

**8A. PUBLIC HEARING  
CONSIDERATION OF ROAD NAME CHANGE  
BLACKHEAD SIGNPOST ROAD****OPENING STATEMENT**

This public hearing is held pursuant to Section 15.2-1427 and 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, to consider a request initiated by the Board of Supervisors of Southampton County pursuant to Section 14-25 of the Southampton County Code to change the name of Blackhead Signpost Road. The aforementioned roadway is situated between Virginia Primary Route 35 (Meherrin Road) and Virginia Secondary Route 673 (Grays Shop Road) and located in the Boykins-Branchville Election District. Recommendations for a new road name will be received and considered at this hearing.

Following its public hearing on December 10, 2020, the Planning Commission recommended the following road names for the Board's consideration:

1. "Alfred Road," to honor the enslaved person which historical records indicate was the person who was the subject of the horrific incident;
2. "Big Pumpkin Road," a name suggested by a resident of the road who, along with her husband, grows Virginia State Fair prize winning pumpkins; and
3. "Millpond Road," the historical name of the road according to long-time County residents.

The notice of tonight's public hearing was published in the Tidewater News on January 6 and January 13, 2021 and all landowners along the roadway were notified by first class mail.

After conclusion of tonight's public hearing, the Board of Supervisors may adopt the attached resolution designating a new road name, or take the comments under advisement for later consideration. The effective date of any road name change shall be sixty (60) days following adoption of the resolution to provide adequate time to notify all affected parties.

Mrs. Beth Lewis, Secretary of the Planning Commission, will provide introductory remarks after which all interested parties are invited to come forward and express their views.

<b>ACTION REQUIRED:</b>	<b>A motion is required to either adopt the attached resolution designating a new road name, or take the comments under advisement for later consideration.</b>
-------------------------	---

**A Resolution**  
**Renaming Blackhead Signpost Road**

WHEREAS, Section 15.2-2019 of the Code of Virginia provides statutory authority for every locality to name streets, roads and alleys within its respective boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the road names for all public roads in unincorporated areas of Southampton County were, following a public hearing, duly adopted by resolution of the Board of Supervisors on February 27, 1989; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned resolution named a segment of Virginia Secondary Route 658, from Virginia Primary Route 35 (now known as “Meherrin Road”) to Virginia Secondary Route 673 (now known as “Grays Shop Road,”) as “Blackhead Signpost Road;” and

WHEREAS, in regular session on July 28, 2020, an organization named Citizens for Change, raised this Board’s awareness while respectfully making known that the aforementioned road name is demeaning, derogatory, and offensive to a large number of residents in Southampton County, as well as to many county visitors, and requested this Board’s cooperation and assistance in initiating name changes for “Blackhead Signpost Road,” and

WHEREAS, Section 14-125 of the Southampton County Code provides that requests to change the names of existing streets may be initiated by resolution of the Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, by resolution duly adopted on September 22, 2020, the Southampton County Board of Supervisors initiated a request to change the name of “Blackhead Signpost Road,” and requested the Southampton County Planning Commission to conduct a public hearing and offer its recommendations for a new road name for “Blackhead Signpost Road;” and

WHEREAS, the Southampton County Planning Commission conducted its public hearing regarding this matter, following proper public notice, on December 10, 2020 and subsequently forwarded three recommendations to the Board of Supervisors including “Alfred Road,” “Big Pumpkin Road,” and “Millpond Road;” and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors conducted its public hearing with regard to this matter, following proper public notice, on January 26, 2021 in order to receive additional comment and suggestions regarding appropriate road names.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Southampton County that:

1. The name “Blackhead Signpost Road” is hereby repealed;
2. The new road name for Virginia Secondary Route 658 (formerly “Blackhead Signpost Road,”) from Virginia Primary Route 35 (now known as “Meherrin Road”) to Virginia Secondary Route 673 (now known as “Grays Shop Road,”) shall now be \_\_\_\_\_.
3. This new road name shall take effect sixty (60) days following adoption of this resolution;
4. The County’s Geographic Information System (GIS) shall be updated to reflect this change;

5. The Southampton County Sheriff's Office is hereby requested to replace all affected road name signs at each roadway intersection;
6. The owners of all improved properties affected by this road name change shall be promptly notified of their change of address by the County;
7. The County shall promptly notify the Clerk of the Circuit Court, the U.S. Postal Service, all major couriers, the Voter Registrar, all Fire Departments and Rescue Squads who respond to calls along this roadway, and each utility provider serving customers along this roadway.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_th day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

A COPY TESTE:

---

Michael W. Johnson, Clerk



**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
PLANNING - BUILDING INSPECTIONS – ZONING**

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Michael Johnson, County Administrator  
FROM: Beth Lewis, AICP, Planning Director  
DATE: December 10, 2020  
RE: Public hearing regarding Blackhead Signpost Road

At their regular December 10, 2020, meeting, the Planning Commission held a public hearing regarding the Board of Supervisor's request to change the name of Blackhead Signpost Road. There were six (6) members in attendance.

Prior to the public hearing, the Planning Commission received 11 letters with regard to the name change, several of which included potential names. Of the 11 letters received, ten (10) were in favor of the change, while one (1) was in favor of retaining the name, "to tell what happened here, and to inform the public how history was affected by this event". The Board also heard from two (2) speakers from the community during the public hearing, both in favor of changing the name of the road. The Board made a motion to amend the name of the road, and the vote in favor was unanimous.

The Commission then discussed the potential names. After discussion and consideration, the Planning Commission made a motion to forward the following three (3) names, listed in alphabetical order:

- Alfred Road, to honor the enslaved person historical records indicate was the person who was the subject of the horrific incident;
- Big Pumpkin Road, a name suggested by a resident of the road who, along with her husband, grows Virginia State Fair prize winning pumpkins;
- Millpond Road, the historical name of the road according to long-time County residents

The Board voted in favor of the list of potential road names 5-1. The dissenter wanted to make clear that he agreed with changing the name of the road, but feels naming the road after a person may lead to the need to reconsider the new name again in the future, as sentiments change.

Chairman Drake says we have a proper motion and a second for the request with the change mentioned, he ask is there any other discussion before we vote. He says, if not, I'll call for the vote. He says, all those in favor, say aye

Michael Drake	AYE
Dr. Alan Edwards	AYE
Douglas Chesson	AYE
John (Jack) Randall	AYE
Michael Mann	AYE
Brad Turner	AYE

Chairman Drake continues, any opposed, like sign.

Chairman Drake says the vote is unanimous and that will go forward at the January meeting to the Board of Supervisors as a favorable recommendation.

Chairman Drake says thank you all and thank you for coming tonight.

Mrs. Darden says, I hope we bring lots of revenue to Southampton County.

Chairman Drake says, yes, thank you. He says we look forward to you all opening and wish you the best of luck and we hope it turns out good for you.

Chairman Drake says next we are down to item D which is a request initiated by the Board of Supervisors about the road name change.

Chairman Drake says, Mrs. Lewis if you would like to proceed please.

Mrs. Lewis says that is correct. She says this is a request initiated by the Board of Supervisors of Southampton County to change the name of BlackHead Sign Post Road, the aforementioned road way is situated between Virginia Primary Route 35 which is Meherrin Road and Virginia Secondary Route 673, Grays Shop Road and is located in the Boykins-Branchville Electoral voting district.

She says recommendations for a new name will be received this evening as well. She says this was scheduled for last month's public hearing, the one that got rained out, so it got forwarded to this month. She says, I have received a total of eleven emails between the two months, you have all of them and you have the summary. She says there were ten in favor of and one opposed to the change. She says the suggested names are: one for Big Pumpkin Road, one suggested name was Millpond Road which is apparently the historical name of the road and six suggestions were for Alfred Road. She says you have copies of all the letters, they will be made part of the minutes, I asked Attorney Railey if they all had to be read into the minutes and he said no but they will be attached to the minutes and nine of the eleven were attached to your agenda that was on line because I received them in time. She says, I'm sure there are people here to speak this evening but that's all the information that I have. She says, thank you.

