

The meeting was held in the new Dressage Arena at Stave Mill Farm, owned by Nick Duke and Gardy Bloemers, both Friends of Esmont, and opened with a wonderful exhibition by Gardy riding her horse, Crusedor (aka Cruz). A video of the event is attached.

1. Grant Applications

Trail Grant, a \$10K Planning Grant, application filed, and Don and I met with **Dan Monahan**, head of the review committee, who is an avid trail walker and was excited about what we are planning and the connectivity of county trails. Will hear in December if we are awarded the grant from BAMA Funds, through Charlottesville Area Community Funds (CACF).

At a Yancey Senior Group meeting we learned that a walking path had been discussed for Simpson Park, across the road from Yancey School Community Center. This idea fell by the wayside due to lack of funding.

At the Yancey Community Center Advisory Panel meeting, I brought up the idea of eventually connecting our trail to Simpson Park. Liz Palmer, Supervisor for the area was there along with a CACF representative. The CACF rep talked with us after the meeting and she was very interested in the possibility of connecting Simpson Park with our trail. We will continue to pursue that.

History Grant to be filed by 10/15 with Virginia Humanities Foundation. This is another \$10K Grant Request for researching, writing the History of Esmont, getting it professionally proofread, and professionally formatted for the use of pictures and printer ready upon receipt.

We will have to seek funding for the cover design and publication. Will hear in December if we won that one.

2. Trail App for native plants and farm histories along the trail with special labels on trees – will be looking into this possibility, we have several master gardeners available to us, Judy Brochu, Friends Board Member and Marjie Giuleano, a Friend. We don't want to print a brochure that might become litter. Hopefully, by the time we get around to working on the app, cell phone service in the area will be much better.

3. Next Project is to begin work on the **Depot**. Site selection, verification of owners, and acquisition are first steps then we will look for funding. We need more committee members. Don Jones is heading that committee, Robbbyrda Preston, board member, is a member along with Rob Peters, an out of town train enthusiast and a Friend.

4. Schuyler Quarry Gardens – see attached from our visit to the Gardens. They have a nice replica of Esmont built by Rail Tales of Charlottesville. Many people have never seen the trespass over the road that came down when the tracks were taken up.

6. Piney River Trail – see attached – beautiful trail with caboose/depot/soapstone benches. The long bench was a project by Eagle Scouts. If anyone information about Eagle Scout Projects, please share with us.

7. With regard to the question of where soapstone/slate was quarried in the three areas of Schuyler, Esmont and Alberene, I have the following information from Garth Groff, author of *Soapstone Shortlines* – Alberene Stone and its Railroads.

Garth says that *both Schuyler and Alberene quarried only soapstone. Esmont quarried slate. The dust in the air in Esmont, eventually leading to the demise of the plant operation, was the result of crushing slate for some purpose he could not define.*

