



**A Resolution of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia  
Supporting Virginia's Great Valley Lewis & Clark Eastern Legacy Trail (VGV-LCELT)**

***WHEREAS***, in 1978, Congress established the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail (LCNHT) from Wood River, Illinois to the mouth of the Columbia River in Oregon; and,

***WHEREAS***, in 2008, as a result of the positive tourism and economic impact of the LCNHT on trail communities, as well as a growing interest in knowing the Explorers' whole life stories, Congress authorized a feasibility study to be conducted by the National Park Service (NPS) to determine if the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail should be extended eastward to include routes and sites associated with the preparation and return phases of the Lewis & Clark Corps of Discovery Expedition; and,

***WHEREAS***, on December 10, 2012, the Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources of the Commonwealth, on behalf of the Office of Governor, confirmed Virginia's continued commitment to developing national historic trails; and,

***WHEREAS***, the National Park Service has collected a substantial amount of historical data concerning the travels of Captain Meriwether Lewis & Second Lieutenant William Clark in Virginia before and after the Expedition, either together or independently and for personal or business reasons, and for which the Great Valley Road was a frequent pathway when arriving in or returning from the state; and,

***WHEREAS***, in approximately 2013 and 2014, the National Park Service published maps of the Explorers' route along the Great Valley Road that noted: the years they traveled in 1803, 1806 -1810, and 1812-1814; their route(s) through the counties of Washington, Smyth, Wythe, Pulaski, Montgomery, Roanoke, Botetourt, Rockbridge, Augusta, and Albemarle, as well as through cities and towns such as, but not limited to, Bristol, Abingdon, Marion, Wytheville, Pulaski, Christiansburg, Salem, Roanoke, Fincastle, Lexington, Greenville, Staunton, and Charlottesville; and, noted forty-four or more historic sites, including extant structures, locations of non-existing structures, river crossings, ferries utilized, of which many were visited by one or both Explorers; and,

***WHEREAS***, in late 2014, the National Park Service hinted and later decided to exclude the Virginia Great Valley Road route as an eastward extension of the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail, recommending instead the water trail to and from Pittsburgh via the Mississippi/Ohio Rivers; and,

**WHEREAS**, in response to the National Park Service decision, the Committee for the Virginia Great Valley Lewis & Clark Eastern Legacy Trail sought assistance from Virginia Delegate Terry Austin who, having obtained fifty signatures of legislators as signatories, obtained passage of HJ # 566 in February 2015; that resolution having "... designate[d] the portion of the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail that runs through the Commonwealth as the Lewis & Clark Eastern Legacy Trail in Virginia," and further resolved "That the Clerk of the House of Delegates post the designation of the Lewis & Clark Eastern Legacy Trail in Virginia on the General Assembly's website;" and,

**WHEREAS**, a multi-disciplinary effort undertaken at the grassroots level by dedicated volunteers with guidance and assistance from the Virginia Departments of Conservation & Recreation, Historic Resources, Transportation, and the Virginia Tourism Corporation, along with other stakeholders at the local, state, and national level, has given almost nine years' work to develop and implement a Virginia Great Valley Lewis & Clark Eastern Legacy Trail; and,

**WHEREAS**, in the past year, an additional seventeen Virginia counties have been identified as also being traveled by the Explorers, including fourteen that are east and north of Charlottesville and Richmond, two in far Southwest Virginia, and one in Western Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, one county (Middlesex) has begun to organize like the Virginia communities along the Virginia Great Valley Road route by selecting a Lewis & Clark project Chair and establishing a working committee; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mission of the Virginia Great Valley Lewis & Clark Eastern Legacy Trail, as established by the Committee for Virginia's Great Valley Lewis & Clark Eastern legacy Trail, in collaboration with Virginia's Lewis & Clark Trail Partners, is relevant to the additional seventeen Lewis & Clark traveled counties as follows:

**To expand heritage tourism & economic development in the Commonwealth by:**

- **Identifying and preserving** the routes the Explorers traveled before and after the Expedition;
- **Honoring and celebrating** the connections of Meriwether Lewis & William Clark to Virginia, and to the people & places they visited during their travels;
- **Recognizing** the Virginia members of the Corps of Discovery who were from or returned to Virginia localities along the Great Valley Road; and,
- **Encouraging** citizen awareness and trail exploration in Virginia & beyond; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Council for the Town of Abingdon, Virginia support the Mission of the Virginia Great Valley Lewis & Clark Eastern Legacy Trail; and, in partnership with communities along Virginia's Great Valley Lewis & Clark Eastern Legacy Trail, and other trail partners at the local, state, and national levels, endorse the request for funding from the 2020 General Assembly to staff and support operations for the continued development, implementation, and promotion of not only Virginia's Great Valley Lewis & Clark Eastern Legacy Trail, its related historic sites, locations and people visited along the trail route,

but to also continue the development and implementation of the additional seventeen Lewis & Clark-traveled counties to achieve a future “Virginia Lewis & Clark Eastern Legacy Trail.”

**PASSED and ADOPTED** by the Council for the Town of Abingdon, Virginia at a regularly scheduled meeting of said Council on November 4, 2019.

**TOWN OF ABINGDON, VIRGINIA**

**BY:** J. Wayne Craig  
Mayor

**BY:** James Moroni  
Town Manager

**The undersigned Clerk of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia (the “Town”) hereby certifies that the foregoing constitutes a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted at a meeting of the Council held on November 4, 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 as follows:**

Member	Attendance	Vote
Wayne Craig, Mayor	Yes	aye
Cindy Patterson, Vice Mayor	Yes	aye
Al Bradley	Yes	aye
Donna Quetsch	Yes	aye
Derek Webb	Yes	aye

**WITNESS my hand and seal of the Town of Abingdon as of November 4, 2019.**

(SEAL) Kimberly A. Kingsley  
Kimberly Kingsley, Clerk