Chairman Drake says thank you. He asks are there any other comments before we proceed with the hearing. He says, if not, I will open the public hearing, if anyone would like to come forward to address the road name change in the Newsoms area. Please come forward.

Mrs. Lewis says, Mr. Drake if you will remind people to state their name and address for the record.

Michelle Covington comes forward.

Chairman Drake states thank you being here, if you will state your name for the record.

Ms. Covington says thank you for having me. She says my name is Michelle Covington and I am a member of Citizens for Change and I reside at 18199 Crosskeys Road in Boykins Virginia. Mrs. Covington read a prepared statement which will be made part of the minutes.

At the end of the presentation, Chairman Drake says thank you and asks are there any questions. He says, what a history lesson. Thank you very much.

Mrs. Lewis says Ms. Baker is the appropriate person to leave your notes with that will be very helpful. Thank you.

Chairman Drake ask would anyone else like to come forward, the public hearing is still open.

Mr. Travis Parker comes forward and says, Good evening, my name is Travis Parker and I live at 120 Rawlsdale Road, Franklin Virginia and I am a member of Citizens for Change and prior to being raised in Southampton County. He says this process has been long but I am proud to have been a part of it, of the changing of Blackhead Sign Post Road and I am proud of our governing body throughout this process that I've heard everyone, even though we may have had some disagreements with the ordinance, everybody (from what I heard) was in agreement that this road name needed to be changed. He says that since we are past the part of the ordinance, there was some disagreement but we are on the other side of that I feel that we are all in favor that the name needs to change. He says, I stand here this evening to let you know that I am in agreement with the name of the road becoming Alfred Road. He says along with Ms. Covington and the many e-mails that you have received. He says I truly believe that the Alfred Road, based on what you have just heard, Ms. Covington has given some good reasons why you this name should be changed to Alfred Road. He says, with that said, thank you for being a part of the process and for us to be able to right this wrong and I just ask you to recommend to the Board of Supervisors to change the name of Blackhead Signpost Road to Alfred Road.

He says, thank you, any questions.

Chairman Drake says thank you Mr. Parker and asks is there any questions for Mr. Parker.

Commissioner Randall says I've got one question. He says, in our packet (and I don't know if you have this) but we have an e-mail from a Billy Cole. He says that he was involved in the first go round,

(Commissioner Randall said there is information on the back of the page provided by Mrs. Lewis) he headed the road naming committee, I guess, back in 1988. He asks, do you have any information or knowledge about the road naming committee that Mr. Cole headed.

Mr. Parker says no I don't have any information about what went on prior.

Commissioner Randall says his historical was very similar to your presentation, the gentleman named Alfred, his historical perspective was spot on to what you asked us to do. He says, I was just wondering if he was a part of the research or we could kind of expand on his email.

Mr. Parker says I would like to ask Ms. Covington does that rings a bell with her, Ms. Covington did a lot of our research.

Ms. Covington asks what the name was again.

Chairman Drake says his name is Billy Cole and he is identifying himself as the person who headed the road naming committee and this occurred on or about 1988, that time frame.

Ms. Covington says I don't have any information about Mr. Cole but if you have contact information for him, I would love to talk with him but no I don't have any. She says you are saying that he is saying the same thing that we were saying.

Commissioner Randall says yes, he was giving kind of the historical, he wrote a letter to our county administrator basically recommending the name change and I'm sure Mrs. Lewis can give you a copy of this information and giving his name as Alfred and the name change. He says, it seems from the email, I don't want to speculate too much, that he was the head of some committee on the behalf of County to rename roads and I don't know procedural history behind that because it was so long ago, 1988, I wasn't a member of the Planning Commission. He says we can probably request that from Mr. Johnson but I was just wondering if he was part.

Mr. Chesson says that committee meet in 1987.

Ms. Covington says yes I am aware that there was a committee that named roads because they used to all be numbers but I was born in 1983 so I don't know what that process looks like but if there is a way to get in touch with someone who is a part of that process period, I would love to hear their opinion and talk to them.

Chairman Drake says thank you.

Ms. Covington says thank you.

Chairman Drake says are there any questions for Mr. Parker?

There being no, Chairman Drake says thank you both for coming.

Mrs. Lewis says I requested and received a list of all the road names in Southampton County from GIS to make sure that any names that were recommended weren't already in use or almost like that. She says there is no name like that and there is no name that is near Alfred Road, it goes from Agri Park Drive to Alley Street. She says we have a Cabin Pond and a Cabin Point and those are at different ends of the County but very similar names. So there isn't anything near Alfred Road.

Chairman Drake says anyone else like to come forward, the public hearing is still open. He says, if not I am going to close the public hearing and open the panel up for discussion.

Commissioner Randall says I would like to ask Dr. Edwards a question because this is the first one we have had, so is the Board asking for a recommendation of whether or not for a name change number one and then a possible change.

Mrs. Lewis says that is correct.

Commissioner Edwards says the Board is asked for a change.

Commissioner Randall says because the agenda, it's kind of ambiguous.

Mrs. Lewis says from their minutes, they are asking for two recommendations, one whether or not to change the name and then Mr. Johnson told me a list of three to five possible names would be all that they would need, they don't want you to come up with twenty names, but yes or no to change the name and three to five or however, a handful of possible names.

Commissioner Randall says I think from a historical perspective, for me it's a pretty easy choice. He says it seems that the concern is that the historical context, it was a slave named Alfred, I don't think that's disputed by anyone and I think that is the best evidence that's come forth. He says I spoke with Rick Francis about it and he's the Turner Rebellions' expert but I think all indicia and evidence points to that so that would be my recommendation, that we approve the name change and recommend to the Board of Supervisors that we change the name to Alfred Road.

Commissioner Chesson says, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Drake acknowledges Commissioner Chesson.

Commissioner Chesson says I guess I will repeat what I have shared in an email, I would recommend looking in a different direction other than a person's name. He says reason being is that today we see Alfred as somebody that fought for a good cause and laid down his life, five years from now there might be another group of people that come along saying, what was the Board of Supervisors thinking to name this to keep us reminded of these horrible things that happened or it may come up that Alfred was a sinner and he had 5000 great victories but one sin and we can't have a road named after this man anymore. He says my personal opinion is I would not be in favor of naming a road after a person and I would encourage the Planning Commission to look to a different road name, like Barrow Road (it continues on across Route



35), I see that as appropriate or Millpond Road, I see that as appropriate; not after a man's name because the winds of change, five years from now we will probably be looking at this name change again and I just think we need to avoid those awkward situations.

Chairman Drake says thank you for your comments, any other comments.

Commissioner Turner says yes.

Chairman Drake recognizes Mr. Turner

Commissioner Turner says I agree with everyone here, I think the road name needs to change one way or the other so the answer to question one would be yes. He says the Board of Supervisors is looking for let's say a group of three names. He says Mrs. Lewis was saying Mr. Johnson was looking for.

Commissioner Edwards says changing the name is moot, that's gone.

Commissioner Turner says yes, he says do we want to give three options to the Board of Supervisors like Alfred Road, Millpond Road and continue Barrow Road or do we need to narrow it down to just one.

Commissioner Randall says I think we can do either, the Board is going to have all the information and probably more.

Mrs. Lewis says they will hold a public hearing as well.

Commissioner Drake says so Mrs. Lewis, looking for direction, do you think we need to give a series of names; would that be proper for us tonight.

Mrs. Lewis says that's what Mr. Johnson asked.

Chairman Drake says so we are not trying to limit it to one.

Mrs. Lewis says you need two motions, change name yes or no and the second motion with name recommendations.

Chairman Drake says, Mr. Mann I haven't heard from you. What do you think about changing the name of the road? He says do you have a comment.

Commissioner Mann says yes, I do, I was being polite letting Mrs. Lewis finish up. He says I would like to ask a question, I see on the summary, you've got Billy Cole against that, and I'm reading his letter and I guess I didn't see his letter before I got here tonight and I'm trying to figure out if he is against renaming is that what I'm gathering.

Mrs. Lewis says from my reading of the letter, he is against renaming the road because he feels it is doing away with history that needs to be remembered.

