

RESOLUTION #: 238

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE ACQUISITION AND CONVERSION OF OUT-OF-SERVICE RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY TO A TRAIL FOR ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION AND RECREATION

WHEREAS 48 miles of the former Manassas Gap Railroad which lie between Riverton Junction, in Warren County, and the Town of Broadway, in Rockingham County, and passing near the Town of New Market, are in a state of disuse, all freight and passenger service having ceased;

WHEREAS the prospect of restoration of freight or passenger service along the aforementioned section of railroad is very unlikely;

WHEREAS the railroad, in its current state of disuse, is unattractive to our community;

WHEREAS the railroad presents an opportunity to create a world-class trail providing bicycle, pedestrian and equestrian access to extraordinary landscape views and several important Civil War battlefields;

WHEREAS such trail would catalyze tourism-related economic growth;

WHEREAS such trail would connect eleven communities in Shenandoah County, offering the option of safe alternative transportation within and between these communities to a broad segment of the local population, for commuting to work and school, thereby improving the quality of life;

WHEREAS though such a trail will not directly run through the town, the trail will provide opportunities for the town to connect and provide access to the Town's historic landmarks, bringing in more foot traffic while also providing a walking trail to support a healthy community;

WHEREAS an organization known as the Shenandoah Valley Rail Trail Exploratory Partnership, whose membership includes representation of each locality through which the trail would pass, has been formed to explore trail feasibility;

WHEREAS the 2020 Virginia General Assembly directed the state Department of Conservation and Recreation to study trail feasibility and deliver a report no later than November 1st, 2021;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of New Market endorses the conversion of the aforementioned 48-mile discontinued railroad to a multiuse trail for alternative transportation and recreation;

FURTHERMORE, the Town of New Market resolves to join with the other trail localities in seeking the support of regional, state and federal agencies and the railroad's owner, Norfolk Southern Corporation, toward the goal of development of the trail.

CERTIFICATE

The undersigned Mayor and Clerk of the Town Council of the Town of New Market, Virginia hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and correct copy of the Town of New Market's Resolution to Support the Acquisition and Conversion of Out-Of-Service Railroad Right-of-Way to a trail for alternative transportation and recreation adopted by the Town Council at a meeting held on April 19, 2021. A record of the roll-call vote by the Town Council is as follows:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Larry Bompiani, Mayor*				
Doug Bradley				✓
Janice Hannah	✓			
Peggy Harkness	✓			
Bob King	✓			
Daryl Watkins	✓			
Scott Wymer	✓			

*Votes only in the event of a tie.

Date: April 19, 2021

ATTEST:


 Clerk, Town Council of the
 Town of New Market


 Mayor, Town of New Market, Virginia