with paved roadways; changes of grade; straightening; removal of stone walls or removal of mature trees. On existing dirt or gravel roads, such maintenance to the traveled portion of the road shall be done in a manner to minimize root damage to bordering trees.

(c) Natural Disasters. In the case of a natural disaster in which a Scenic Road becomes impassable or unsafe for public travel and access must be provided, emergency repairs may be made as needed to restore the road to its pre-disaster condition.

#### 9. Procedure for Alterations and Improvements

(a) The Board of Selectmen shall not alter, improve or otherwise authorize an alteration in or improvement to a scenic road, until it has complied with the following procedures. Alteration or improvement of scenic roads shall be discouraged except for reasons of public safety.

(b) An application for alteration or improvement of a designated Scenic Road, shall be submitted to the Planning and Zoning Commission along with a suitable map showing in detail the proposed alteration or improvement. The Planning and Zoning Commission shall forward a copy to the Conservation Inland Wetlands Commission which shall review the application at its next regular meeting and send recommendations to the Board of Selectmen and to the Planning and Zoning Commission no more than 35 days after such review.

(c) At its next regularly scheduled meeting the Planning and Zoning Commission shall review the proposal and the recommendations of the Conservation Inland Wetlands Commission.

(d) The Planning and Zoning Commission may require engineering or other technical reports documenting the need for the alteration and offering potential alternative solutions.

(e) The Planning and Zoning Commission shall hold a public hearing once the application for improvement or alteration is complete. The final decision shall be made within 65 days after the close of the hearing

#### 10. Standards for Alteration.

Any recommendation by the Planning and Zoning Commission to allow alterations or improvements to a Scenic Road shall reflect the least possible damage to the existing character of such road. If alterations or improvements to a Scenic Road are recommended, then they shall conform to the following requirements:

(a) Curves. Scenic values are correlated with the existence of curves which allow a constant unfolding of new and changing views. Curves shall not be eliminated until they are found to be a definite hazard within the concept of the specific road.

(b) Grades. Hills and valleys are correlated with scenic values. They shall not be destroyed by cuts and fills unless absolutely essential for road safety.

(c) Widths. A narrow road is correlated with high scenic beauty. Designated Scenic Roads should never be widened unless the amount of traffic, as determined by a factual study, demands it. For some rural roads, the amount of traffic that can be handled can be greatly increased by wide bypasses and turnouts, constructed at intervals where they do the least damage to scenic

values. Such bypasses and turn-outs shall be implemented wherever possible.

(d) Side Slopes. Existing steepness of side slopes is preferable to reduction of gradient by extensive removal of soil and rock. This is especially true where the slope is fully stabilized and where it is rich with existing ground cover, shrubs and trees.

(e) Vistas. Roadside views of distant landscapes shall be preserved by suitable vegetation management techniques.

(f) Vegetation. Vegetation on the side of the road shall be managed in such a way as to preserve wild flowers, shrubs of ornamental and wildlife values, and trees. Overarching isolated trees, and the canopy of a closed forest, can have extremely high scenic values.

(g) Stone Walls. If stonewalls or portions thereof must be removed, they shall be rebuilt along the untraveled portion of the Scenic Road.

(h) Non-scenic activities and structures shall be forbidden, such as billboards; sand, gravel and salt piles; refuse disposal; and other unsightly situations. Where possible, scenic and preservation easements should be acquired from adjacent owners to insure the continuance of natural relief and historic values in the public interest.

(i) Paving Criteria. Paving of the unpaved traveled portion of a Scenic Road shall be permitted only if it is deemed by the Planning and zoning Commission to be the only reasonable solution to a long-standing maintenance problem.

11. Any decision by the Board of Selectmen to alter or improve a scenic road or to authorize a third party to alter or improve a scenic road shall incorporate the recommendations of the Planning and Zoning Commission and shall be based upon the criteria set forth in Sections 16-7.10(a) through 16-7.10(i) above.

12. Rights of Landowners. Nothing in this Ordinance shall be deemed to prohibit a person owning or occupying land abutting the road or portion thereof designated as a Scenic Road from:

(a) Maintaining and repairing the land which abuts the road or portion of road so designated if the maintenance occurs on land not within the right of way of the Scenic Road, or

(b) Having access to his property by driveway or subdivision road by encroachment within the rights-of-way, provided that such encroachment is constructed so as to safeguard the road's scenic features as recorded by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

13. Unauthorized removal or defacement of trees, significant vegetation, stone walls or other scenic characteristics shall be referred by the Board of Selectmen for prosecution under the Connecticut Penal Code.

14. If any portion of this ordinance shall be found not to be constitutional or otherwise defective by a court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not be deemed to invalidate the remainder of this ordinance.

History: Adopted at special town meeting August 21, 1989.

### **Sec. 17-8. Parking Ban**

No operator or owner of a vehicle shall allow the same to remain parked on any street maintained by the Town of Kent within the Kent Fire District for a period of more than one hour between the hours of twelve o'clock midnight and seven o'clock in the morning.