Commissioner Mann says that's what I gathered, so he is against renaming it to Alfred, he wants to leave it like it is. He says, I understand he is a big history buff.

Mrs. Lewis says her reading of it was he thinks that the historical name of Blackhead Sign Post Road honors what happened and changing the name would sanitize and not make that history.

Commissioner Mann says I agree that we need to change the name, he said I think I voted against the last time we were trying to do it but I wasn't voting against the name change, I agree with changing the name, I wanted to keep it generic. He says the history of the county is the history of the county, good, bad, ugly, whatever but I find that there are a lot of things that people find offensive and there was one suggestion to just put the road number back on the road sign 658 but I would rather send the Board three names and not just funnel it down to one.

Chairman Drake says it seems like there is a consensus on the Board that we need to change the name of the road, correct?

Commissioner Randall says I make a motion that we change the name of the road.

Chairman Drake says I have a motion that we change the name of the road, do I have a second.

Commissioner Mann say second.

Commissioner Edwards says we have already decided that, we don't have to vote on that, that's been decided by the Board.

Mrs. Lewis says no.

Chairman Drake says the decision that was made was to how the procedure would be with a changed road.

Mrs. Lewis says the ordinance that was adopted permitted the Board of Supervisors to initiate this request but the request still had to come to this body to change the name and the second, what it should change to.

Chairman Drake asks Commissioner Edwards if that answers his question.

Commissioner Edwards says not really, he says the fact that we have to change it, there is no argument about that but I think what the Board wants from the Planning Commission is a name or a list of names and so when we have our public hearing we could vote on the other two.

Chairman Drake says we have a motion and a second to that motion so I guess we are going to carry it forward if there are no objections. He says, is there any other discussion.

Chairman Drake calls for the vote to change the name of the road.

He says, all those in favor, say aye

Michael Drake	AYE
Dr. Alan Edwards	AYE
Douglas Chesson	AYE
John (Jack) Randall	AYE
Michael Mann	AYE
Brad Turner	AYE

Chairman Drake continues, any opposed, like sign.

He says it is a unanimous vote to change the name. He says, I have heard two or three suggestions is there any discussion.

Commissioner Mann says I have a question. Since you made this summary sheet, Mrs. Lewis, how many of these people that made a suggestion or have written in actually live on that road.

Mrs. Lewis says I believe Ms. Adkins lives on the road who suggested Big Pumpkin Road,

Chairman Drake says Mrs. Brandi Barnes lives on the road.

Commissioner Mann says doesn't Joseph Drake live on the road.

Chairman Drake says yes he does.

Mrs. Lewis says Ms. Toya Bynum says she is from Southampton County but she doesn't say that she lives on the road and Anna Carter grew up in Newsoms and maintains a home there but she doesn't indicate that she lives on the road but Mr. Joseph Drake lives on the road, Ms. Glass does not live on the road and Sarah Poole does not live on the road and Mr. Sunday does not and Ms. Triplett lives in Courtland.

Commissioner Mann says Billy Cole does not live on the road.

Mrs. Lewis says no.

Chairman Drake says but Mrs. Barnes.

Mrs. Barnes, Mr. Drake, Ms. Adkins all live on the road.

Chairman Drake says does that answer your question Commissioner Mann?

Commissioner Randall so we have no name, just the route number, Alfred Road which seems to be the consensus at least on the chart, Big Pumpkin Road had one recommendation and then Millpond Road.

Commissioner Edwards says that I heard before the road was changed, it was Millpond Road was the official name of the road.

Commissioner Mann says and Barrow, which is the crossroad.

Chairman Drake says living in Newsoms, being a resident, that resident has typically been referred to as Millpond Road

Commissioner Mann says yes, I can verify that.

Chairman Drake says we have four suggestions for the Board of Supervisors, is there any more from this Board.

Commissioner Mann says actually have five, the one mentioned about Barrow Road extending across.

Mrs. Lewis says so what are the suggestions, Alfred Road, Millpond Road, Barrow Road and the road number 658.

Chairman Drake says can you do that, he says the road names were before the 9-1-1, that was the reason the roads were named, because of the 9-1-1 emergency system back in 1987. He says, I think that's why we are trying to do away with the road numbers and come up with a name.

Commissioner Mann says I'm just saying somebody mentioned it, do the number and write it out, six hundred and fifty-eight to keep it generic, the point was that if we get in to setting a precedence, we get into changing road names in the future, you can just write out the road number and move on, every time. He says, that was there suggestion, just use the road number and write it out.

Mrs. Lewis says, so that's four.

Chairman Drake says do we need to vote on that.

Commissioner Randall says I make the motion to recommend the names of Alfred Road, Millpond Road, says he doesn't see any reason to consider Barrow Road since it is confusing and will confuse our EMS, and quite frankly, I don't have a very good third name so I'll just go with Big Pumpkin Road because that was recommended by someone who lives on the road.

He says, so I've already expressed how I think you should have it but I'm not going to make that part of my motion.

Chairman Drake says we have a motion on the floor for Alfred Road, Big Pumpkin Road, and Millpond Road, that's the motion. He says, do I hear a second.

Commissioner Edwards says second.

Chairman Drake says, I have a second to the motion. He says is there any other discussion or comments, if not, I'm going to ask for the vote.

He says, all those in favor of this recommendation, say aye

Michael Drake	AYE
Dr. Alan Edwards	AYE
John (Jack) Randall	AYE
Michael Mann	AYE
Brad Turner	AYE

Chairman Drake says any opposed.

Commissioner Chesson says Aye.

Chairman Drake says we have one opposed, so it carries as a recommendation to the Board at the January meeting.

Commissioner Chesson says Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Drake recognizes Mr. Chesson.

Commissioner Chesson says please let it be noted that I didn't vote for the change of the road name.

Chairman Drake says certainly and I understand exactly where your mindset is.

Chairman Drake says we will now go to Item 4, unfinished business, discussion of review of 2015 Comprehensive Plan per GS 15-2-2230. Discussion.

Chairman Drake says we will start with our Comprehensive Plan Update on the Agriculture chapter. He says you know we talked about this last month and we have to continue on with the update of the Comprehensive Plan and I know Mrs. Lewis and her comment in our package, there are several questions, I hope you have given some thought to those questions. He says I know it is a lot of blanks to fill in so is there any comments as we proceed with updating the agricultural chapter, anything need changing. He says there are a lot of reasons listed on the front page, is there anything in particular that stands out that we need to address or changing some statistical figures and re-issuing a new Comp Plan. He says is there any comments.

Chairman Drake says Commissioner Mann you may be able to allude to this, in some respects you might see the number of farms decrease, I know I would say that a lot of youth are coming back to the farm and that is very exciting for us old timers that family members and non-families of the children are coming back looking for a career in farming and agriculture. He says that is pretty exciting because I know it's been several cycles of times when agriculture didn't seem to be that exciting but I think with technological advances, the market growing especially the export market with the container and the ships coming, it's

**Southampton County Planning Commission Public Hearing - Thursday, December 10, 2020**

My name is Michelle Covington, and I am a member of Citizens for Change and a resident of Boykins, Va.

First, I would like to commend you, the Planning Commission, as well as the Board of Supervisors on taking the bold first step in amending the original ordinance for renaming streets in Southampton County to include the option that would allow the Board of Supervisors to initiate the process. Because of that decision, we as a county are on our way to correcting a wrong that has stood as acceptable for far too long.

I, along with the other members of Citizens for Change, want to make it clear that while we are in favor of changing the name to something more appropriate, we are strongly against renaming it anything that ignores the reality of what occurred there. The tragic truth behind Blackhead Signpost Road is what it is. As a community, our task now is to find a balance between maintaining the history and addressing the blatant insensitivity that the current name displays.

Therefore, it is my recommendation that we rename Blackhead Signpost Road Alfred Road.

