

Minutes from the RATC Board Meeting

February 18, 2013

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm

Host: Dick and Judy Clark

Location: Roanoke, Va.

Attending: Liz Belcher, Bob Blankenbaker, Guy Brooks, Dick Clark, Bruce Davidson, Roger Holnback, David Jones, John Miller, Mike Vaughn, Fred Walters, Chris Wilson, Bob Peckman, Mervin Brower, Sue Scanlin, Blanche Brower

Minutes Approved: The minutes from the January 14, 2012 Board meeting were approved unanimously.

Announcements: Mike Vaughn

Mike announced to the board that the RATC had received a donation from a thru hiker for \$607.00 stating that he appreciated our clubs trail maintenance. Mike also thanked those that are leaving the board Liz Belcher, Fred Walters, Bob Blankenbaker and Sue Scanlin for their dedicated service to RATC.

Mike informed the board that the awards committee met and have chosen Homer and Therese Witcher as the recipients of the RATC Charles Parry Award to be presented at the Potluck and Business Meeting March 2, 2013.

Treasure's Report-Blanche Brower

Balance in checking account as of 2/18/2013=\$15,440.77

Total assets as of 2/18/13=\$29,673.67

Total equity as of 2/18/2013=\$29,673.67

Total income during period from 1/14/13 - 2/18/13=\$1569.70

Total expenses during period from 1/14/13 – 2/18/13=\$1,206.62

Robert L. Trimpi Trust/Pine Swamp Shelter Balance=\$4,905.03

Old Business

Signs at Shelters: Mike Vaughn

Mike approached the board about adding signs at shelters and other high use areas regarding the construction, material and placement of new “limit camping” instructions. Liz suggested that signs also be placed at locations where the trail changes over from Forest Service land to National Parks Service land. Roger and Liz agreed to draft a sign and present it to the board at the next board meeting.

The board approved the purchase of bolts, screws, etc. for new signs and agreed to have them delivered to the sign maker.

New Business

LL Bean Grant Application-Mike Vaughn

The board agreed to apply for the LL Bean Grant and if received to use it for bridge repairs/replacement on Craig's Creek. Mike Vaughn said he would write the grant. It is due March 11, 2013.

Dominion Foundation Grant-Liz Belcher

Liz presented information regarding Dominion Foundation Grant. It was decided that RATC should apply and if granted the money it would be used for the fire road repairs on Catawba Mountain. Roger Holnback agreed to write this grant. It is due March 30, 2013.

Sign on McAfee Knob: Frank Horanzo RATC Member not present

The board agreed to install a new sign at McAfee Knob out of wood to maintain a rustic view in the shape of an arrow because the other signs are routinely stolen.

National Public Lands Day: Liz Belcher

The board agreed not to apply.

Damage Reports (trees, flooding, etc.): Liz Belcher

Liz mentioned that due to the recent weather it would be a good idea to get a trail condition report from the trail overseers of the damage, so that we can get to work on clearing trails. Dave Jones agreed to send an email out to all of the trail overseers.

Using Paypal to pay member dues: Chris Wilson

Chris suggested that the RATC website could add an option to pay dues and make donations through adding a paypal account. After a brief discussion of the fees involved it was approved unanimously.

New Blue Blaze trail from Catawba to A.T.: Liz Belcher

Liz presented to the board maps and information regarding a new blue blaze trail from Catawba to the A.T. She stated that the Catawba community supported the new trail. She said that the NPS had not approved the current routing of the trail and would not approve any trail that terminated at Rt. 311. After a review of the map Roger suggested that we contact Homer and Therese Witcher and ask them if they would help in flagging a new route from where the proposed trail intersects with the current fence line to the fire road. Liz Belcher agreed to contact Homer and Therese.

Dues payment policy: Bob Peckman

Bob reported that at least 120 people were overdue for their membership payments. He went on to say that some could not afford to pay, and we take care of them, and suggested that we somehow contact the remainder to remind them of their past dues. He acknowledged some of them were long time members and suggested that we not just drop them from membership without a reminder. He also suggested that we continue to mail the Trail Blazer to those that cannot afford the dues and the board agreed unanimously. Blanche, Kris and Bob said they would work together to contact those that are past due

March Boundary Work by ATC: Bruce Davidson

Bruce reports that he has been in contact and is working with the ATC boundary crew. He said they would be in our area to work March 25-29, 2013.

Spring and Fall Overseers meetings: Dave Jones

Dave reported the spring overseers meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2013 at 7 pm. He also said that he would like to have the fall overseers meeting September 14-15, 2013 at Woodshole Hostel in Pearisburg.

MOTION: John Miller made a motion and Merv seconded the motion that the fall overseers meeting be held at Woodshole Hostel. The motion was approved unanimously.

Konnarock Work: Dave Jones

Dave reports that the dates for the Konnarock crew to work on the Bluff City relocation are May 30-June 3, 2013 with one crew working and August 1-5 2013 with two crews working. John Miller suggested that we invite Mark Wenger to the corn boil.

Club Work Hikes: Dave Jones

Dave reports that the dates for the RATC work hikes are April 14, April 21, May 4, June 2 and June 9, 2013. He also said that he is looking for an assistant trail supervisor.

Tools Storage Location in Roanoke: Dave Jones

Dave reports that it is time to replace some tools. He also said that he would like to have two sets of tools and a storage location in the Roanoke area. Roger Holnback said that the tools could be stored in his barn.

Next Board Meeting Dates:

March 2, 2013 Potluck Banquet and Business Meeting

April 8, 2013 Host: Roger Holnback

May 6, 2013 Host: Blanche Bower

June 17, 2013 Host: Bob Peckman

**Respectfully,
Guy Brooks
RATC Member**