

**Minutes  
Floyd County Board of Supervisors  
Public Hearing  
July 30, 2024**

- 1. Called to Order** – Chairman Turman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. or thereafter.
- 2. Opening Prayer** – The opening prayer was offered by Supervisor Cox.
- 3. Pledge of Allegiance** – Jenny Tolbert offered the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 4. Quorum** – Deputy County Administrator Chiddo called the roll. A quorum was found for Supervisors. Supervisor Kuchenbuch attended the meeting remotely in a secure location
- 5. Approval of Agenda** – On a motion by Supervisor Boothe seconded by Supervisor Bechtold and unanimously carried to approve the agenda.
- 6. Public Hearing – Request of Road Abandonment State Route 792**

Supervisor Turman advised that there will not be a vote on the matter tonight. He reminded everyone to be respectful of the speakers and not interject. He read the Handicap Statement.

**a. Presentation Karla Turman, County Planner**

Ms. Turman provided the board with a review of the Rt—792 Abandonment request. Ms. Turman provided a PowerPoint, below, that was discussed and reviewed at the meeting.

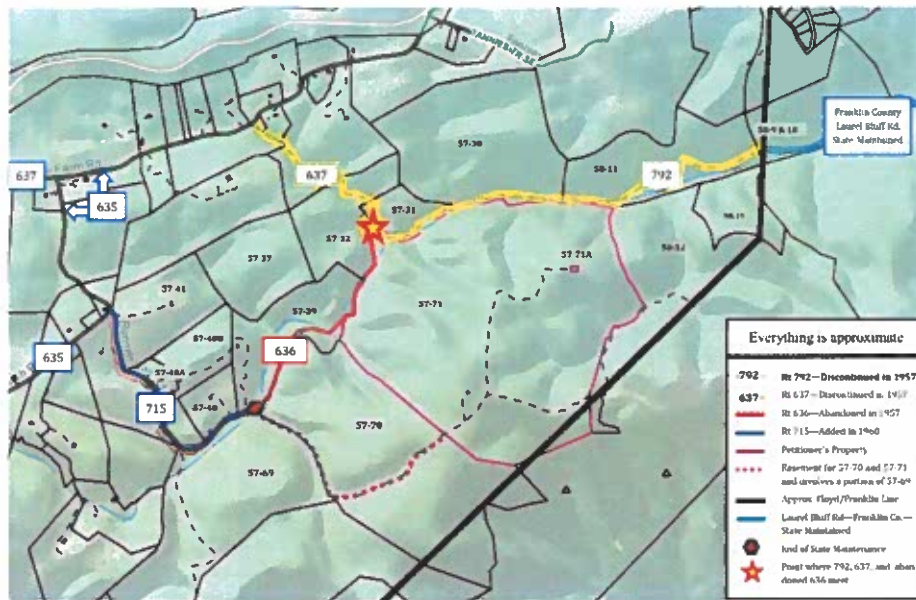
# Request to Abandon

## Discontinued State Route 792

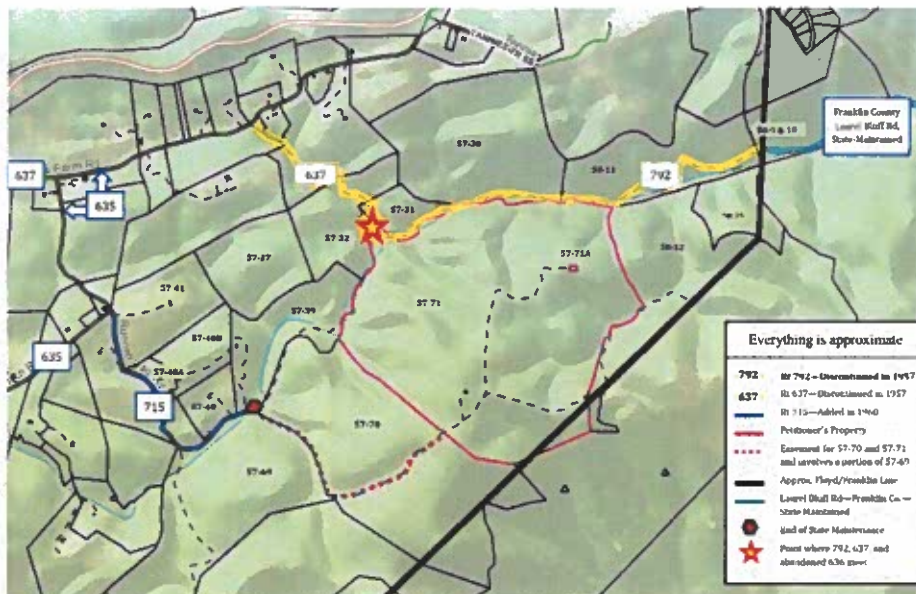
### **Rt. 792 Abandonment Request**

- Petition Received May 1, 2024
  - Public Safety Concerns
  - Property Security/Trespassers
  - Environmental Impact

