

# Haymarket caboose project rolling into place

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Manassas Bureau

**HAYMARKET** — Town officials say plans to haul a 36,000-pound caboose to the town and convert it into a museum are moving full steam ahead and that the caboose may be in its place next to the town hall for Haymarket Day Sept. 14.

Mayor John Kapp and a local resident who donated a flatbed truck plan to go to the Manassas rail yard today to haul rail tracks and ties that on which the caboose will eventually rest next to the tiny town hall in the center of Haymarket.

All transport and renovation of the caboose will be done by volunteers. Two local businessmen — John McCarty and Dick Babb

— offered their trucks to haul the rails, ties and caboose. Another businessman, Alan Gossom, volunteered to level the ground.

"Once we get the caboose here, we're asking people to volunteer to help scrape and paint it and to renovate it. We just don't have the funds as a small town to pay for the restoration," Kapp said.

That the project is coming together so quickly surprised many residents, with officials giving credit to Norfolk Southern Railway officials who agreed to donate the caboose this spring soon after receiving a request from the mayor.

"It's no problem to us to donate cabooses because if we didn't donate them, they'd just cut them up for scrap," said Mike Irvin, assistant train master for

Norfolk Southern Railway between Alexandria and Lynchburg.

In neighboring Manassas, the city council is considering using a donated caboose which sits across the tracks from the depot as a temporary tourist center.

Haymarket's caboose is sitting in the Manassas rail yard. Once arrangements can be made to transport it by rail to a location

near Haymarket, it will be hoisted by crane onto an 18-wheel flatbed truck and transported to the town hall.

Kapp said the only thing that could derail the project now is that they haven't found a person to volunteer the use of a crane.

Appropriately enough, the idea of using a caboose as a town museum was the brainchild of Sarah Turner, chairwoman of

the Haymarket Historical Commission.

"I had no idea we would come anywhere near getting one [a caboose], but we had an almost immediate response from Norfolk Southern," Turner said.

She thinks a caboose is an appropriate vehicle for a museum because trains were an integral part of Haymarket's early history.

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