We have conducted extensive research on the events that led to Blackhead Signpost Road, and we can provide a list of the resources we consulted during our research process, if needed. The culmination of our research tells the story of an unfortunate enslaved man named Alfred, who was owned by Levi Waller at the time of Nat Turner's insurrection. Alfred was not an original member of Nat Turner's group. In fact, when Turner attacked the Waller School, located on current-day Barrow Road, Alfred tried to escape the mayhem. Levi Waller watched in fear from his hiding place in his garden as his wife, children, and several other school children were killed. The freedom fighters saw Alfred running away and ran after him, thinking that he was Levi Waller. This instance of mistaken identity saved Waller's life, giving him the opportunity to escape. When the fighters returned to take what they needed from the Waller School, Alfred came back with them, perhaps by force because Alfred soon deserted the freedom fighters when the opportunity presented itself. There is no research that implicates Alfred in any of the rebellion killings. According to "Nat Turner's Revolt: Rebellion & Response in Southampton County, Va" by Dr. Patrick Breen, Alfred did not remain with Nat Turner and his followers very long. He attempted to return home; however, he was caught by Alexander Peete and the Southampton militia. Unable to carry Alfred along in their pursuit of Nat Turner and his followers and understanding the value of slaves who could potentially survive trial, Peete decided to maim Alfred by cutting his Achilles tendons so that his fate could later be determined and so that he would be unable to reconvene with Turner. Levi Waller happened upon Alfred and attempted to bandage his legs--an action that further indicates Alfred's innocence--when the Greenville cavalry arrived. According to Levi Waller's petition for compensation for the property loss of Alfred, the Greenville cavalry leader, Dr. Scott, determined that the Southampton troops' actions were misguided and "deemed that [Alfred's] immediate execution would operate as a beneficial example to the other insurgents," so "after a severe reprimand to Waller, [Scott]

ordered that Alfred be tied to a tree and shot.” Several secondary sources surmise that it was Alfred who was then decapitated and whose head was placed on display at the intersection of Blackhead Signpost Road and the New Jerusalem Road (now Meherrin Road). While there is no research from any primary source that definitively records Alfred or any other name of the person displayed on Blackhead Signpost Road, there is no question that at least one Black person was killed and his remains were placed on display as a horrific intimidation tactic at this intersection. We can reasonably conclude that Alfred was the *likely* victim because the path he would take to return to the Waller School fits the vicinity of Blackhead Signpost Road, because Dr. Scott of the Greensville cavalry insisted that he be made to serve as an example to other insurgents, and because in William Drewry’s book, *The Southampton Insurrection*, there is a footnote which indicates that the person displayed at Blackhead Signpost Road was shot, rather than some other method of killing.

Through the connections of Mr. Rick Francis, we were able to receive the opinions of some of the historians whose research we have cited. In particular Dr. Patrick Breen, the author of the dissertation entitled “Nat Turner’s Revolt: Rebellion & Response in Southampton County, Va.,” admitted that while there is no recorded proof of what happened to Alfred’s body after he was shot, Alfred certainly was one of the people who was summarily executed and could have been there. To quote Dr. Breen directly, he said “I would think that Alfred would be a fitting person to name the street after.”

After Turner’s insurrection, over 200 Blacks were murdered, some were guilty but most were innocent. While the insurrection and its victims are thoroughly documented, the subsequent victims of the backlash are not. This one-sided history has plagued our community long enough; it is time that we begin to bridge the gap between what one side was comfortable with recording and the whole truth. There is nowhere in the county where the lives of those innocent Blacks who were killed are recognized. The Blackhead Signpost Road sign is the only surviving evidence of the retribution, and it has been our goal since the beginning of this process to transform the lonely road sign from an offensive reminder to the appropriate memorial that it should be. To that end, we have raised the funds to also add a historical marker to properly annotate the history. The proposed text for the historical marker reads as follows:

*In the days following Nat Turner’s Insurrection of 1831, hundreds of enslaved, free, guilty, and innocent Blacks were killed in retaliation in Southampton and surrounding counties. At this intersection, a severed head was displayed and left to decay to intimidate and deter others from rising against slavery. It is likely that the beheaded man was Alfred, the slave of Levi Waller. Alfred was not implicated in Turner’s Insurrection. This road became infamously known as Blackhead Signpost Road and is the only relic of the barbaric backlash that followed the insurrection. The road name was changed to Alfred Road in 2020.*

This draft for the marker text was submitted along with the VA historical marker application last month and includes a notation explaining that the renaming process is not yet complete. Our application is scheduled for review at their June 2021 meeting. The name Alfred Road would

not only complement but also add to the significance of this historical marker, and just as visitors travel to view the Nat Turner historical marker near Cross Keys Road, which I hope to see replaced soon, this new road name and marker would also draw traffic to the area and would make a meaningful stop on the Nat Turner tours that people travel miles and pay to experience.

Right across the street is Barrow Road, named for Captain John Barrow who notably fought Turner and his followers valiantly in defense of his family. To name the adjacent street after Alfred would create an overdue juxtaposition that would help to add context that supports a more complete recount of Turner's Insurrection and the events that followed. History is complex and uncomfortable, but the more we work to reveal the whole truth and to appropriately represent history, especially the parts that are difficult, the better prepared our future generations will be to recognize and call out when society begins to head down a familiar wrong path. Unfortunately, most of the stories of the hundreds of murdered innocent Blacks who died in the backlash of the Insurrection are lost, but Alfred, we are sure, is strong enough to stand for them all.

Based on the research provided and the need to select a name that eliminates the insensitivity of the current name but not the history it represents, please consider recommending Alfred Road as the new name for Blackhead Signpost Road.

Before I take my seat, I'd like to submit a copy of my comments to be included in the documentation for this meeting as it will provide context for the many emailed requests for Alfred Road.

Thank you.



## References

- Breen, Patrick. "Nat Turner's Revolt: Rebellion & Response in Southampton County, Va." Dissertation submitted to the University of Georgia. Athens: UGA, 2005.  
[https://getd.libs.uga.edu/pdfs/breen\\_patrick\\_h\\_200505\\_phd.pdf](https://getd.libs.uga.edu/pdfs/breen_patrick_h_200505_phd.pdf)
- Brophy, Alfred. "Blackhead Signpost Road needs another sign." *The Tidewater News*. The Tidewater News, 2015.  
<https://www.thetidewaternews.com/2015/08/15/blackhead-signpost-road-needs-another-sign/>
- Brophy, Alfred L. "The Nat Turner Trials." *North Carolina Law Review*. UNC School of Law. Vol 91, 5 *Race Trials*: Article 10, 2013.  
<https://scholarship.law.unc.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://www.google.com/&httpsredir=1&article=4628&context=nclr>
- Drewry, William S. *The Southampton Insurrection*. Washington: The Neal Company, 1900.
- Formal, Justin. "Nat Turner's Slave Uprising Left Complex Legacy." *National Geographic*. National Geographic Partners, LLC, 2016.  
[nationalgeographic.com/news/2016/10/nat-turner-slave-rebellion-legacy](http://nationalgeographic.com/news/2016/10/nat-turner-slave-rebellion-legacy)
- Harding, Vincent. "Symptoms of Liberty & Blackhead Signposts: David Walker & Nat Turner" in *Nat Turner: A Slave Rebellion in History & Memory*. Ed. Kenneth S. Greenberg. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003.
- History.com Editors. "Slave Rebellions." A&E Television Networks, 2009.  
[history.com/topics/black-history/nat-turner](http://history.com/topics/black-history/nat-turner)
- Petersburg Intelligencer*, 26 August 1831 in Tragle, 40.  
<https://www.natturnerproject.org/blank-c1vuz>
- Roth, Sarah N. *The Nat Turner Project*. Meredith College, 2019.  
<https://www.natturnerproject.org/>
- The Southampton Slave Revolt of 1831: A Compilation of Source Materials*. Ed. Henry Irving Tragle. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1971.
- Webb, Frances Lawrence. *Recollections of Franklin & Historical Sketches of Southampton*. (1963) in Tragle, 397. <https://www.natturnerproject.org/blank-c20mi>

## Beth Lewis

---

**To:** anne@raileyandrailey.com; Lynette Allston (allstonfam@aol.com); Nora Atkins; Jack Randall (jackrandall@randallpagelaw.com); Michael Drake (ducks@beldar.com); Michael Mann (thepeanutmann@yahoo.com); Doug Chesson (dougchesson@aol.com); Keith Tennessee (kltenn1977@gmail.com); Bill Day (pineviewforestry@aol.com); Brad Turner (Bturner749@gmail.com); Alan Edwards (aedwards@southamptoncounty.org)

**Subject:** FW: Name Change for Blackhead Signpost Road

**From:** Brenda Atkins [mailto:blou71@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 10, 2020 8:01 PM  
**To:** Beth Lewis <blewis@southamptoncounty.org>  
**Subject:** Name Change for Blackhead Signpost Road

To Whom It May Concern,

Let's start some new history on this road that is positive and fun!