## Current Public and Abandoned Roads

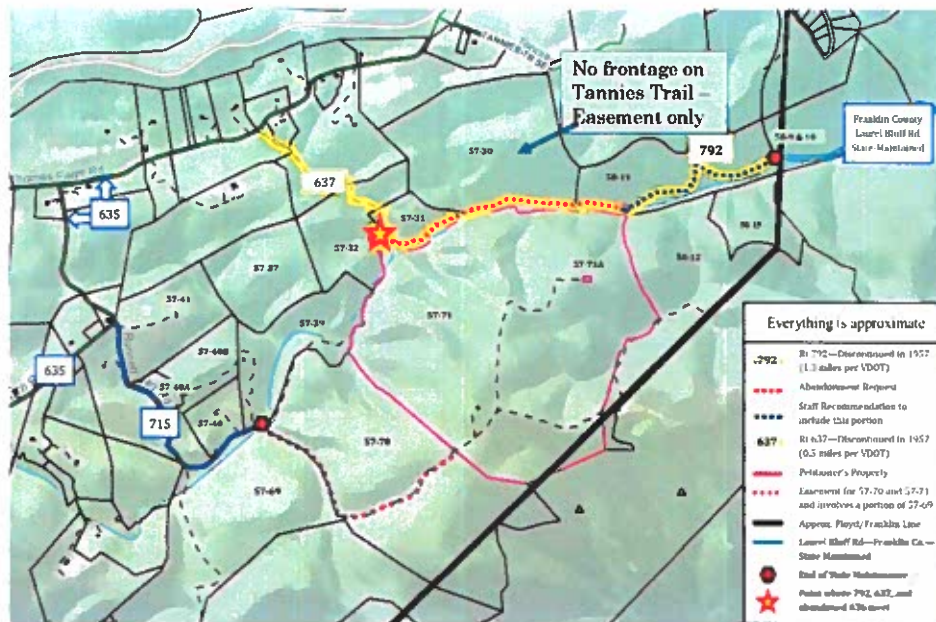


## Current Public Access Roads





## Current Public Access Roads with Abandonment Request



## Pictures of Road Provided by Petitioner





## **Pictures of Road Provided by Petitioner**



## **Pictures of Road Provided by Petitioner**





## **Pictures of Road Provided by Petitioner**



## **Pictures of Road Provided by Petitioner**



## **Damage Pictures Provided by Petitioner**



## **Pictures of Road Provided by Petitioner**





## Damage Pictures Provided by Petitioner



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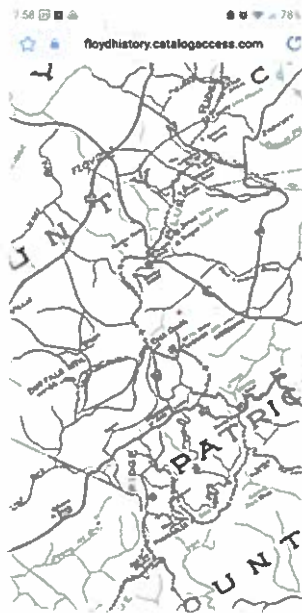


