WEST ELK LOOP SCENIC AND HISTORIC BYWAY STEERING COMMITTEE

The West Elk Byway works to preserve, protect, interpret, and enhance the intrinsic qualities of the West Elk Byway for the enjoyment of the public.

Letter requesting support for the addition of Marble into the West Elk Loop Scenic and Historic Byway

1-15-2015

Gunnison County Commissioners
Paula Swenson
Jonathan Houck
Phil Chanberland
200 E Virginia Ave
Gunnison CO 81230

Dear Commissioners,

The Town of Marble and the West Elk Loop Scenic and Historic Byway Steering Committee endorses the addition of the Town of Marble into the West Elk Byway. We respectfully request the moral support and backing of the Gunnison County Commissioners when we go before the State Byway Commission to ask for Marbles addition into the Byway. Aside from the valuable participation at Byway meetings that county personnel already provide, we do not expect that any financial assistance will be needed or requested in this endeavor.

The Byway addition of CR 3 and the town would give the area an opportunity and vehicle for educating the many people who travel CR 3 as to the historic amenities of the valley and the unique challenges of sharing the narrow winding road with large camping rigs and bicyclists.

The area has many unique amenities that are deserving of highlighting. The 100 yr old high altitude quarry of beautiful marble, historic amenities like the Crystal Mill and the rich wildlife that the ecosystem nurtures just to name a few.

The area would also benefit from the collaboration of stakeholders that form the byway steering committee. It could bring to a table representatives from the Town of Carbondale, the Redstone Association, Crystal Chamber of Commerce, CPW, USFS, Gunnison and Pitkin County as well as folks living along 133 and CR3 to discuss ways to educate and benefit the Byway.

It has been shown that when people are educated about the natural and human history of an area they then tend to respect and preserve the intrinsic values represented there.

Sincerely,

John Hoffmann
WELSHBSC Chair

Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Marble and the West Elk Loop Scenic and Historic Byway Steering Committee.

Whereas: the Town of Marble lies adjacent to and in close proximity of the West Elk Byway (Herein Named Byway). And

Whereas: the area surrounding, County Road 3 into Marble, and the Town proper hold valuable Historic and Natural amenities that enhance the experience of locals and travelers alike. And

Whereas: The West Elk Loop Scenic and Historic Byway Steering Committee recognize this and has included information about Marble into it's publication `West Elk Odyssey' by Paul Anderson and have also included Marble into its byway brochure. And

Whereas: there was a period when folks in Marble expressed a desire to not to include CR 3 as an official Byway Segment. And

Whereas: the Byway has and will continue to reproduce materials, including on line content to educate travelers as to the Natural history and historic features along the Byway including those of the Marble area.

Therefore: The West Elk Loop Scenic and Historic Byway Steering Committee respectfully requests confirmation from the Town of Marble that it wishes to enjoy the advantages of full Byway membership and requests that the Town of Marble assigns a representative and alternate to attend meetings and coordinate town workings with the benign workings of the West Elk Byway.

To this end: The Town of Marble wishes to be a full participating member of the West Elk Byway and assigns.

With GLEN SMITH as Byway Liaison with full voting rights.

and

With RON LEACH to be a voting alternate when the Liaison cannot attend.

Robert M. Pettyjohn
Mayor

R. L.
Secretary

10/20/2013

Date

Marlene Crosby

From: John Hoffmann <jhof@rof.net>
Sent: Sunday, January 25, 2015 11:48 AM
To: Marlene Crosby; jhof@rof.net
Subject: Marble addition to WEBway & Alisons letter

Marlene you are wonderful and yes the 17th is soon enough.

I've copied Alison's letter below with my reply below that.

Let me know if there is anything I can do,
John 970-963-1689

From: Steve and Alison Finn [mailto:finninco@rof.net]
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2015 9:11 AM
To: Dorothea Farris
Subject: Re: Meet? Marble addition to WEBway

Hi again,
Thank you for thinking about what I said. I would like to elaborate a bit on my reasoning about being added to the byway. I am not saying that in the future we shouldn't be added, I am saying that right now we have many internal and structural problems which will be compounded by encouraging more visitors to our town. Our problems here are slow to be solved and different from the other towns in our area. I just don't want to see more of putting the cart before the horse. I think Marble needs to do some pretty basic things before we are ready for more people. Parking is huge as we have almost none. Our ATV problem is out of hand here and we have a community which is split on what to do about it. I worked very hard last year trying to get the town to pass an ordinance with some teeth in it such as what has been done over in Ouray, San Juan counties etc... with little luck. Our back country and our town is being heavily impacted. With a lot of pushing we finally got a little more signage from the county, but we need more and some educational materials along with it. People come here and think they can just go crazy. It was not so bad when it was a few. Now we have several tenacious business owners along with the formation of our chamber of commerce which have done too good of a job at promoting Marble. I am not kidding, we have hundreds of people passing our house on the weekend on ATV's and other vehicles. The people in Crystal are also going crazy over this. Most of these people are not coming here to add to our economy (except the BBQ place), they are abusing our land and leaving their waste. I don't know what to do. We used to have the Crystal Valley Caucas which was helpful in trying to get a better voice. The town council is extremely difficult and not really focused on dealing with these issues. I am just trying to let you all know that I think proceeding with some amount of caution may be something to think about.
Thanks again for your time.
Alison

Thanks Alison ,
Well spoken.
This is just the kind of thing where it helps to have a coalition like the Byway that can bring in partners like CDOT, CPW, USFS, County agencies and Town representatives to educate and seek resolutions on issues that can improve the quality of life for folk along the byway. And provide an educated experience for travelers.
Collaboration is key,
John