We are suggesting to name the road BIG PUMPKIN ROAD and here is why...

My name is Brenda Atkins and my husband; Ricky Atkins; and I live on Blackhead Signpost Road. We have given a lot of thought about the name change of our road. I've lived here for 12 years and where I live used to be farmland at one time where they grew watermelons, pumpkins and other things. My husband moved in here 8 years ago in 2012. After 2 years of living here he decided to start growing Atlantic Giant Pumpkins that he had tried growing in other areas with not much success. We got some of the seeds and started the plants inside the house and transplanted them outside when it was time and it all began. He was told he would never be able to grow a pumpkin in this area over a 1000 pounds due to our weather climate on the east coast of Virginia. But he was bound and determined to prove that wrong and we did!

Him and I have taken these Atlantic Giant Pumpkins to the Virginia State Fair every year since we started and here are the standings with Ricky winning the Virginia State Fair 3 years in a row.

2014 5th place weighing 627.1 pounds - Ricky

2015 3rd place weighing 644.8 pounds - Ricky

2015 8th place weighing 294.3 pounds - Brenda

Also grew a Virginia State Record Cantaloupe weighing 42.15 pounds - Ricky

2016 1st place weighing 879.5 pounds - Ricky

2016 2nd place weighing 702.2 pounds - Brenda

2017 1st place weighing 972.6 pounds - Ricky

2017 3rd place weighing 670.3 pounds - Brenda

2018 1st place weighing 1217 pounds - Ricky

2018 2nd place weighing 1069 pounds - Brenda

2018 3rd place weighing 912 pounds ( grown by my daughter Brittany)

2019 Lost our big pumpkin but still took one weighing 244.5 pounds

2020 there was no Virginia State Fair weigh off but we grew some anyway with the biggest weighing 587.5 pounds being the 4th largest grown in Virginia this year. Which is sitting in our front yard at this time to be viewed. We also just let them grow this year more than normal and people in the area got them to display in their yards.

With all this being said he has been featured in several newspapers, news stations, magazines and a TV Show upon which he has been interviewed for the success of growing the Giant Atlantic Pumpkins in Southampton County. You can google Ricky Atkins Giant Pumpkins and you will see all the articles in the Tidewater News, Virginia Pilot, Richmond Magazine and so on along with pictures of these giants.

## Beth Lewis

---

**From:** Brandy Barnes <barnes72906@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 10, 2020 11:26 AM  
**To:** Beth Lewis  
**Subject:** Blackhead signpost rd

I have lived on this road for many years and grew up driving this road my entire life. I personally know the reactions of this road sign. Imagine talking to a person of color and they ask your address over the phone and you respond with your address only to be greeted by silence. My reply is always I'm not kidding, yes that's the name. It's offensive to hear as well as read. Folks that are not native to Southampton county and surrounding areas don't believe it's real. It's not a joke it was put here to remind people of a horrible time. Yes this is history unfortunate history but to have a constant reminder as a road sign is just not ok. Imagine if the shoe was on the other foot. It's time for a change!

## Beth Lewis

---

**From:** LM Garraway <lmgarrawa@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 12, 2020 12:03 AM  
**To:** Beth Lewis  
**Subject:** Fwd: Street Name Change

The automatic reply to send to this new email address went into my spam folder and I just discovered it. I trust my statements are included for tomorrow's meeting.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** LM Garraway <lmgarrawa@gmail.com>  
**Date:** November 10, 2020 at 12:31:04 PM CST  
**To:** blewis@franklinva.com  
**Subject:** Street Name Change

I am so proud to be from Southampton County. The work done over the past few months to course correct ordinances and now, rename street signs is exciting. Southampton County, it's citizens, and leadership is a shining example of the democratic process working.

With this, I come to you again in hopes that we can continue to move the county forward. The road named Blackhead Signpost invokes pain and fear for many citizens. The origin of this name is disgraceful and shameful and has no place in our beloved county. I propose that Blackhead Signpost Road is renamed to Alfred Road, named after the man who's head was likely placed on the stake here based on historical records of his murder after the Nat Turner Rebellion.

With kind regards,

Toya Bynum

Sent from my iPhone

## Beth Lewis

---

**From:** ANNA CARTER <anna142@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 5, 2020 1:58 PM  
**To:** Beth Lewis  
**Subject:** Blackhead Signpost

To the Planning Commission:

My name is Anna Carter. I grew up in Newsoms and still maintain a home there. I am writing to you on the matter of renaming the road Blackhead Signpost, and agree that calling it Alfred Road would be a very positive change for the future of SoCo and it's citizens. The horrendous event in our history that gave us this name needs to be put into a more fitting and proper context. Blackhead Signpost is immediately head spinningly offensive. It reeks of an unjust past. Removing all words that leave a reminder of the brutal punishment and horror endured by a subjugated and innocent population to me is absolutely the right thing to do.

Nat Turner and his followers and many innocent people were punished fully and horribly almost two hundred years ago. To maintain any semblance of the name of this road that came from their punishment is cruel and wrong, serving no good purpose. It furthers the racial divide and leaves a one sided memory of the awful world from which it comes. Alfred Road will tell the story, but will be representative and inclusive of another side of this sad story and time in Southampton County.

To me it is only right that the renaming of Blackhead Signpost Rd be given to those who have suffered the most in our county because of a particularly unjust past. Alfred Road is a strong step towards giving a greater respect to, a fuller understanding and inclusion of all Southampton County's citizens.

Alfred Road is a great name. I strongly support it's use in this process.

Thank you for your time and service in considering this matter.

Sincerely,  
Anna Carter

Sent from Xfinity Connect App

**From:** William Cole [<mailto:yorkriverinnbandb@verizon.net>]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 14, 2020 2:45 PM  
**To:** Mike Johnson <[mjohnson@southamptoncounty.org](mailto:mjohnson@southamptoncounty.org)>  
**Subject:** Blackhead Signpost Road

23235 Southampton Parkway  
Courtland, VA 23837  
September 14, 2020

Hello Mike--

I am giving you this comment regarding the changing of the name of Blackhead Signpost Road as a Southampton County native and not as the man who headed the road-naming committee. I have thoughts about that as well as my connections to the community of Blackhead, but I will save them for another time.

Rather than erase the memory of the enslaved man whose life and death are commemorated by the name of this road and this incident by changing the historic name of the road, I think the county should in fact highlight the importance of this event considerably.

The black man, an enslaved man, while participating in what turned out to be a fruitless effort to achieve his freedom as well as the freedom of the other "insurgents" and the whole enslaved population of his neighborhood, Southampton County, Virginia, the South, and the nation lost his life in that bold effort.

This man was a martyr to the cause of freedom of slaves everywhere. He was not just a martyr who lost his life—he was a martyr who lost his life and his physical integrity and had his body disfigured in the most horrific way.

This man, whose name we perhaps know, joins the ranks of other martyrs, the most noted of whom are Joan of Arc, Nathan Hale, and John Brown, who were ordinary people and who sacrificed their lives, willingly or unwillingly, for what they thought was a greater good than themselves. And in those notable cases, as well as the case at Blackhead, history has proven them right.

We do not need to know his name for sure—he, likely Alfred, stands for all men and women who have given their lives in the fight for freedom, and our "Alfred" lost his life in the same way as hundreds of others before and after him.

His murderer and tormentors intended their actions to be a physical and very public humiliation to quell the rebellion, when, in fact, over time, their acts provided incentive and promotion of the exact opposite of their intent. Instead they actions became a piston in the unstoppable engine that ultimately freed all the slaves.