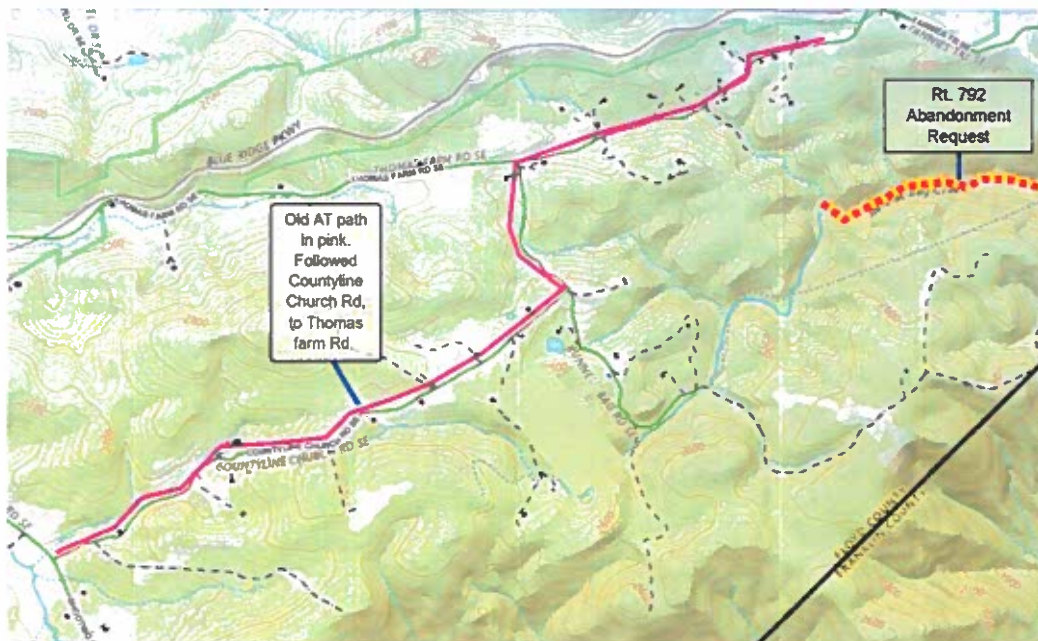
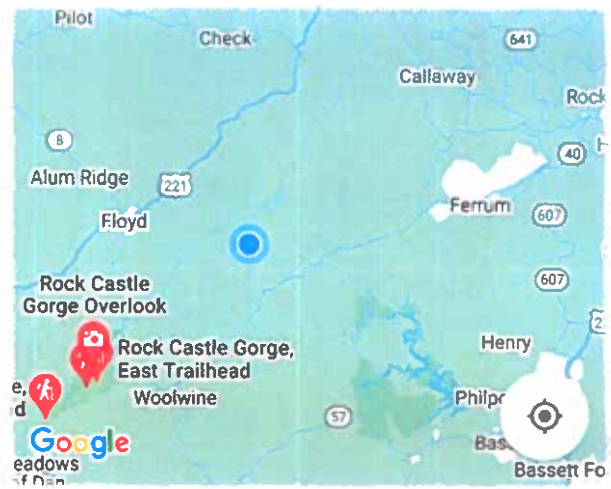


## Pictures Provided by Petitioner



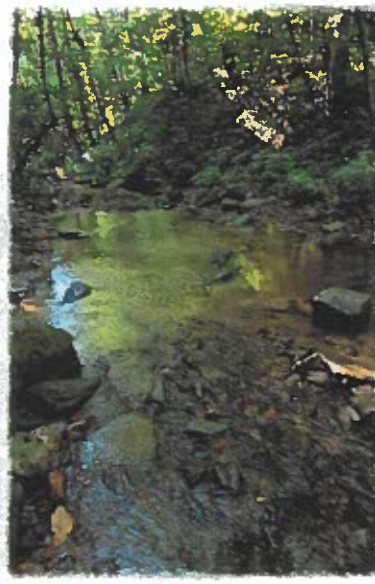
## Connection to Appalachian Trail?







The following  
pictures were provided  
by citizens





**Huff Chimneys**



**Old Boxwoods**







**Remains of Mill on 792**



**View from end of state  
Maintenance in Franklin  
County (looking west)**

**View at  
Franklin County Line  
(looking west)**





Intersection of  
all 3 roads at  
Runnett Bag  
Creek.

Appears as a  
star on petition  
maps.



