

MOTION:

**May 4, 2021
Regular Meeting
Res. No. 21-**

SECOND:

RE: AUTHORIZE STREET NAME CHANGE TO RENAME MINE ROAD TO BATESTOWN ROAD (STATE ROUTE 629) – POTOMAC MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT

ACTION:

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 15.2-2019 of the Code of Virginia, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors (Board) has the authority to change street names; and

WHEREAS, proper and unambiguous street names and premise addresses are necessary and essential for swift emergency service response; and

WHEREAS, Batestown was founded in the 1820's, and after the Civil War it grew in population as former slaves moved there. During the remainder of the 1800s, the population grew large enough to support a church and a school. This portion of the County became part of the historical Black Community and culture of Prince William County. Batestown was served by Batestown Road, later renamed Mine Road; and

WHEREAS, the effort to rename the road back to Batestown Road to recognize the freed African American residents in the County began twenty (20) years ago by Leroy Bates and Walter Kendall, two descendants of Batestown Road residents. However, it was not until November 2020, at the recommendation of Potomac District Supervisor Andrea Bailey's office, that a Prince William County Historical Commission resolution was approved supporting the renaming of the road; and

WHEREAS, a request was made to the County and to the Prince William County Historical Commission to change the name of a portion of Mine Road back to Batestown Road; and

WHEREAS, the Prince William County Historical Commission believes that the identification, preservation, protection, and promotion of the history of Prince William County is well served by changing the street name and by its Resolution Number (Res. No.) 20-045, supports changing the name of Mine Road back to Batestown Road; and

WHEREAS, a poll was conducted of all affected property owners and the majority have requested that the street be changed back to Batestown Road; and

WHEREAS, the street name change conforms to the current street name standards;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors hereby approves the renaming of the portion of Mine Road, within Prince William County, delineated on the map attached hereto, to Batestown Road.

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Votes:

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent from Vote:

Absent from Meeting:

For Information:

Angela Mills, Deputy CIO, Department of Information Technology
Robert Mancini, CIO, Department of Information Technology

ATTEST: _____

Clerk to the Board



STAFF REPORT

Board Meeting Date:	May 4, 2021
Agenda Title:	Authorize Street Name Change to Rename Mine Road to Batestown Road (State Route 629)
District Impact:	Potomac Magisterial District
Requested Action:	Approve the resolution and authorize the street name change.
Department / Agency Lead:	Department of Information Technology, Geospatial Technology Services
Staff Lead:	Danielle Lewis, Addressing Manager

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The portion of Mine Road that stretches from Prince William Forest Park to the Dumfries Town boundary is currently known as Mine Road. This portion was originally called Batestown Road and was part of a historical Black Community. However, after the Pyrite Mine closed, it became labeled as if it were the continuation of Mine Road and it is unknown by whom. Residents who currently live or have previously lived on old Batestown Road (currently called Mine Road) contacted Supervisor Bailey's Office and the Prince William County Historical Commission to request Mine Road's street name be changed back to Batestown Road to uphold the rich centuries of history of the area.

Restoring the original name of Batestown Road would be a great achievement that many have been working on for almost twenty (20) years. On November 10, 2020, the Prince William County Historical Commission approved Resolution Number (Res. No.) 20-045, to support changing Mine Road's name back to Batestown Road. A total of eighty-seven (87) properties with fifty-eight (58) property owners will be affected by this change. All property owners have been provided notification of the name change request, with majority support in favor of the renaming.

It is the recommendation of staff that the Board of County Supervisors (Board) authorize the street name change to rename Mine Road back to Batestown Road, not to include the Town of Dumfries jurisdiction. The Dumfries Town Manager will initiate the change within their jurisdiction once Prince William County approves our portion of the street renaming within our jurisdiction.

BACKGROUND

Batestown was founded in the 1820s. From 1889-1920, the Cabin Branch Pyrite Mine was in operation next to the community in what is now part of Prince William Forest Park. To get to Batestown, residents took Mine Road north from U.S. 1 in Dumfries. The portion of the road that split off to the right and went further north was known as Batestown Road. After the mine closed the remaining section of the road leading toward the mine, Batestown Road became labeled as if it were a continuation of Mine Road.

The effort to rename the road began about twenty (20) years ago by two (2) descendants of families who lived on the original Batestown Road with the support of several current residents of Mine Road. The project gained momentum with the support of the Potomac District Supervisor, Andrea O. Bailey, and the Prince William County Historical Commission.

There are eighty-seven (87) properties with fifty-eight (58) owners that will be affected by this name change, some owning multiple properties on the road. County staff completed a notification campaign to all current property owners on Mine Road (not to include Town of Dumfries jurisdiction). A notification package containing a courtesy letter, a voting form to indicate support or non support, background information, a map, and a self-addressed stamped envelope were all sent by certified mail on March 1, 2021. The notification gave property owners until March 12, 2021, to respond, however, the deadline was extended to March 26, 2021, because of delays with United States Postal Service (USPS) delivery. Of the fifty-eight (58) property owners notified, thirty-one (31) voted to support, six (6) voted not to support, fifteen (15) were delivered but a response was not received, and five (5) went unclaimed from the USPS. Numerous attempts were made to locate property owners for any returned or unclaimed mail. The campaign reached the majority support for the renaming with twenty-nine (29) supporting votes.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of staff that the Board authorize the street name change to rename Mine Road to Batestown Road.

Service Level / Policy Impact

This action meets process standards for street renaming and approval from the majority of property owners who will be directly affected by the change. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has been consulted and has no objection to changing Mine Road's name to Batestown Road. VDOT stated the state route number will remain the same (State Route 629).

Fiscal Impact

The fiscal impact will be the cost of materials and labor to change the street name signs on Mine Rd. The estimated cost is approximately \$1,125.00 and will be funded through the Department of Transportation's TRIP Program, which currently has a balance of \$445,923.91 for the Potomac District.

Legal Impact

The Board is authorized by statute to name streets in its jurisdiction, and such names shall take precedence over the other designation except for names of primary highways made by the Commonwealth Transportation Board or the General Assembly. Virginia Code Section 15.2-2019; 2019 Va. AG LEXIS 7. The road at issue is not a primary road within the state highway system.

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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ATTACHMENT

Vicinity Map – Mine Road, Prince William County

Vicinity Map - Mine Road, Prince William County