History: Adopted at Annual Town Meeting October 7, 1974.

BROWN RESIDENCE  
515 SKIFF MTN. RD  
KENT, CT 06757

DRIVEMWAY PLAN  
1" = 20'  
12/5/23

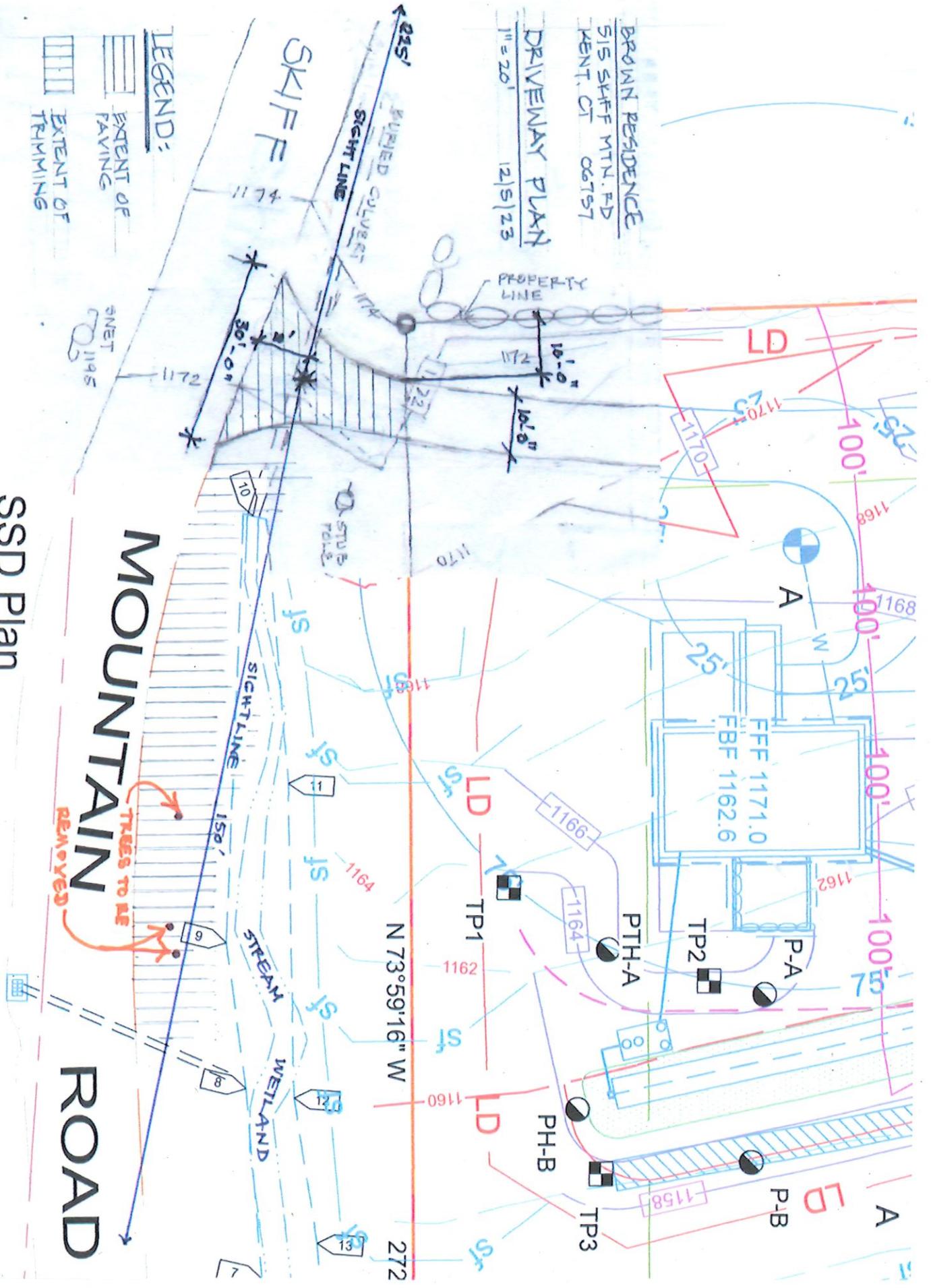
LEGEND:  
[Hatched Box] EXTENT OF PAVING  
[Dashed Box] EXTENT OF TRIMMING  
[Symbol] SNET 1195



