



**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE TOWN OF ABINGDON, VIRGINIA
TO RECOGNIZE AND COMMEMORATE WAYNE MILLER
FOR SERVING AS PRESIDENT OF THE VIRGINIA CREEPER TRAIL CLUB/CONSERVANCY FOR TEN YEARS**

WHEREAS, Wayne Miller retired to Abingdon in 2006 and for Christmas that same year, his daughter presented him with a membership to the Virginia Creeper Trail Club. By the following year, Wayne became very involved, sharing his passion for the trail with others; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, Wayne was elected President of the Virginia Creeper Trail Club, a volunteer organization dedicated to the maintenance and preservation of a 34-mile Creeper Trail corridor in Southwest Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Wayne led by example, every day worked tirelessly not only as President of the Club but as a volunteer on the Creeper Trail. With over 100-individual trail projects to his credit including, installation of interpretive signs, memorial benches and picnic shelters, station painting, trail cleanups and trestle maintenance, washing toilets and cleaning birdhouses, and over 1000 volunteer hours dedicated just on the trail; and

WHEREAS, Wayne's example of volunteerism inspired hundreds of Club members – exponentially increasing the impact that the community of trail users has on the continued success of the Creeper Trail; and

WHEREAS, in Wayne's characteristic low-key way, his talent for encouraging ideas and, ultimately consensus, among divergent groups has benefited all of us that appreciate the significant role the Creeper Trail plays as one of the most important economic drivers in Southwest Virginia. Leading a non-profit is a challenging task that requires more than just acumen, but diplomacy as well. Tasked frequently with balancing not only the needs and concerns of the Club membership and the general public, but also property owners, federal agencies and town governments, Wayne listened closely, and spoke thoughtfully and with intention, ensuring that all stakeholders participated equally in decisions, and as a true steward of the trail, always returning to the decision that was best for the Creeper Trail; and

WHEREAS, in 2009-2010, Wayne garnered support and successfully spearheaded funding through a grant from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation for approximately \$75,000 to resurface several miles of the Creeper Trail. This work also included installation of safety signs and other trail rehab work. This significant accomplishment was completed with the help of dozens of volunteers that Wayne recruited, organized, and managed. Not only did Wayne's efforts and personal contributions to this project illustrate a classic example of the benefits of public-private partnerships, it demonstrated to all the difference a small group can make for the common good; and

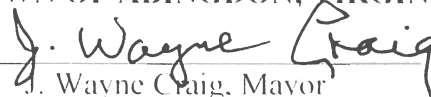
WHEREAS, during his tenure as President, Wayne's accomplishments have been many. In 2014, the Virginia Creeper Trail was recognized nationally by the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy and inducted into Rails-to-Trails Hall of Fame. This meritorious distinction is direct evidence of the significant impact Wayne's leadership has made; and

WHEREAS, one of Wayne's last accomplishments of his leadership was transitioning from the Virginia Creeper Trail Club to the Virginia Creeper Trail Conservancy – a move that will better define the Virginia Creeper Trail Conservancy's public role as trail advocates and chief promoters and patrons of the trail, as well as significantly broaden the Virginia Creeper Trail Conservancy's fundraising profile and ability; and

WHEREAS, for the foregoing reasons, as well as those that are still to be realized, the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia hereby commends and extends gratitude, recognition and accolades to Wayne Miller, for his role in the Virginia Creeper Trail Club and his commitment to service of community and a true "Creeper Trail Ambassador".

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the Town of Abingdon, on behalf of the citizens and entire region, observe and celebrate Wayne Miller's dedication to the Virginia Creeper Trail Club.

TOWN OF ABINGDON, VIRGINIA


By: J. Wayne Craig, Mayor

The undersigned clerk of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia, hereby certifies that the foregoing constitutes a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted at a meeting of the Council held on July 1, 2019. I hereby further certify that such meeting was a regularly scheduled meeting and that, during the consideration of the foregoing resolution, a quorum was present. I further certify that the minutes of such meeting reflect the attendance of the members and the voting on the foregoing resolution was unanimous.


Clerk, Town of Abingdon