Why are we not honoring him and his ilk instead of wiping this incident from the map? Why are we not only retaining the historic name of the road but erecting a marker for generations to come to honor that man, to tell what happened here, and to inform the public how history was affected by this event?

I see the road's name as a metaphor for the fight for freedom and a monument to the struggle of named and unnamed enslaved and martyred men and women to be visited to learn that story.

These are my thoughts, for what they're worth!

Thanks for all you do!

Billy Cole

York River Inn Bed and Breakfast  
209 Ambler Street  
Yorktown, VA 23690-3702  
William W. Cole, Innkeeper

800.884.7003 Reservations  
757.887.8800 Business

11/10/20

To: Southampton County Planning Commission / Board of Supervisors

From: Joseph S. Drake

Re: Blackhead Signpost Rd. name change

I'm a lifelong resident of Southampton County who grew up in Newsoms. I now live on Blackhead Signpost Rd. I can remember when I was in school traveling the road daily when there was only a road number. Some of the older people I know that grew up in the area remember it when it was a dirt road and called it the Millpond Rd. The road as long as I can remember has been called the Millpond Rd. When the 911 system came about and signs with road names were being put up I was surprised that it wasn't called the Millpond Rd. Everyone I know, Black and White, since then has still referred to it or called it the Millpond Rd. Whatever new name the road is given I think it's safe to say people in the local community will still call it or refer to it as the Millpond Rd. I recommend that the road name be changed to "Millpond Rd."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joe S. Drake", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joseph S. Drake

26470 Blackhead Signpost Rd

Courtland, VA 23837



**Beth Lewis**

---

**From:** Lass, Kaylee <lasskr@cofc.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 10, 2020 11:44 AM  
**To:** Beth Lewis  
**Subject:** Alfred Road

Good morning,

I am writing in support of the suggestion to rename Blackhead Signpost Road as Alfred Road. Though I am no longer a resident of Southampton County, I and my ancestors before me were raised there. I admire the research and efforts led by Citizens for Change and believe it has the power to facilitate community healing. This name change is a step in the right direction of honoring a clearer picture of our complicated past.

Best,

Kaylee

--  
KAYLEE LASS  
*Curatorial Associate and Operations Manager*  
Pronouns: she, her, hers

**Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art**  
College of Charleston  
161 Calhoun St., Charleston, SC 29424  
843.953.4422 | [halsey.cofc.edu](http://halsey.cofc.edu)

DIS/PLACEMENTS  
REVISITATIONS OF HOME

A virtual exhibition

Visit at [displacements.org](http://displacements.org)

August 28 - December 12, 2020



**Beth Lewis**

---

**From:** Sarah Poole <sarah.h.poole@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 10, 2020 9:40 AM  
**To:** Beth Lewis  
**Subject:** Public comment Blackhead Signpost Rd

To the Southampton County Planning Commission:

I'm writing in support of the Citizens for Change movement to change the name of Blackhead Signpost Road to Alfred Road.

I've followed with interest this change movement since June. It has warmed my heart to see the progress that has been made to remedy this issue.

Thank you for considering this change. As a native of the area with many family and friends living there, it will make me proud if the community can come to an orderly solution to this deeply offensive road name.

Sincerely,

Sarah Hancock Poole  
200 East King St.  
Gordonsville, VA 22942  
540-718-7515

Sent from my iPhone

## Beth Lewis

---

**From:** James H. Sunday <james.sunday@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 10, 2020 11:45 AM  
**To:** Beth Lewis  
**Subject:** Renaming Suggestion - "Alfred Road"

Dear Beth Lewis,

I hope this finds you well.

I just wanted to voice my thoughts for the upcoming Planning Commission meeting. In particular, I am in support of the recommendation to rename Blackhead Signpost Road as "Alfred Road" as suggested by Citizens for Change.

The amount of research going into such a name change is commendable, and I appreciate the historic significance of the replacement name.

Should this recommendation not come to fruition, I am in support of any number of name changes that recognise the historic significance of the site, while also— most importantly— recognising the substantive contribution of Black lives for our County.

All best wishes,  
James

---

James H. Sunday, Ph.D.  
Johns Hopkins University | [jhsunday@jhu.edu](mailto:jhsunday@jhu.edu)

**Beth Lewis**

---

**From:** Duck-triplett, Candace <candace.duck-triplett@vdh.virginia.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 9, 2020 11:30 AM  
**To:** Beth Lewis  
**Subject:** Letter of support for Blackhead sign post to change to Alfred Road.

Good morning,

I am writing in support of the Citizens for Change movement to change the name of Blackhead Signpost Road to Alfred Road.

I have been at most of the meetings since June 2020. Although I cannot attend the meeting scheduled for 12/10/2020, I wanted to make sure my voice was heard in support of the road sign change. I was born and raised and now own my home here in Southampton County. It brings so much joy to know that we ( the entire county) can show support and be a step in the right direction for change.

Inconvenience will never outweigh injustice.

Thank you for considering this change. As a native and current resident of this county, it brings such pride to know our community can come together in support of such a valuable and much needed change of a deeply offensive road name.

Sincerely,

*Candace R Triplett*

*Candace Triplett, RN*

*26483 East Nottoway Drive*

*Courtland Va 23837*

Franklin Health Department

## Beth Lewis

---

**From:** Jessica Xinos <jessicalxinos@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 10, 2020 8:32 AM  
**To:** Beth Lewis  
**Subject:** Re: Blackhead Signpost Road

Thank you for taking the time to place this issue on your agenda and remain open to public comment.

Please, change the name!

It's history is steeped in blood and racism. I have two friends that are residents of Blackhead Signpost Road - imagine calling a bank or of delivery service and having to utter this address and deal with the silence as the person on the other line processes what has just been given. Imagine being a black resident living on this road - the name a constant reminder of oppression and violence.

The change will make a difference in the quality of life for all residents living on the road. History should be preserved - but not in this fashion. I hope and trust that the board will do the empathetic and just thing and change this name!

Thank you for your time,

Jessica Xinos  
22174 Main Street  
Courtland, VA 23837  
757-653-1053

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

## Mike Johnson

---

**From:** Beth Lewis  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:07 PM  
**To:** Mike Johnson  
**Subject:** FW: Name change

[Another one](#)

---

**From:** judith fuller [mailto:judithfuller@outlook.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:07 PM  
**To:** Beth Lewis <blewis@southamptoncounty.org>  
**Subject:** Name change

Dear Sir

I would like to see the name of our road change to Millpond Rd.

I have receive word that a person wants to name the road after a slave.

If we do that it might as well stay like it is now.

Millpond is neither black or white and this will keep us from going thru this again.

Thank you for letting us have a say in naming our road,

Charles F Fuller  
Judith F. Fuller  
26124 Blackhead Signpost Rd.  
Courtland Virginia  
23837

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

## Mike Johnson

---

**From:** Beth Lewis  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:28 PM  
**To:** Mike Johnson  
**Subject:** FW: Millpond Rd

**From:** Chelsea Jefferson [mailto:cepanissidi@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 1:28 PM  
**To:** Beth Lewis <blewis@southamptoncounty.org>  
**Subject:** Millpond Rd

To whom it may concern:

Good afternoon,

I am writing in response to the currently name road in Southampton County, called Blackhead Signpost Rd.

I understand the historical connection this name has, as I have a BA in History and wrote my senior thesis on this area (Franklin/Southampton County) during the Civil War, which cannot be fully explored without first understanding Nat Turner's Rebellion; however, as the event occurred well over 150 years ago, and times change, I believe it is also time the name of the road adjusts too. I am in agreement that the name should change from its current title to Millpond Rd, which I feel is better suited for today. The purpose of the present name is no longer valid in today's society, and if anything, it is blight on our community as it symbolizes a system that is no longer in existence. Keeping it as such only adds to the racial inequalities that still exist.

As I grew up in this area and decided to return following school, I always felt a strong love and connection to Franklin and Southampton County. So you can begin to see how I was in complete shock when I learned this street name exists. As a human being, I feel ashamed that we haven't changed this yet.

