

TOWN OF SOUTH KINGSTOWN

PRESS RELEASE



PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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U.S. ROUTE 1 DESIGNATED AS A RHODE ISLAND SCENIC ROADWAY

On May 9, 2018, the Rhode Island Scenic Roadways Board voted to designate the entirety of U.S. Route 1 within the Town of South Kingstown as a Rhode Island Scenic Roadway. The designation comes 20 years after the Town made its initial application to have the road protected.

U.S. Route 1 totals 11.8 miles within South Kingstown. The predominant views of the roadway include open space, agricultural land, marinas, and forested areas. The Scenic Roadway also passes numerous historic sites, including the Hale House, the Hannah Robinson Tower, and several historic monuments. In order for a roadway to be eligible for designation as a scenic roadway, significant scenic resources must be present within the viewshed, which create an unusually attractive, continuous and integrated traveling experience. Six types of scenic resources are considered in evaluation of an application for designation – natural, historical, cultural, archeological, recreational, and visual – and roadways must include, at a minimum, at least one type of resource. During the Scenic Roadways Board public hearing, the Board asserted that U.S. Route 1 within South Kingstown includes all six types of scenic resource.

“South Kingstown recognizes that preservation and prosperity are absolutely compatible with each other. This designation reflects the community’s long-standing commitment to promoting economic success by retaining and emphasizing the extraordinary beauty and character of the town,” said Robert C. Zarnetske, Town Manager.

Led by the South Kingstown Planning Board, the Town will begin the process of developing a Stewardship Plan for U.S. Route 1 in the next few months. “This designation will give local residents and business leaders more control over how the highway corridor develops in the future. The next step in the process will be to work with property and business owners to develop a Stewardship Plan. While not regulatory in nature, the Stewardship Plan will set forth the vision for the Scenic Roadway and outline any recommended regulatory changes aimed at maintaining the scenic quality of the roadway,” said Chelsea Siefert, Director of Planning.