**Old 636 heading SE to 715  
(View from creek crossing)**



**792 Heading W to Franklin Co.  
(View from creek crossing)**



## Is Discontinued Rt. 637 vehicle accessible?



**1<sup>st</sup> Branch crossing on 637 in 1<sup>st</sup> 100 yds  
from Runnett Bag Creek**



**Other side of 1<sup>st</sup> branch  
crossing on 637.**



**Photos taken of 637 in 1<sup>st</sup> 100 yds from Runnett Bag Creek**



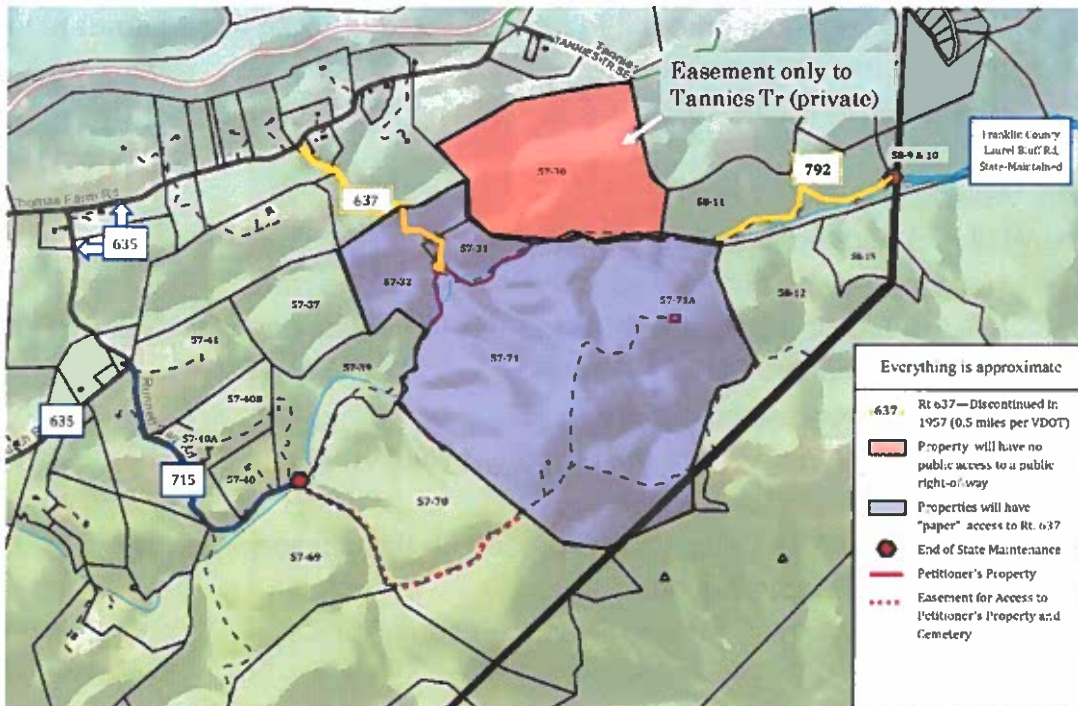
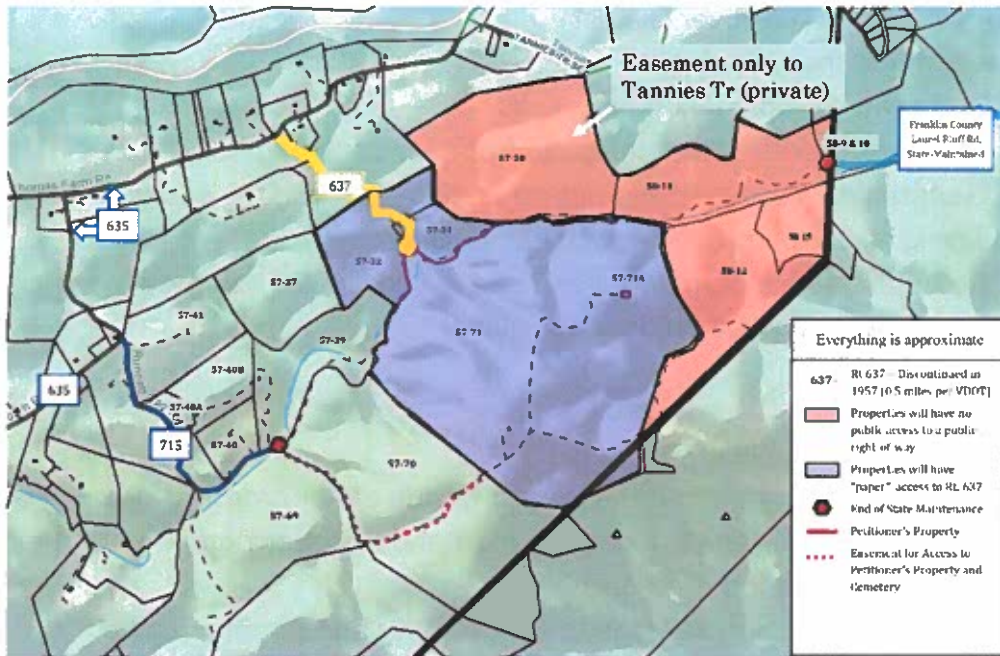
**637 Heading NW to Thomas Farm Road  
(View from creek crossing)**



