

RATC Board Meeting

January 18, 2016

In attendance: Roger Holnback, Diana Christopulos, Blanche Brower, Brendle Wolf, John Miller, Bob Peckman, Jim Webb, Carina Hughes, Jonathan Eagle, Bruce Davidson, Dave Youmans, Bruce Agnew, Meagan Cupka and Jamie Garst.

Meeting was called to order by Roger at 7:04 pm.

Roger introduced Meagan Cupka of the Blue Ridge Land Conservancy who gave a brief explanation of how a 20 mile hike will celebrate the Conservancy's 20th anniversary on April 7, 2016. The hike will be done in legs and anyone interested in participating should contact her.

Roger introduced Jamie Garst from Andrew Lewis Middle School and a participant in the ATC's Teacher to Every Classroom program. He is interested in starting a hiking club at Andrew Lewis and sought guidance on how his group and ours could work together especially in the area of cleaning up trash from the trails we maintain.

Minutes of the previous meeting: Diana made a motion to approve the October minutes as presented, Carina seconded the motion and the vote for approval was unanimous.

Treasurer's report (Blanche Brower)

Total in Checking	\$11,949.70
Total Assets	\$26,454.57
Receipts	\$355.00
Expenditures	\$80.00

Included in the total assets are designated funds as follows \$4,905.03 for the Pine Swamp Shelter and \$1,470.48 for the McAfee Task Force.

Membership Report (Brendle Wolf)

We added 9 new members and had 22 renewals.

1. Trail Supervisor's Report

Jim reported that work continued on the Bluff City relocation and some time had been spent on the McAfee Knob trail brushing in social trails and adding structures to get the hikers back to the middle of the trail. He also reported the Nation Forest Service notified him that our tool shed on the property they lease needs to be moved by the end of February since their lease will not be renewed. Roger volunteered space on his property to house the relocation of our shed.

2. Shelter Supervisors Report

Roger reported that the shelters and privies are in good shape per the Witchers.

3. Newsletter Editor's Report

Bob reminded the group of the March 1st deadline for the Summer Blazer.

4. Webmaster Report

Jonathan reported the Pay Pal part of the site was not working and that new software at a cost of \$80 would be needed to fix it. He said a notice to the effect was placed on the site

and urged buyers to use the US Postal Service. He hoped the function would be restored by March.

Diana reported Facebook readership on our page has gone up dramatically. At the end of April 2015 we had 567 Likes (people who will get our feed on their home page) and a weekly total reach of 225 people. On the week ending January 16, 2016 we had 811 Likes and total weekly reach of 1,657 people. This helps us get the word out about bear alerts, water shortages, rules on our section, the best times to hike, etc. We can also link to our website when we finish updating the hiking information. Also our MeetUp group has almost 1,000 members.

5. Hike Master Report

No Report.

6. Leave No Trace Taskforce Update

No Report.

7. McAfee Taskforce Update

No Report.

8. Pipeline Taskforce Update

Diana reported she will be going to Washington DC with Andrew Downs on February 7-11 to lobby for RATC as part of the Hike the Hill event that involves staff from ATC, PATC and CDT. They will be meeting members of the Congressional delegations that are affected by both the Mountain Valley Pipeline and the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

Other Old and New Business

a. Bylaws Changes

John reported that minor changes were made after sharing the proposed changes with the Google group. The board approved those changes and John will send the revised proposal out again on January 25th.

b. Nominating Committee

Roger reported progress was being made in finding volunteers to fill the board openings.

c. Triple Crown Management Meeting

Diana reported RATC along with NPS and will host this meeting on February 17, 2016. As stated in the invitation, "It is our goal to establish a partnership that can promote responsible, well-informed use of this recreation asset, collaborate on innovative management solutions, and collectively present this section of Virginia's trails system as a premier national outdoor recreation destination." She will be doing a brief presentation on the McAfee Knob Task Force. The benefit to us, as she sees it, is potentially much more financial and in-person help with management of this section, which already gets a huge amount of promotion and will continue to get more.

d. Roanoke Valley Gives

Diana reported The Foundation for Roanoke Valley is organizing an online one-day Roanoke Valley Gives effort to 501.c.3 organizations in our region that register to take part. Basically, they put our name up, and we get the money that anyone donates directly to us. An e-note is automatically generated for the donor. It does not cost us anything to participate. She is not sure whether we receive the whole amount

as there may be a small fee, as there is on PayPal. The board approved participation by acclimation.

The board meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.