

May 4, 2021

Jennifer Wampler  
Virginia State Trails Coordinator  
Department of Conservation and Recreation  
203 Governors Street, Suite 2049  
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Ms. Wampler,

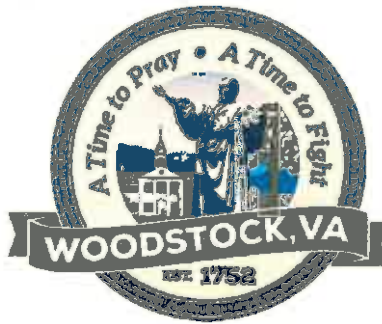
I am excited to transmit to you a copy of a Resolution of Support from the Woodstock Town Council for the Shenandoah Rail Trail concept. As an early advocate for this rail to trail conversion, our governing body is unanimously in favor of continuing to pursue this wonderful and unique opportunity. Please find a copy of this resolution attached to this letter.

If you require additional information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me at [aaron.grisdale@townofwoodsockva.gov](mailto:aaron.grisdale@townofwoodsockva.gov) or 540-459-3621.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Aaron M. Grisdale".

Aaron M. Grisdale  
Town Manager



**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 through the Town of Woodstock, 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 a blight on our community, and a danger to youth who may be tempted to trespass;

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 including the Town of Woodstock and other towns 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 such trail runs through Woodstock's historic downtown, provides a central connection to the Town's Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan, close proximity to Seven Bends State Park, and serves as potential safe multimodal route to the Central campus of Shenandoah County Public Schools;

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 Woodstock endorses the conversion of the aforementioned 48-mile discontinued railroad to a multiuse trail for alternative transportation and recreation;

FURTHERMORE, the Town of Woodstock 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.

Dated this 6th day of April 2021.

Signed:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeremy D. McCleary, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk