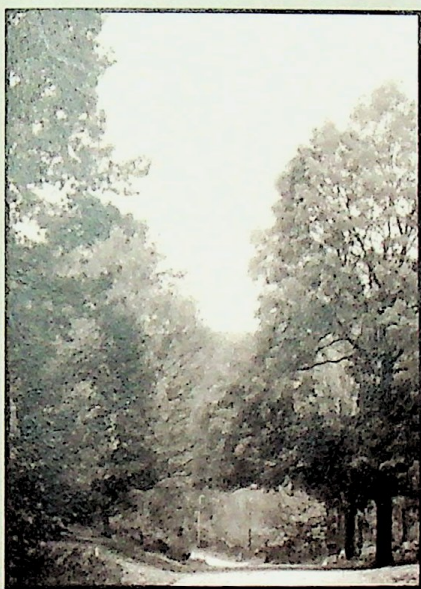


West Brookfield

Scenic Roads



West Brookfield Historical Commission
3 Main Street, Town Hall
P.O. Box 372
West Brookfield, Ma. 01585

email: info@westbrookfield.org
<http://westbrookfield.org/>

Where Are the Scenic Roads?

These roads were considered by the Historical Commission to be of historical significance and were approved and designated Scenic Roads in 1973. John Gilbert Rd was added in 1989 and Wickaboag Valley Rd. in 2022.

BEAMAN RD. - A Mid 19th century Road off of Coy Hill Rd.

COY HILL RD. -Named for Richard Coy, one of the first settlers in the Quaboag Plantation 1660. Lucy Stone's birthplace: 1818-1893, Abolitionist, feminist, first woman from Massachusetts to graduate from College (Oberlin). Included in West Brookfield Wildlife Management Area.

DAVIS RD.- Retains many of the characteristics of the of settlement lanes, lined with sugar maple trees, Showing stone wall property delineation.

DEVIL'S ELBOW RD.- Early military road, teamster road, leads to early settlement homes. Road discontinued: trail on the Brookfield and W. Brookfield line off of George Allen Rd.

FOSTER HILL RD.- Site of original settlement of Quaboag Plantation (originally called Pritchard Hill 1660); site of the siege of Brookfield (1675) during King Phillip's War, Hon. Jedediah Foster homesite and law office, who helped in framing the original Massachusetts Constitution.

What is the Scenic Roads Act?

Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 15C authorizes municipalities the ability to designate certain roads as "Scenic Roads". Any local road, other than a state numbered route, is eligible for such designation. Scenic roads preserve and enhance the historic character of the town, improve ecological function by preventing erosion and capturing rainwater, and provide a natural buffer between the road and property.

The purpose of the statute is to provide for Planning Board review of the cutting or removal of trees or the alteration of stonewalls incidental to work on a Scenic Road. After a road receives a "Scenic" designation, the Planning Board is delegated certain limited powers by the statute.

Any repair, maintenance, reconstruction or paving work done with respect to a Scenic Road shall not involve or include cutting or removal of trees, or the tearing down or destruction of stone walls, or portions thereof, except with prior written consent of the planning board after a mandatory public hearing. Any violation of this paragraph shall be punished by a fine not to exceed three hundred dollars per violation.

The hearing provides an opportunity for objection and consideration of alternative plans. Strict notice requirements must be met, with fines, if not adhered to.

While many of West Brookfield's roadways would qualify as being "scenic" in the broad sense of the term, the Town has formally designated 16 roads to be preserved as scenic at this time.



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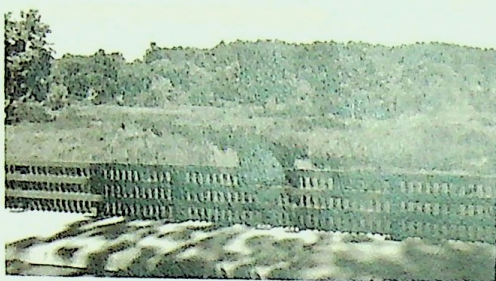
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*Roads are a record of those who
have gone before.*

Rebecca Solnit

HOLMES RD. Site of first grist mill in Central Massachusetts, John Pynchon's Mill. Old stone foundation of Lemuel Gilbert. East Quabbin Land Trust.

JOHN GILBERT RD. - Many shade trees and stone walls. Scenic views from road at the Orchard.

KENNEDY RD. - Scenic quality of views West to Mt. Tom.

LYONS RD. - Site of old Methodist Burial Ground (1812).

NEW BRAINTREE RD. - Tree lined, affording many scenic views across fields, valleys and through woodlands.

PIERCE RD. - Stone walls, open fields, site of old schoolhouse at junction of Ragged Hill and Pierce Roads.

RAGGED HILL RD. - Retains stone walls, second growth maples, and vistas both to the East and to the West.

RICHARDSON RD. - Once the site of Senator Richardson's home. Intersects with Long Hill Rd.

TUCKER RD. - Once settled by John Tucker, blacksmith. Early 19th c.

WICKABOAG VALLEY RD.- Area of earliest grist and saw mills in the Quaboag Plantation. Working open agricultural fields.

WIGWAM RD. - Many rocky outcroppings, mature maples and oaks, stonewalls.

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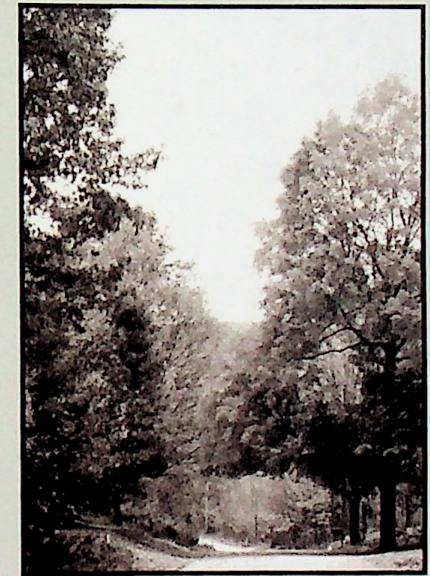
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