Esmont Village Replica at Schuyler Quarry Gardens



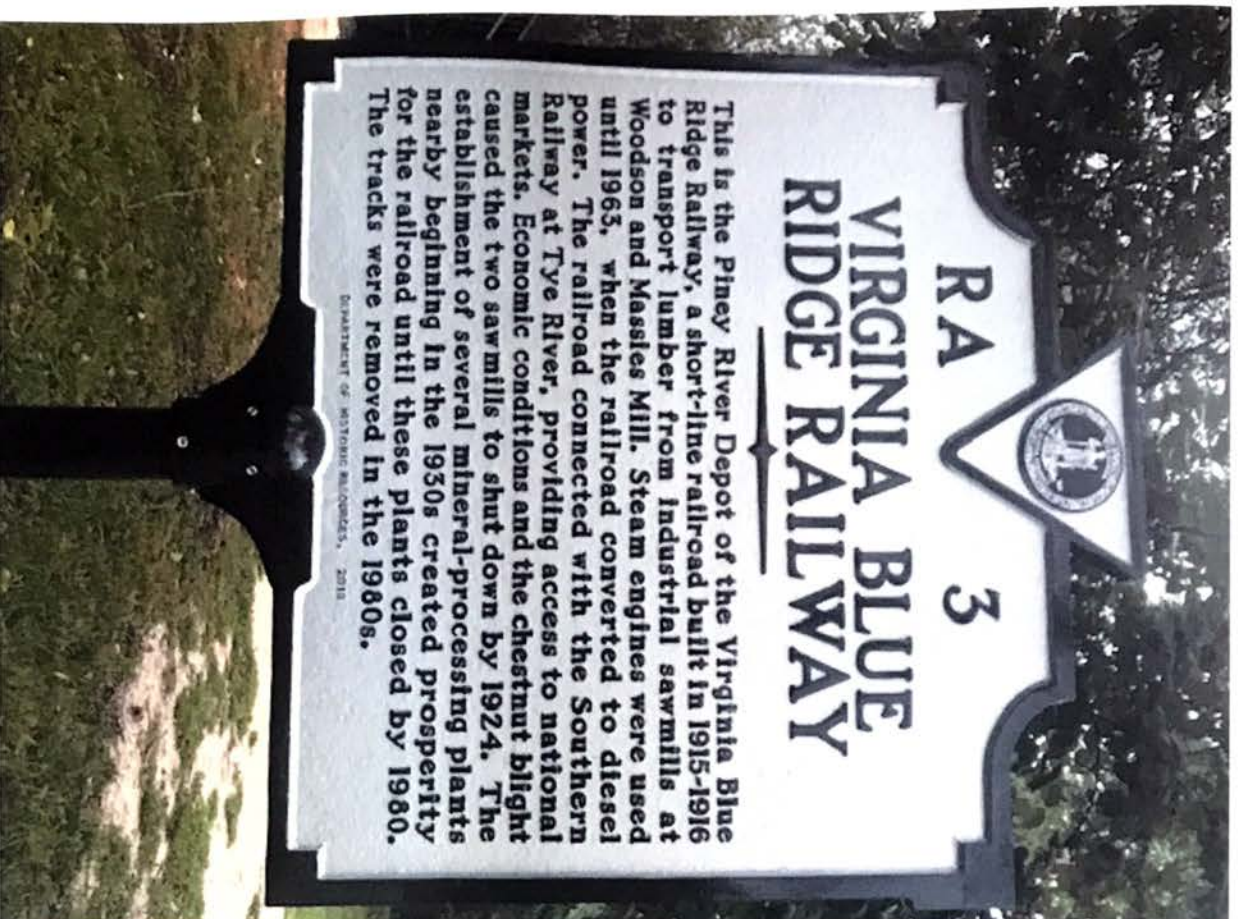
Post Office, Steed's Store, Depot



Esmont Depot



Trail Trestle over Esmont Road



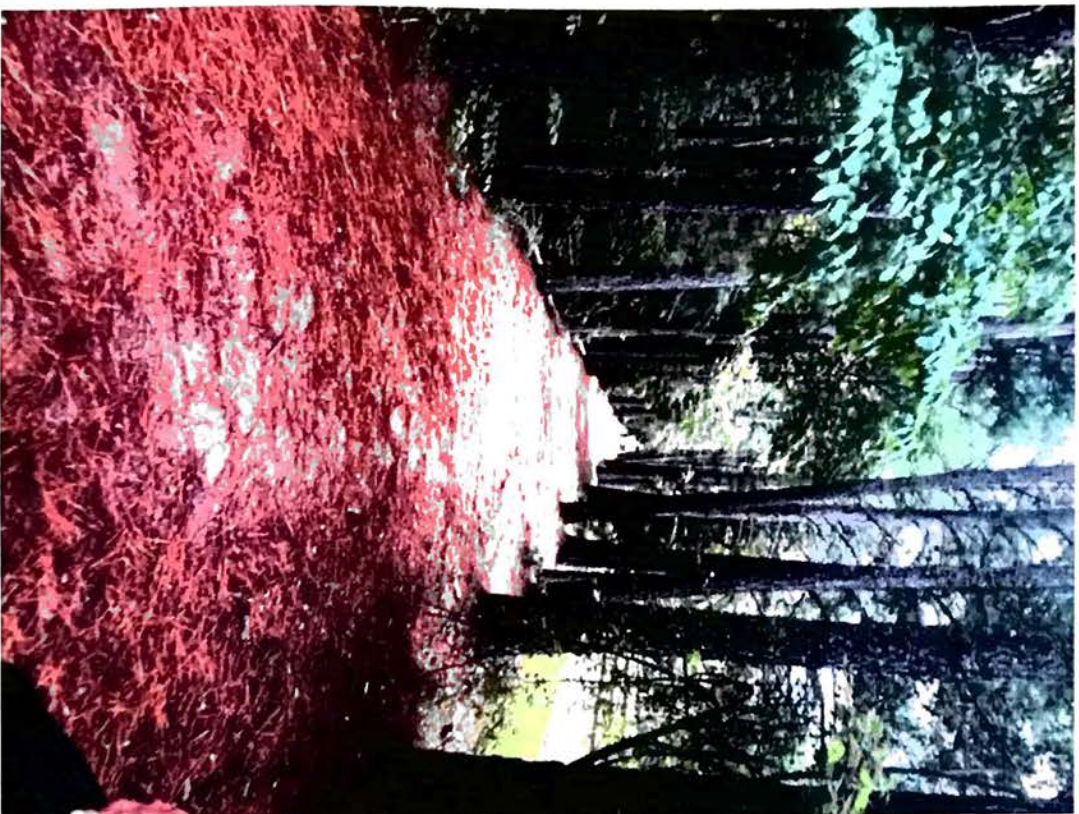
Large Marker



Caboose



Piney River Depot



Piney River Trail



Soapstone Bench



Bench built by Eagle Scouts