**View from Thomas Farm Road facing 637.  
No evidence of clearing, no visible access.**



## Results if Entirety of Rt. 792 is Abandoned



## 8. Public Comment

### a. Kathleen Dawe – Little River District

Ms. Dawe noted the following:

- She owns 27 acres along this road.
- Neighbors access their campsite from this section of road.
- Generations have enjoyed nature on this road and the sound of the river.
- There has been no damage to her property.
- Abandonment is permanent and she would like for this area to continue as a place for hiking and outdoor activities.

### b. Tanja Vidovic – Little River District

Mrs. Vidovic noted the following:

- She looked forward to the peaceful woods of her property after retirement.
- ATV riders are illegally using the road and trespassing on her property.
- ATV riders use the road daily.
- Riders are causing damage to the property and threatening her.
- She is scared for herself and her children on her property.
- She could put up a gate but fears that would re-route the ATV riders to her home or her neighbor's homes.
- She believes public safety is a concern on this section of the road.

### c. Betty Walker – Franklin County

Mrs. Walker noted the following:

- Her family owns property near this section of the road.
- Nolen's Mill had a Post Office, and this route was how people from Franklin County came into Floyd.
- Grandmother was born there.
- Her elderly mother visits the property by riding up to the old homestead on an ATV.
- EMS used ATVs for an injured person on this section when she was on the Volunteer Rescue Squad.
- This road was here prior to Shooting Creek Road.

### d. Jerry Greer – Rocky Mount

- Mr. Greer noted the following:
- He owns property here in Floyd.
- President of "We Care Franklin County".
- He has ridden ATVs for entertainment on this section of road for 30+ years.



e. Larry Martin – Franklin County

Mr. Martin noted the following:

- He owns property here in Floyd.
- Sponsors "We Care Charity Ride" twice a year.
- People come to the organized rides from other states.
- People seek to buy homes in Floyd after being apart of the charity ride.
- They cut trees to clear the path for the riders on the trail.
- They also pick up trash along the trail after the ride.
- Riders get to experience the beauty of nature during these rides.
- He would like to see this tradition continue.

f. Bobby Hurt – Franklin County

Mr. Hurt noted the following:

- Come to Floyd because of the "We Care Ride".
- This type of trail would cost a lot to build.
- Beauty of the trail. Enjoyed by all ages.

g. Dwayne Thompson – Little River District

Mr. Thompson noted the following:

- His grandparents live here.
- Spent summers here as a child and learned the history of this section of the county.
- ATV riders keep the path clear for others.
- Everyone loves the beauty of the property.
- Rides horses here because there are not many places to ride in the county.
- These types of trails are safer for riders than roads.
- Can Floyd build a park for riders to enjoy?
- Necessity for this to remain open due to safety concerns and for leisure purposes.

h. David Elliott – Little River District

- Mr. Elliott noted the following:
- He has lived here for many years.
- He wants to see this section remain open. He would like to walk through this section to experience the beauty.

- People should respect the property owners.
- The trail could have better markers so that people don't go onto other people's property.

i. Seth Phelps – Little River District

Mr. Phelps noted the following:

- He is a lifelong resident of Floyd and obsessed with Floyd County History.
- Has spoken with the neighbors in the area to learn the history of the Runnit Bag community.
- Wants to protect Floyd County history.
- This property represents the culture of Floyd.
- There are no recreational areas in Floyd to learn this type of history and experience these types of activities.

j. Myrin Phelps – Little River District

Myrin Phelps noted the following:

- Writing style is a poet.
- Queer, disabled and 20 years old, and enjoys learning the history of Floyd.
- Wants to learn more about the history of Floyd and the landmarks along this section.
- Recently got to experience the section of the county by riding ATV with father.
- Mobility issues limit access to this property. ATV use helps to access this property.
- Abandoning the road would limit access to people who want to experience the history here.

k. Venda Keith –

Mrs. Keith noted the following:

- She has lived in Floyd her whole life. Her great-great grandparents lived here.
- Used to ride horses in this section.
- Has not ever seen any type of destruction in this section.
- Shared that you don't venture off the trails because of moonshiners or pot growers.
- Hopes that the road remains open.
- Concerned about fires. The road needs to be open so that firefighters can access.



