

RATC Board Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2016
Mill Mountain Coffee&Tea, Salem, VA

In attendance:

Board members: Bruce Agnew, Blanche Brower, Diana Christopulos, Bruce Davidson, Roger Holnback, David Jones, John Miller, Bob Peckman, Susan Powell, Jim Webb, Brendle Wolfe

Other attendees: Josh Kloehn (ATC Virginia Regional Office)

Meeting was called to order by Diana at 7:00.

Future meeting dates and locations:

Oct 3	Mill Mountain Coffee, Salem, VA
Nov 14	Mill Mountain Coffee, Salem, VA
Jan TBD	TBD
Feb TBD	TBD

Minutes of previous meeting:

Corrections: Trail Supervisor's report. Change Konnarock was rained out 3.5 days to Konnarock worked 3.5 days and was rained out 0.5 days

Bob made a motion to approve the July minutes and this motion was seconded by Roger and the motion passed

Treasurer's Report (Blanche Brower):

Financial activity since last board meeting (full report attached at the end of the minutes):

Total in Checking	\$18,807.78
Total Assets	\$33,313.17
Receipts	\$443.21
Expenditures	\$880.48

(Included in the total assets are designated funds as follows \$4,905.03 for the Pine Swamp Shelter and \$1285.68 for the McAfee Task Force)

Report from Eagle Scout Will Kyle on new kiosk at 311 lot

Will could not attend the meeting, report tabled till October board meeting

Volunteer Training

Josh Kloehn proposed RATC and VARO collaborate on a trail maintainers volunteer training.

Suggested having the training November 12 at the Mountain Shepherd Survival School in Catawba, Va.

Board was in agreement and planning will proceed.

President's Report (Dianna Christopulos):

- Mountain Valley Pipeline
 - Draft Environmental Impact Statement being released, 90 day comment period
 - Diana requested that the board approve a letter to George-Jeff Nation Forest Supervisor citing NEPA issues that the DEIS needs to address
 - After discussion the board suggested discussing this issue and the impact of such a letter with the forest supervisor before taking this action (sending a letter from the board to the forest supervisor)
 - After contacting the forest supervisor Diana will draft a letter and distribute to the board
 - Due to time constraints the approval of the draft letter and approval to send the letter will be by email query

- Hands Across the AT
 - Event to call attention to the impact of the gasline crossing of the AT
 - Sept 17 in Newport
- Forum on Natural Gas
 - Roanoke College Oct 12
- Visibility study of the AT crossings
 - Many viewpoints along RATC corridor will see gasline right-of-way
 - Local firm interested in producing a rendering of one of the view points with significant views of the gasline right-of-way
 - Daina will request funds to support creation of renderings
 - Diana will keep the board apprised of progress
 - Roger suggested that ground truthing a viewshed is often not significant because there is a lot of stuff (powerlines, roads, structures) 'x' miles away and landscape features start to blend
- Roanoke College as depository of RATC archives
 - Diana and Blanche are working on this project
- Annual Meeting date was selected for March 4, 2017
- ATC Volunteer Leadership Conference, Shepherdstown, WV Aug 26-28, 2016
 - Diana and Bruce Agnew attended
 - ATC striving to bring in younger people
 - ATC trying to get more people working on trails
 - From a club leaders standpoint it was good to meet other AT Maintaining Club leaders and share experiences

NPS Wayfinding Project and RATC

Susan Powell reported on this effort. The goal is to have universal messages at the trail heads. Eight initial sites have been selected, and the 311 parking lot for McAfee Knob has been selected as one of the eight. Currently action is on hold in that the ATPO person in charge resigned and no one is leading this effort.

Liability and insurance for leading RATC hikes

USFS insurance only covers RATC people doing trail maintenance work on Forest Service lands, no recreational hikes. Natural Bridge AT club just dealt with this issue and resolved it by purchasing an umbrella liability insurance policy. Diana and Susan will continue to get more information and will report to the board at a future board meeting.

Land Management Supervisor's Report

Bruce Davidson reported on a boundary dispute with a land owner on Catawba Mountain. Bruce provided a map of the disputed area. The land owner states that he bought land from original owner, and this original owner sold land to the NPS. Josh Kloehn said that the VARO has been involved. There is only one good survey and this is the survey that was done when the NPS purchased the land. Josh went on to say that this issue must be dealt with by the ATC, so essentially it is not a club problem.

