

BOOK 32**VIRGINIA:**

At an adjourned meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Amherst County held at the Piney River Blue Ridge Railway Station thereof on Monday, the 7th day of July, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. at which the following members were present and absent:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

PRESENT: Mr. V. Wood
Mr. L. Parrish
Mr. D. Kidd
Mr. C. Adams

ABSENT: Mr. R. Vandall

IN RE: BLUE RIDGE RAILWAY TRAIL

Two members of the Nelson County Board of Supervisors, the Nelson County Administrator and other staff members, and several members of the Blue Ridge Trail Foundation met with the Amherst County Board of Supervisors at the Blue Ridge Railway Trailhead for a press conference and tour of the new trail facility.

Amherst County Board Chairman, Mr. V. Wood; Nelson County Board member Mr. T. Bruguiera and Trail Foundation President Popie Martin provided comments. Ms. Martin read the following prepared press release:

**PRESS CONFERENCE
JULY 7, 2008
11:00 A.M.
VIRGINIA BLUE RIDGE RAILWAY TRAIL
PINEY RIVER TRAILHEAD

AMHERST COUNTY
NELSON COUNTY
VIRGINIA BLUE RIDGE RAILWAY TRAIL FOUNDATION**

On June 19, 2008 the Commonwealth Transportation Board approved the application by Nelson County, Amherst County and the Virginia Blue Ridge Railway Trail Foundation for Enhancement Program funding in the amount of \$350,000. We would like to express our appreciation to Kenneth Spencer White, area member of the Commonwealth Transportation Board, for his assistance in securing this latest round of grant funding.

The first two miles of the trail was opened to the public in June of 2003. Funding was received from transportation enhancement grants, Amherst and Nelson Counties, individuals and local corporations. Over 2,500 volunteer hours have been donated for development and maintenance of the trail.

The trail is idyllically located in the rolling Virginia country side and follows the banks of the Piney and Tye Rivers along the path of the longest running, commercially successful short-line railway in America. The path of the railway follows the history of the area from the successful foresting industry, the chestnut blight, the mining industry that provided jobs in the area for years, the devastation wrought by Hurricane Camille and the environmental hazards that became Virginia's first EPA Superfund site and the subsequent reclamation of the Piney River.

The most recent enhancement grant was used to complete the reconstruction of four bridges over Naked Creek and the Tye River. The Virginia Recreational Trails Fund Program administered by the Department of Conservation and Recreation also awarded a grant of \$100,000 last year which was used to improve

drainage on the trail and will be used to put a stone surface on the section from Rose's Mill to Naked Creek.

The most recent grant award will allow for the completion of the entire trail from Naked Creek to the terminus at the Tye River community, installation of interpretive signage and will be used to secure the Weigh Station near Tye River.

When completed the trail will be seven miles long and run from the community of Piney River to the community of Tye River. The trail is open year round to hikers, joggers, bicyclists and horseback riders from dawn to dusk.

A tour of the trail was conducted, followed by lunch.

IN RE: ADJOURN

On motion of Mr. Parrish, seconded by Mr. Kidd and with the following vote, the Board of Supervisors adjourned until Wednesday, July 9, 2008 in the County Administration Building, School Board meeting room.

AYE: Mr. V. Wood, Mr. L. Parrish, Mr. C. Adams and Mr. D. Kidd

NAY: None

ABSENT: Mr. R. Vandall

Vernon L. Wood, Chairman
Amherst County Board of Supervisors

Rodney E. Taylor, County Administrator