I. Jared Vidovic – Little River District

Mr. Vidovic noted the following:

- Lives at the property that we are discussing.
- Riding ATVs on the designated easement is currently illegal.
- The current path trespasses on three different properties.
- People don't know that they are trespassing because of historical use.
- They have a notice up on their property that if you want access to the cemetery to contact them and they can arrange a time to do so. They would also allow access if the property has historical significance to someone, people just need to ask first.
- There has been littering and property damage and vandalism.
- People have been drinking and leaving bottles on the property.
- ATVs have been spinning circles in the cemetery and tipping over stone markers.
- The current route for the charity ride is trespassing.

m. Jean Lacoste – Little River District

Ms. Lacoste noted the following:

- She supports the road remaining open for historical significance and public safety, to provide access for fire fighters, etc.
- Walked from Laurel Bluff Road to the end of 792 and saw no property damage, cut trees or trash.
- Property owners can post her land and prosecute anyone who trespasses regardless if the road is abandoned or not.
- Most of 792 is on the other side of the creek which is not owned by the petitioner.
- Approximately 600 feet of the petitioner's property adjoins 792.

n. Eli Wade – Waived his right to speak.

o. Joe Bowman –

Mr. Bowman noted the following:

- He has never heard of any issues on Runnitt Bag until now.
- Tampa FL paid out a lot of money for the "common denominator".
- Suggested a restraining order against anyone who would bother the Runnitt Bag travelers.

p. Woody Crenshaw – Little River District

Mr. Crenshaw noted the following:

- Lives on Thomas Farm Road at the intersection.
- Hurricane Hugo blew an enormous tree down causing the access to be restricted.
- Doesn't want to add pressure to open or clear 637 for access should 792 be abandoned.

q. Beth Highley – Little River District

Mrs. Highley noted the following:

- She has lived on Runnitt Bag Road with her husband since 1980.
- She has always treated the road as a discontinued road.
- Accepts that the public travels on this road.
- The road on her property has already been abandoned in 1957 making it a private road but she does not plan to use the road any differently.
- In her experience the travelers on this road have been respectful.
- Six times in 44 years they have had trespassers cause damage to property.
- Wants road to remain as a discontinued road to allow the public access to the stunning natural beauty.
- She is on the Board of the Floyd Historical Society – Society has done research on this road and its community.
- Anyone who travels this road steps back in time to experience the Runnitt Bag community and lost civilization.

r. Jeff Walker – Little River District

Mr. Walker noted the following:

- He owns a 30 foot right of way that goes to the middle of the road.
- He has had the property surveyed. He joked that GIS stands for "Get It Surveyed".
- Petitioners' property runs along the creek and the road is to the north of the creek.
- Provided maps showing the property lines that he obtained from the courthouse.
- We are gathered because we value our vested rights.
- He is a contractor who has experience with dealing with property owners and right-of-ways
- He uses a right-of-way to access his property with farm equipment.

s. Jesse Slusher – Little River District

Ms. Slusher noted the following:

- Two rooms of attendance for this meeting. Important subject.



- Has lived in Floyd 46 years.
  - Owns land along this section.
  - Wanted to protect access to family property.
  - Logging roads on his property have had the occasional trespasser.
  - Likes to take his 85-year-old grandmother to the creek on his ATV.
  - He is not land locked.
  - He supports the road being abandoned.
- t. Kamala Bowers – Little River District  
Ms. Bowers noted the following:
- This is a tough decision with points on both sides of the discussion.
  - As a property owner she would also be unhappy with these situations on her property.
- u. Eli Schwartz-Gralla – Locust Grove District  
Mr. Schwartz-Gralla noted the following:
- People need to learn the history of the property before purchase.
  - Need to respect property owners.
  - If County does not abandon the road, then it should be better maintained.
  - Annual ride should be preserved.

#### 18. Adjournment:

On a motion by Supervisor Boothe, seconded by Supervisor Cox, the approval was unanimously carried for adjourning the meeting until the next scheduled meeting of 07/30/024 at 8:22 p.m.

  
Dr. Linda Millsaps, County Administrator

  
Joe Turman, Chairman