Trail Supervisor's Report

New kiosk at on the McAfee fire road has been built and installed as an Eagle Scout project by Mason ???

Most of the trail structures inventory has been completed; Jim and Conner have from Route 606 to the Ribble Trail, part of Sinking Creek Mountain, and some side trails to finish up.

Replaced McAfee Knob signs again. Having a problem with signs being stolen along the trail to McAfee Knob

Monday Crew is continuing to work on Sinking Creek relocation

Hazardous tree reported to USFS at Laurel Creek shelter (there was some discussion as to whether the USFS ever cut the hazardous tree at Pine Swamp shelter)

New lock was installed on the gate at the McAfee Knob fire road. It is keyed the same as the previous lock

Jim requested that everyone submit volunteer hours for the Federal fiscal year Oct 1, 2015- Sept 30, 2016

Conservation Supervisor's Report

No report

Ridgerunner report

Bear problem has diminished. Don't know specific reason, may be because of bear boxes, may be because there are not as many people using the shelters (the thru hiker bubble has passed).

Having a problem with a "Trail Angel" leaving a lot of food in the bear boxes

Membership Report

New members	4
Life member	1
Renewals	2

Go Fest is Oct 14-16. Roanoke is pushing this event this year. Kathryn Herndon, VARO, is organizing volunteers to work this event

Boy Scout event. State Boy Scout Troop meeting. RATC will have an information table at this meeting. Brendle will work this event and requests additional help

Shelter Supervisor's Report

New roof installed on Pickle Branch shelter

New roof installed on Bailey Gap shelter

Hikemaster's Report

The experiment of not providing a hike schedule in the Trail Blazer and only listing recreational hikes on the RATC Meet-Up site seems to be working. Bob has been receiving hike reports from hike leaders. List of hikes is up from recent past.

RATC is hosting a Hike Leader Training Thursday, September 22, 6:00-9:00 at Backcounty, Roanoke, VA

Trail Blazer Editor's Report

Blazer is going to printer Friday

Digital Media Report

Erin was out of town; no report

Meeting adjourned at 8:35

RATC
Treasurer's Report Info for Minutes
9/12/16

Balance in Checking as of :	9/12/16	\$18,807.78
Bequest from Robert L. Trimpi Trust//Pine Swamp Shelter***	9/12/16	\$4,905.03
McAfee Task Force Fund !!!	9/12/16	\$1,285.68
ATC LL Bean Grant VT Leave No Trace****	9/12/16	\$4,000.00
Total Assets as of:	9/12/16	\$33,313.17
Total Equity as of:	9/12/16	\$33,313.17

**** Amounts are included in balance in checking**
!!!Amount included in checking for McAfee Task Force Only

Net Loss for Period:

Total Income During Period: \$443.21

Significant Items

Dues	\$440.00
Donations (Bear boxes)	
Roanoke Valley Gives Fund Raiser	
Receipts Donation Box McAfee (0)/Tinker (0)	
Stickers(\$2.50 each)	
Patches RATC (\$5)	
Patch 113 Mile (\$3)	\$3.00
T-Shirt (\$20)	
Hat (\$10)	
Amazon Smile	
Interest Income - Savings	\$0.06
Interest Income – Checking	\$0.15
Refund Service Charge	
Interest Income-CD -Yearly Int. 2015	
Extra from PayPal	

Total Expense During Period: \$880.48

Lowes (Shelter/bridge muddy section Daleville)	\$32.13
Lowes (Chainsaw supplies/repairs Sinking Creek)	\$37.44
Lowes (Mike Vaughn ?)	\$11.92
Handy John Handy Rentals (2 Port-a-Johns McAfee Knob)	\$130.00
Jim Webb (Chainsaw supplies)	\$48.72
Linda Akers (Corn Boil supplies)	\$91.03
BB&T Meet-UP	\$89.94
Lowes (Jim Webb tools)	\$18.98

Lowes (Homer Witcher AT south of 220/Pickle Branch/bear boxes)	\$32.77
Jim Brown (Material for sign making)	\$13.95
Homer Witcher (Lock and chain Daleville)	\$17.48
ATC (McAfee Task Force maps)	\$80.30
Handy John Handy Rentals (Port-a-johns McAfee Knob parking lot)	\$130.00
Sir Speedy (Post cards for Corn Boil)	\$128.60
Homer Witcher (Dispose of singles from Bailey Gap shelter)	\$15.19
PayPal	\$2.03