



Town of Franklin

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Proclamation Town of Franklin, North Carolina

WHEREAS, Appalachian Trail (A.T.) founder Benton MacKaye's vision of the A.T. included opportunities for recreation, recuperation, and *employment* through "...a series of recreational communities throughout the Appalachian chain... to be connected by a walking trail"; and

WHEREAS, communities along the Appalachian Trail are important partners for the sustainability of the Trail and its greenway for an estimated four million plus visitors to the Trail every year (with potential for many more); and

WHEREAS, Appalachian Trail Communities are characterized by an abundance of natural, historical and cultural features—many of which are protected and best viewed and appreciated via the Appalachian Trail; and

WHEREAS, Appalachian National Scenic Trail walking, adventures, overlooks, primitive areas and fun present opportunities to attract visitors to Appalachian Trail Communities from around the world; and

WHEREAS, this designation will act as a catalyst for enhancing economic development, engaging Community citizens as A.T. visitors and stewards, and helping Community members see the Appalachian Trail as a resource and asset; and

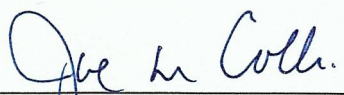
WHEREAS, this Community is highlighted and recognized and is taking steps to ensure the ongoing protection of its natural and recreational resources while investing in its future as a memorable destination along the Appalachian Trail; and

WHEREAS, this Community's sense of place and the protection of the cultural, historical and natural assets in the Appalachian Mountain Region can benefit through the use of resources such as signage, communications, and new partnerships; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Franklin, North Carolina is now recognized and designated as an Appalachian Trail Community, an official designation conferred by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, and desires to continue its efforts to support the Appalachian Trail and its community effort for at least 5 years.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Joe Collins, Mayor, do hereby proclaim that the Town of Franklin accepts the designation as an Appalachian Trail Community and urge the people of Franklin to support the Appalachian Trail through appropriate programs, activities, and ceremonies.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 23 day of March, 2010



Joe Collins, Mayor