

# Town of Blowing Rock

## Request for Council Action

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FROM: Town Manager  
SUBJECT: Consideration of changing a portion of Sourwood Lane to a one-way street  
TO: Mayor and Council  
DATE: August 14, 2018  
REQUESTED BY: Various

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Public Hearing  Yes  No  Not required  NA  
Properly Advertised  Yes  No  Not required  NA

**BACKGROUND:** Sourwood Lane is approximately 1,650 feet from its intersection with Green Hill Road to the intersection of Green Hill Woods. The road slopes downhill continuously from Green Hill Road. Currently, the road is in poor repair (although recent patching has improved the surface) and is scheduled for both water line replacement, some sewer line replacement, and resurfacing when construction of the water line is complete. Additionally, the ditches will be reworked to enhance drainage of storm water. The improvements to water and sewer lines and resurfacing are projects that were approved and are included in the General Obligation Bond. Documents for permitting approval have been submitted to the North Carolina Division of Water Quality for permitting and we plan to put the project out for bid soon so that an award can be made as soon as possible upon approval by the State.

Measurements of the road surface reveal that the width of the road varies along the entire 1,680 feet. The narrowest portion is 8'4" and the widest portion of road surface is 13 feet. Beginning at Green Hill Road, measurements were taken every fifty feet to the intersection with Green Hill Woods. The average width using those measurements at fifty foot intervals is 10.8 feet wide. Typically, roads that meet NCDOT standards are 18 feet wide. The narrowest portion of the road comes 400 feet from the intersection with Green Hill Road. This very narrow section is approximately 150 feet long.

We have done our best to poll all the residents on Sourwood Lane who have driveway access on the street. This includes eleven houses. As of this writing, six are in favor of changing the road to a one-way street with the direction of travel being from Green Hill Road headed downhill or in a northwesterly direction toward Greenhill Woods and Goforth. Two are not in favor of making any change. We have not been able to correspond with three of the people yet. One person who lives on Sourwood Lane, but not on a portion that would change to one-way, is opposed as they use Sourwood to get to Greenhill Road since access to Goforth was changed near the Green Park Inn.

The road is technically too narrow to be a two-lane road over most of its length. Other roads in Blowing Rock may be similarly too narrow for two-lane. However, few if any are as narrow as Sourwood. There is a possibility that the road will be improved in some areas (where feasible) to increase width. However, making it a true two-lane road is not feasible without great expense due to the need for retaining walls.

Due to how narrow the road is, some think it a safety issue. Those who live there have figured out how to navigate and negotiate the road, with like-minded residents who work with one another.

During construction, it will be very difficult to handle traffic coming from two directions along with construction vehicles and portions of the road dug up. It may be that a temporary change during construction could be considered.

ATTACHMENTS: GIS Map of area and road width data

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Council determine the merits of leaving the road as is, that is two-way traffic, or changing it to one-way traffic, and if a change is considered, whether it would be permanent or only during construction, or make a determination after we see if we can improve the width any.





Blowing Rock, N.C. Town App with Web AppBuilder for ArcGIS

064 874,266.310 Feet

200ft



### Sourwood Lane Road Width Data

| Road distance | Road width & intersection, if any                     |
|---------------|---|
| • 0           | 11' Intersection of Green Hill and Sourwood Lane      |
| • 50          | 11.67'  |
| • 100         | 11.67'  |
| • 150         | 13'   |
| • 200         | 13'   |
| • 250         | 13'   |
| • 300         | 13'   |
| • 350         | 10.25'  |
| • 400         | 8.33'   |
| • 450         | 9'  |
| • 500         | 9.33'   |
| • 550         | 10'   |
| • 600         | 12'   |
| • 650         | 10.33'  |
| • 700         | 12'   |
| • 750         | 12'   |
| • 800         | 11'   |
| • 850         | 12'   |
| • 900         | 11'   |
| • 950         | 10'   |
| • 1000        | 8.5'  |
| • 1050        | 10.5'   |
| • 1100        | 12.5' Intersection of Sourwood Lane and Oak Street    |
| • 1150        | 11.5'   |
| • 1200        | 11.5'   |
| • 1250        | 10'   |
| • 1300        | 10'   |
| • 1350        | 10'   |
| • 1400        | 10.67'  |
| • 1450        | 9.5'  |
| • 1500        | 9.33'   |
| • 1550        | 11'   |
| • 1600        | 11.5'   |
| • 1650        | 12'   |
| • 1680        | 13' Intersection of Sourwood Lane and Greenhill Woods |