

**NRC Statement in Support of 2011 ATM Article 30:**  
**Designation of Brookside Rd. as a Scenic Road**

The Natural Resources Commission strongly encourages Town Meeting Members to support this article, which will designate Brookside Road as a scenic road. In Wellesley, the Natural Resources Commission serves as the Town's Tree Warden and is charged with the protection of all public shade trees, which can only be removed for good cause and only after a public hearing. Trees along private ways, such as Brookside Road, however, don't have the same protection and can be removed without any public review or comment.

Adoption of this article would allow for the protection of trees along Brookside Road and would require a public review process prior to removal of any trees. The trees bordering Brookside Road contribute substantially to the natural beauty of the area and offer many benefits to the Town. Trees in Wellesley, whether public or private, are essential to the community's character as a green, shady, residential Town. Trees improve Wellesley's property values and quality of life, improve air quality, replenish ground water, reduce erosion, buffer the impact of climate change, as well as provide beauty, tranquility and sustainability.

The NRC strongly encourages Town Meeting members to support this article.

Thank you.