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PINEHURST

# Plan puts rail line at resort's door

By Johanna Royo  
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**PINEHURST** — Would-be golfers and Pinehurst visitors can take a new path directly to the famous resort.

Village Council members threw their support behind a project by Aberdeen Carolina and Western Railroad to build a railroad siding along N.C. 5 near Morganton Road. The purpose of the parallel strip of track would be to bring passenger cars of tourists and display vintage engines and train cars during special events such as the annual Concours d'Elegance. Riders could exit the train and walk to the resort.

Carl Hollowell, the railway company's general manager, told the council up to 20 passenger cars could be parked on the railroad siding.

"When you look back at the history of Pinehurst that's how people used to get here," he said.

According to Hollowell the project was proposed before the 2014 U.S. Open Championship at Pinehurst, but time constraints kept them from building. The championship is returning to the golf resort in 2024. But Hollowell told council members there is interest in bringing tourists by rail beyond the big events. He said

a special events company out of New Jersey approached them about bringing golfers by train to the resort for a few days and then transporting them back north. Hollowell said very few golf destinations offer railway access for tourists.

Pinehurst Resort has also expressed support for the project.

Council members also unanimously agreed to move forward, faster than expected, on a project to put up six gateway signs at major access points. There is currently only one Pinehurst entrance sign.

Beautification Commit-

tee chairperson Molly Rowell told the council travelers should know when they've arrived at the village.

"You don't go through Pinehurst to get to anywhere else," she said.

The signs cost approximately \$4,000 each and would mirror the Pinehurst logo which has a pine cone and the village name. Rowell asked council to consider the project in next year's budget, but the members liked the signs so much they decided to purchase the signs in the current budget.

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## Districts

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having congressional representatives elected in accordance with the Constitution," Osteen wrote.

Soon after, the state Attorney General's Office and legislative leaders

state as to criteria it should follow for new congressional districts and sought no input from the parties regarding the massive electoral chaos and confusion to which such an order would subject North Carolina's voters," Tom Farr, an attorney hired by General Assembly leaders,

44 to 48 percent.

In 2011, Republican lawmakers increased the black population to 53 percent in the 1st and 51 percent in the 12th. State judges have upheld the districts. But the federal courts, hearing a 2013 lawsuit, ruled differently, saying the General As-

A 5-4 U.S. Supreme Court decision last year chastised a lower court for relying too much on a "mechanically numerical" view to evaluate minority voting strength.

The 12th District is 120 miles long but just 20 miles at its widest point as it travels from Charlotte to Greens-