



Waterford FOUNDATION, INC.

Post Office Box 142 • Waterford, Virginia 20197 • 540-882-3018
www.waterfordfoundation.org • info@waterfordfoundation.org

June 22, 2022

Ernie Brown, Director LC DGS
Scott Fincham, DGS Water Program
Dennis Cumbie, DGS Manater
Andrew Beatty, Loudoun Water, PE

All,

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Waterford Foundation. We have reviewed the Historic Waterford Water Feasibility Study conducted by Dewberry and Loudoun Water. It is a very thorough investigation of the water issues that have plagued the village of Waterford for many years.

The Foundation Board has assessed the options presented as possible solutions. The Board is in support of option 3, a community water system owned and operated by Loudoun Water using new community wells. The Board would also like to ask that a solution for an accelerated timeline be sought in order for the Foundation and the community to have relief sooner.

The Waterford Foundation owns 13 properties, 10 buildings and three open spaces within the National Historic Landmark and, as such, represents the single largest property owner. Our properties are very much affected by water availability and quality. Six of our buildings have no water and few have any hope of having water without a community well system. Even our buildings that have water do not have requisite quantity or quality of water to allow them to be used continuously. Without a consistent, clean supply of water, there are few possible uses for these properties, making it impossible for the Foundation to generate an income from them via adaptive reuse that would allow for appropriate maintenance and upkeep of these historically important structures.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation writes that adaptive reuse of historic buildings is an important contributor to the economic and social well-being of a community. Without water, buildings such as our Chair Factory or the Red Barn (both in the report's designated Red Zones) cannot be used in any meaningful way to generate income and are threatened due to the Foundation's limited resources for repair and renovation.

While we own numerous contributing structures, the Waterford Foundation is dedicated to the protection and stewardship of the entire National Historic Landmark. The United States Department of Interior, National Park Service first designated Waterford and its surrounding viewshed as a National Historic Landmark in 1970. Waterford is the only inhabited village to receive such a designation which has been awarded to places such as the White House and the United States

The mission of the Waterford Foundation, Inc., is to preserve the historic buildings and the open spaces of the National Historic Landmark District of Waterford, Virginia; and through education, to increase the public's knowledge of life and work in an early American rural community.

Capital building. Our National Historic Landmark status recently underwent an assessment of worthiness to be updated.

While it has not been finalized, we believe the status will once again be awarded to Waterford. It is an open question, however, whether the village and viewshed will qualify for this status in the future if our historic structures continue to degrade due to lack of use and funds.

The Board recognizes this project is not without risks to the Foundation's interests. As part of our mission to preserve the Landmark and open spaces that make up the all-important viewshed, we must also consider the potential impact of the water system infrastructure on the integrity of the Landmark. The study identifies the Water Street Meadow as a potential site for community wells and the water treatment facility. The Board wants to actively work with both the designers and managers of the project to carefully monitor planning and to ensure that any plans that include Foundation property are sensitive to the historic district guidelines and existing preservation easements. The preservation of our open spaces is an important element of the mission of the Waterford Foundation and its designation as a National Historic Landmark.

In addition, there is concern among some in the village that community water could allow for additional development. After carefully reviewing both the proposed service area of the system and available building space in the historic district, the Board believes that the water system presents no new risks, as the open building lots are not in the water scarcity zone or are outside of the proposed service area. We will, however, also carefully monitor the service area lines to ensure that a risk does not emerge.

We believe Waterford is a jewel of Loudoun County as it affords area residents and visitors an opportunity to experience life in a rural village from the 18th and 19th Centuries. Waterford offers visitors a unique educational experience, but also allows people to experience beautiful open spaces that harken back to our agricultural roots. Community water will allow the Foundation to continue to dedicate its efforts to preservation and education and will allow for appropriate adaptive reuse of our properties in ways that will benefit the Foundation, the village, and our visitors.

Thank you for your diligent work on assessing the issues and finding meaningful solutions. The Waterford Foundation appreciates and supports your efforts.

Yours truly,



Susan Manch
President, Waterford Foundation Board of Directors