I hope you take my plea into consideration and actually change the name of the road. Not for any one group of people, but for Southampton County and the surrounding area, to show the willingness to change and that what is right is more important than the historical importance of a road name, stemming from a time when racism and slavery were normal.

Sincerely,  
Chelsea Jefferson

## Mike Johnson

---

**From:** Beth Lewis  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:54 PM  
**To:** Mike Johnson  
**Subject:** FW: Name change of Blackhead Signpost

For the BOS public hearing.  
Thanks,  
Beth

**From:** Sylvanna B [mailto:bocooksf@mymail.vcu.edu]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 15, 2020 12:18 PM  
**To:** Beth Lewis <blewis@southamptoncounty.org>  
**Subject:** Name change of Blackhead Signpost

Good afternoon,

I am in favor of changing the name to Millpond Rd. The current name is in horrid taste and I would love to see it removed.

Sylvanna Bocook



## Mike Johnson

---

**From:** Dawn Wise <dcwise8@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 7, 2021 3:24 PM  
**To:** Mike Johnson  
**Subject:** Road Name considerations

Greetings,

My name is Dawn Wise. I have been a lifelong resident of Newsoms and a resident of Blackhead Signpost Road for the past 11 years. I would like for you to take in consideration appropriate road name changes for Blackhead Signpost Road. My entire life, I have always known "Blackhead Signpost" road as the "Millpond Road". It wasn't until the 911 addresses were put into effect, about 25 years ago, that I knew it as what it is called today. I am hoping that you carefully take in consideration of renaming the road. As I stated earlier, I highly recommend changing the name to it's original name " Millpond Road".

Thank you,  
Dawn C. Wise

## Mike Johnson

---

**From:** Brandy Barnes <barnes72906@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 7, 2021 11:36 AM  
**To:** Mike Johnson  
**Subject:** Blackhead Signpost rd

My husband and myself John R Barnes are suggesting Millpond road . We feel that another road name with historical ties is just not something we should have to deal with. As a citizen of this road I do not support citizen for a change . The response I got once I did not join there change was to instantly block me from the group. That gesture was the nail in the coffin for me when it comes to a name with historical reference. Just shows how a name can further divid this county. A road is that just a road. After the decision is made no one other than the residents of Blackhead sign post rd will have to deal with the name change it will be out of sight out of mind for those people. My husband and I trust that the decision will be made for the best interest of the citizens on the road .

Sent from my iPhone I have lived on this road for many years and grew up driving this road my entire life. I personally know the reactions of this road sign. Imagine talking to a person of color and they ask your address over the phone and you respond with your address only to be greeted by silence. My reply is always I'm not kidding,yes that's the name. It's offensive to hear as well as read. Folks that are not native to Southampton county and surrounding areas don't believe it's real. It's not a joke it was put here to remind people of a horrible time. Yes this is history unfortunate history but to have a constant reminder as a road sign is just not ok. Imagine if the shoe was on the other foot. It's time for a change!(precious email)

# Proof

Client	SOUTHAMPTON CO BOARD SU- PERVISOR	Phone	(757) 653-3015
Address	MIKE JOHNSON PO BOX 400	EMail	
		Fax	
AD #	1168848	Requested By	SOUTHAMPTON CO
Class	2610		BOARD SUPERVISOR
Start Date	01/06/21	PO #	MIKE JOHNSON
End Date	01/13/21	Created By	
Run Dates	10	Creation Date	PARKER.BRYAN
Pubs	The Tidewater News, Tidewater-	Dimensions	12/31/2020
Order #	News.com	Price	1 X 17.083
	0		<b>\$1,210.48</b>
Sales Rep	Kristy Brown	Phone	
		EMail	parker.bryan@shelbycountyre-
		Fax	porter.com

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY**  
**Board**  
**of Supervisors**  
**Notice**  
**of Public Hearing**

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 15.2-1427 and Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended that the Southampton County Board of Supervisors will conduct public hearings at their next regular meeting on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. to consider the following matters:

1.A request initiated by the Board of Supervisors of Southampton County pursuant to Section 14-25 of the Southampton County Code to change the name of Blackhead Signpost Road. The aforementioned roadway is situated between Virginia Primary Route 35 (Meherrin Road) and Virginia Secondary Route 673 (Grays Shop Road) and located in the Boykins-Branchville Election District. Recommendations for a new road name will be received and considered at this hearing.

2.An application by Denise Wlodzka, owner, for a zoning map amendment from A-1, Agriculture, to CRR, Conditional Rural Residential. The application includes approximately 1.033 acres to create one (1) residential lot out of a parcel that totals 83.050 acres, a portion of Tax Parcel 33-32 & 33. The property is located on the north side of Unity Road (SR 603) approximately 3,515 feet east of its intersection with Ivor Road (SR 616). The property is in the Capron Voting District and the Berlin-Ivor Magisterial District.

3.An application by Charles and Debi Darden, applicants, on behalf of Charles, Debi, and Michael Darden, etals, owners, for a Conditional Use Permit to operate an event venue, per Sec. 18-37 (40) of the Southampton County Code. The property is known as a five (5) acre portion of Tax Parcel 106-190, which totals 27.53 acres. The property is located on the east side of Smiths Ferry Road (US 258) approximately 2,300' south of its intersection with Schoolhouse Road (SR 689). The property is in the Newsoms Voting District and the Franklin Magisterial District.

4.An application by Adam Tuck, owner, for a zoning map amendment from A-1, Agricultural District, to CRR, Conditional Rural Residential District. The application includes approximately 4.0 acres to create one (1) residential lot out of a parcel that totals 65.83 acres, a portion of Tax Parcel 48-24C. The property is located on the north side of Vicksville Road (SR 645) approximately 1,700 feet east of its intersection with Mission Church Road (SR 631). The property is in the Berlin Ivor Voting District and the Jerusalem Magisterial District.

Because the infectious nature of COVID-19 makes it unsafe to assemble the Board and members of the public in a single location, the Southampton County Board of Supervisors will conduct this hearing electronically. Interested parties may join this meeting from their computer, tablet or smartphone at the following link:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/564215949>

Or by telephone at +1 (872) 240-3412 and, at the prompt, entering the following access code: 564-215-949. When prompted for an audio PIN, just press #.

Interested parties are also invited to submit advance written comments by email to [mjohnson@southamptoncounty.org](mailto:mjohnson@southamptoncounty.org) or by regular mail to the attention of the County Administrator at Post Office Box 400, Courtland, Virginia 23837. All written comments received prior to noon on the day of the hearing will be shared with the governing body and become part of the official hearing record. Parties who intend to participate in this hearing electronically are encouraged, but not required, to preregister prior to 4:00 p.m. on the day of the hearing by calling 757-653-3015 and providing your name to the County Administrator. Those who preregister in advance will be given the opportunity to speak in the order in which their preregistrations are received. Those who do not preregister will have an opportunity to offer comments following the remarks of the last preregistered speaker.

Copies of materials associated with this matter are on file and available for public inspection upon request by contacting the County Administrator's office at 757-653-3015 or by email to [mjohnson@southamptoncounty.org](mailto:mjohnson@southamptoncounty.org) between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Southampton County Board of Supervisors  
Michael W. Johnson, Clerk

The Tidewater News; Jan. 6 and 13, 2021  
**HEARING/ SOUTHAMPTON**

## AFFIDAVIT

I, Nora Atkins, hereby certify that I have sent by first class mail one copy each of the attached notices of public hearings to all adjacent property owners listed hereinbelow pursuant to Section 15.2-2204, Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended.

**STATE OF VIRGINIA**

**COUNTY OF SOUTHAMPTON, to-wit:**

This day, Nora Atkins appeared before me, Amanda Nicole Smith, a Notary Public for the County of Southampton and being duly sworn, deposed and said that the above certification is true and correct.

Taken, subscribed and sworn to me this 14<sup>th</sup> day of January 20 21.

