



CROOKED ROAD MEETING ON NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA DESIGNATION

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Aug. 14, 2012

Montgomery County, Virginia – As part of the process of seeking National Heritage Area (NHA) status, The Crooked Road is holding a number of public meetings throughout the region to seek input and comments. One of those meetings will be held at 2 p.m. on Wed., Aug. 15 at the Town Hall Council Chambers at 100 East Main Street in Christiansburg. The meeting is presented by The Crooked Road and the Town of Christiansburg.

The public is invited to attend and participate. Written comments may be sent by email to: info@thecrookedroad.org or by mail to: The Crooked Road, One Heartwood Circle, Abingdon, VA 24210.

For more information, please contact Jack Hinshelwood, executive director of The Crooked Road, at (276) 492-2402.

Since its incorporation in 2005 The Crooked Road: Virginia's Heritage Music Trail has worked with musicians, music venues, tourism agencies, Main Street programs, museums and others to promote economic development in Southwest Virginia. With the continuing support of local governments, The Crooked Road has been able to market and promote the unique musical and cultural heritage of the region statewide, nationally, and internationally. As a result of these efforts, the nineteen counties, over fifty towns, and four cities of Southwest Virginia (as defined by the Commonwealth of Virginia) have become a major destination for visitors from throughout the nation and overseas.

The Crooked Road is now seeking designation as a National Heritage Area (NHA), defined as a place “where natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources combine to form a cohesive, nationally important landscape.” There are currently 49 such areas in the United States. The generations of musicians of this region and the communities that are home to this music have a unique history and have played a major role in the development of American music. This is the basis of the effort to seek NHA designation.

National Heritage Areas are a community-driven approach to heritage conservation and economic development. NHAs are not national park units; the designation does not require any additional expenditure of public funds. Management of the NHA is strictly the responsibility of local communities and non-profit organizations. The Board of Directors of the Crooked Road as well as Congressman Morgan Griffith and Senator Mark Warner support this effort to designate the Crooked Road as a National Heritage Area.

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