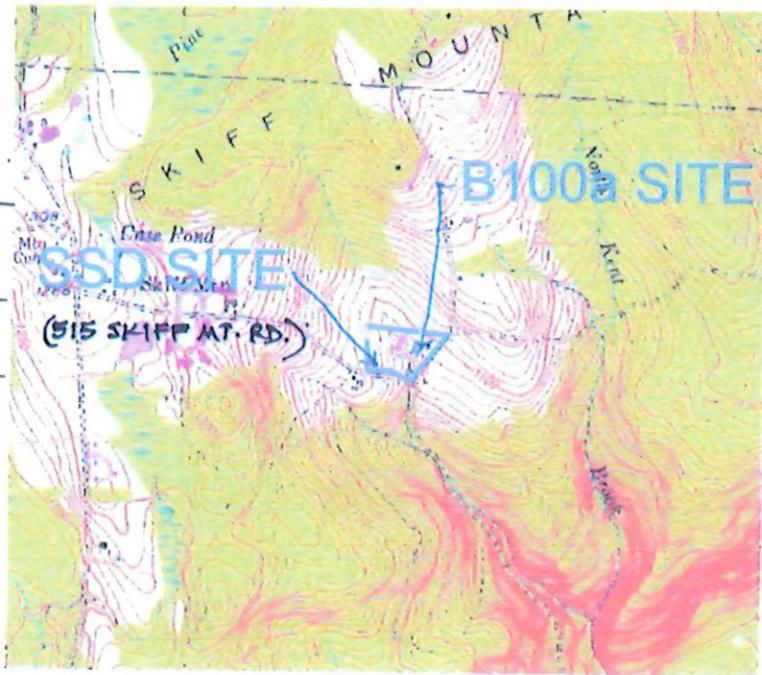
SSD Plan

MOUNTAIN ROAD

ROAD







529 SKIFF MOUNTAIN RD KENT, CT 06757

## LOCATION MAP

2000' 1000' 0' 2000'



SCALE: 1"= 2000'

Engineer:  
Patrick R. Hackett, P.E.  
16 East Street  
Lakeville, Connecticut 06039

Date: August 21, 2023

Revisions: September 19, 2023  
Oct 3, 2023 invs , BM  
Nov 6, 2023 smaller house



**Patrick R. Hackett, P.E.**  
**16 East Street, Lakeville, CT 06039**  
**(203) 788-9959 prh@prhackett.com**

December 4, 2023.

Ms. Austi Brown  
530 Skiff Mountain Road  
Kent, Connecticut  
06757

RE: Sight Distance – Use of existing drive entrance for ADU.

Dear Ms. Brown,

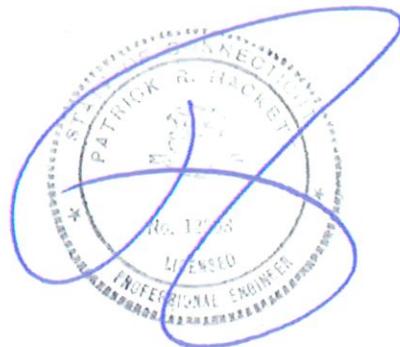
On Friday, December 1, 2023 I visited the site of your existing field access on the north side of Skiff Mountain Road. The purpose of the visit was to evaluate the existing entrance for use as access to the proposed accessory house rather than a new curb cut. An eye height and object height of 3-1/2 feet about final grade was used.

Using a point 10 feet in from the edge of pavement and the center of the proposed final drive (maintaining a minimum ten feet from the property line), There is 225 feet sight distance from the west (northbound Skiff Mountain Road requiring no tree removal and minimal brush clearing, and the minimum 150' sight distance is feasible from the east (southbound traffic) with the removal of three trees (< 12" MBH). Minor grading at the two lower trees will be (primarily stump removal, 5 CY soil) required as well as brush and invasive removal in order to open up sight distances to the easterly downhill approach.

Along with the removal of the tree at the existing entrance at the property line (to get the minimum 10' separation to the property line for access drives), no other tree removal will be required to meet Town of Kent minimum driveway regulations.

Please feel free to let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Patrick R. Hackett, P.E.















# Happy New Year!

## We Write with News of a Victory for Pollinators



"And now let us believe in a long year that is given to us, new, untouched, full of things that have never been." --Rainer Maria Rilke

New York's Governor Hochul [signed the Birds and Bees Protection Act into law](#) just before Christmas! This new law limiting wasteful uses of neonicotinoid pesticides (neonics) is the first of its kind and will serve as a model for the rest of the country.

Neonics have been linked to massive declines in birds, bees, and other insects, as well as to water contamination, ecosystem harms, and human health concerns. The law prohibits the three most widely used neonic-coated Agricultural seeds and prohibits use of neonics for non-agricultural purposes (on lawns and ornamental landscapes). The ban on non-agricultural uses will take effect starting in January 2027, and the ban on coated seeds will take effect beginning January 2029. These dates are later than those in the original bill passed in June 2023. Another change to the original bill is that the waiver provisions from the seed coating prohibition have been modified to look more like the [Québec model](#), which successfully reduced neonic seed coating use to almost nothing, while preserving flexibility for farmers.

New York Pollinator Pathway organizers and members, you all share in the credit for this victory. The Pollinator Pathway also thanks our partner the

Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) for its leadership in this fight.  
And we thank Governor Hochul for signing the bill into law!  
We are starting the new year off right for the pollinators!



**Pollinator Pathway**  
Native Plants • Pesticide Free