My Commission Expires: August 31, 20 22.  
Amanda Nicole Smith  
Notary Public

**Tax Map/Parcel #**

**Name/Address of Adjacent Property Owner**

Blackhead  
Signpost Road

See Attached

33-32 and 33 See Attached

106-19 D

See Attached

48-24C

See Attached



Clyde and Gayle Artis  
26376 Blackhead Signpost Road  
Courtland, VA 23837

Joseph and Stacey Drake  
PO Box 188  
Newsoms, VA 23874

Christopher and Emily Hill  
25269 Blackhead Signpost Road  
Courtland, VA 23837

John and Brandy Barnes  
26074 Blackhead Signpost Road  
Courtland, VA 23837

Floyd Everett etals  
216 Hogart Street  
Franklin, VA 23851

Sean Hudson  
25482 Blackhead Signpost Road  
Courtland, VA 23837

Juanita Boykins  
25355 Blackhead Signpost Road  
Courtland, VA 23837

Robert Ferguson  
25475 Blackhead Signpost Road  
Courtland, VA 23837

Britton and Gloria Joyner TR  
264 Terwillinger Road  
Chesapeake, VA 23323

Betsy Brantley  
412 Meadow Lane  
Franklin, VA 23851

Charles Fuller  
26124 Blackhead Signpost Road  
Courtland, VA 23851

Glenn Kandare  
910 Deer Spring Lane  
Wilmington, NC 28409

Peggy and F Wayne Brett  
9264 Highway #301  
Halifax, NC 27839

Fuller Farms of VA Inc  
PO Box 129  
Newsoms, VA 23874

Arthur Kelly etals  
1426 Jefferson Street  
Hollywood, FL 33020

Abbingtion and Joann Bynum  
25183 Blackhead Signpost Road  
Courtland, VA 23837

Beulah Gholston Life estate  
25366 Blackhead Signpost Road  
Courtland, VA 23837

William and Cynthia Kennedy  
1213 Lakeford Place  
Chesapeake, VA 23322

Charles and Juanita Bynum  
334 Rippling Stream Road  
Durham, NC 27704

Barbara Gibson etals c/o M Sykes  
2725 Knowllwood Way  
Easton, PA 18040

William Kitchen III Life estate  
PO Box 639  
Courtland, VA 23837

Angela Celestin  
10704 Quarterstaff Road  
Columbia, MD 21044

Nathaniel and Carolyn Goodwyn  
25333 Blackhead Signpost Road  
Courtland, VA 23837

Keith and Kimberly Long  
13271 Smithwick Lane  
Jacksonville, FL 32226

William and James Council  
407 N Main Street  
Franklin, VA 23851

Lula and GS Grant c/o R Grant  
1605 Tucker Road  
Ft. Washington, MD 20744

Lee Ann and Wallace Long  
1223 Piney Grove Church Road  
Littleton, NC 27850

Harold and Carolyn Drake  
22161 Ball Park Road  
Newsoms, VA 23874

Greenhead Farms c/o J Williams  
23296 Greenhead Road  
Courtland, VA 23837

Charles and Beatrice Morgan  
217 Winter Lochen Drive  
Dunn, NC 28334

Albert Murphy  
24316 Ridley Road  
Courtland, VA 23837

Douglas Trump  
25166 Blackhead Signpost Road  
Courtland, VA 23837

Tracey Murphy  
25199 Blackhead Signpost Road  
Courtland, VA 23837

Michael and Alice Tyler  
PO Box 34-28343 Blackhead Signpost  
Newsoms, VA 23874

N&C Real Properties LLC  
129 Brides Rd W  
Chesapeake, VA 23322

Linda Vick etals  
PO Box 130  
Newsoms, VA 23874

Newsoms Mill Pond Inc.  
PO Box 282  
Neswsoms, VA 23874

Peter Vick  
23375 Greenhead Road  
Courtland, VA 23874

Brenda Reed and Ricky Atkins  
25259 Blackhead Signpost Road  
Courtland, VA 23837

Thomas and Helen Whitehead  
c/o Undray Whitehead  
4623 Marksman Court  
Hampstead, MD 21074

Earl and Dean Fuller  
PO Box 129  
Newsoms, VA 23874

Kenneth Williams  
24428 Greenhead Road  
Courtland, VA 23837

Roseburg Resources Co.  
3660 Gateway Street  
Springfield, OR 97477

Larry and Dawn Wise  
28239 Blackhead Signpost Road  
Newsoms, VA 23874

Brian Rountree and Laura Wright  
29140 Cypress Bridge Road  
Newsoms, VA 23874

John and Earl Worrell  
34040 Old Nottoway Road  
Franklin, VA 23851

Joe and Mary Stephens  
25204 Blackhead Signpost Road  
Courtland, VA 23837

Leland Sykes etals  
26204 Blackhead Signpost Road  
Courtland, VA 23837



**SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY**  
**Board of Supervisors**  
**Notice of Public Hearing**

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 15.2-1427 and Section 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended that the Southampton County Board of Supervisors will conduct public hearings at their next regular meeting on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. to consider the following matters:

1. A request initiated by the Board of Supervisors of Southampton County pursuant to Section 14-25 of the Southampton County Code to change the name of Blackhead Signpost Road. The aforementioned roadway is situated between Virginia Primary Route 35 (Meherrin Road) and Virginia Secondary Route 673 (Grays Shop Road) and located in the Boykins-Branchville Election District. Recommendations for a new road name will be received and considered at this hearing;
2. An application by Denise Wlodyka, owner, for a zoning map amendment from A-1, Agriculture, to CRR, Conditional Rural Residential. The application includes approximately 1.033 acres to create one (1) residential lot out of a parcel that totals 83.050 acres, a portion of Tax Parcel 33-32 & 33. The property is located on the north side of Unity Road (SR 603) approximately 3,515 feet east of its intersection with Ivor Road (SR 616). The property is in the Capron Voting District and the Berlin-Ivor Magisterial District;
3. An application by Charles and Debi Darden, applicants, on behalf of Charles, Debi, and Michael Darden, etals, owners, for a Conditional Use Permit to operate an event venue, per Sec. 18-37 (40) of the Southampton County Code. The property is known as a five (5) acre portion of Tax Parcel 106-19D, which totals 27.53 acres. The property is located on the east side of Smiths Ferry Road (US 258) approximately 2,300' south of its intersection with Schoolhouse Road (SR 689). The property is in the Newsoms Voting District and the Franklin Magisterial District;
4. An application by Adam Tuck, owner, for a zoning map amendment from A-1, Agricultural District, to CRR, Conditional Rural Residential District. The application includes approximately 4.0 acres to create one (1) residential lot out of a parcel that totals 65.83 acres, a portion of Tax Parcel 48-24C. The property is located on the north side of Vicksville Road (SR 645) approximately 1,700 feet east of its intersection with Mission Church Road (SR 631). The property is in the Berlin Ivor Voting District and the Jerusalem Magisterial District.

Because the infectious nature of COVID-19 makes it unsafe to assemble the Board and members of the public in a single location, the Southampton County Board of Supervisors will conduct this hearing electronically. Interested parties may join this meeting from their computer, tablet or smartphone at the following link:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/564215949>

Or by telephone at +1 (872) 240-3412 and, at the prompt, entering the following access code: 564-215-949. When prompted for an audio PIN, just press #.



Interested parties are also invited to submit advance written comments by email to [mjohnson@southamptoncounty.org](mailto:mjohnson@southamptoncounty.org) or by regular mail to the attention of the County Administrator at Post Office Box 400, Courtland, Virginia 23837. All written comments received prior to noon on the day of the hearing will be shared with the governing body and become part of the official hearing record. Parties who intend to participate in this hearing electronically are encouraged, but not required, to preregister prior to 4:00 p.m. on the day of the hearing by calling 757-653-3015 and providing your name to the County Administrator. Those who preregister in advance will be given the opportunity to speak in the order in which their preregistrations are received. Those who do not preregister will have an opportunity to offer comments following the remarks of the last preregistered speaker.

Copies of materials associated with this matter are on file and available for public inspection upon request by contacting the County Administrator's office at 757-653-3015 or by email to [mjohnson@southamptoncounty.org](mailto:mjohnson@southamptoncounty.org) between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Southampton County Board of Supervisors  
Michael W. Johnson, Clerk