

RATC Board Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2016
Mill Mountain Coffee&Tea, Salem, VA

In attendance:

Board members: Blanche Brower, Diana Christopulos, Bruce Davidson, Carina Hughes, David Jones, John Miller, Bob Peckman, Jim Webb, Homer Witcher, Therese Witcher, Brendle Wolfe
Other Attendees: Matt Allenbaugh (ATC McAfee Knob Ridge Runner)

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

Future meeting dates and locations:

Jan 9	Glenvar Branch, Roanoke Public Library
Feb 6	Glenvar Branch, Roanoke Public Library
Mar 4	Annual Meeting

Minutes of previous meeting:

Corrections: None

John made a motion to approve the October minutes and this motion was seconded by Jim 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	\$17,856.80
Total Assets	\$32,362.31
Receipts	\$692.70
Expenditures	\$1,627.59

(Included in the total assets are designated funds as follows \$4,905.03 for the Pine Swamp Shelter and \$1227.22 for the McAfee Task Force)

Jim made a motion to approve the November Treasurer's Report and this motion was seconded by Therese and the motion passed

President's Report (Dianna Christopulos):

- Tupp & Tupp, local father and son who hiked the AT will present the program for the Holiday Banquet December 3
- McAfee Knob 11/11/16 paid ridge runner finishes season
 - Growth in use continues.
 - Busiest months: Mar, Apr and Oct
 - Paid ridge runner not working two of these months
 - 200 persons/day average
 - 628 persons on busiest day tallied by task force
 - 431 persons on busiest day tallied by ridge runner
 - We have new partnerships for proposing changes that we believe are appropriate.
 - Volunteers assisted dowsing of fire that started 11/8/16.
- Nominating Committee
 - Need volunteers to serve
 - Let Dianna know if current members want to serve on the new board
- Mountain Valley Pipeline
 - Visual impact study by Hill Studios is still being prepared

- --See Agenda at end of Minutes for the four proposed amendments to the George Jeff National Forest Plan--

Shelter Supervisor's Report—Homer and Therese Witcher

Shelter Adopter Guidelines presented to board. All were in agreement for proceeding with distributing guidelines and formalizing shelter adopter volunteer effort

Need new picnic table at Lamberts meadow tent site

Trail Supervisor's Report—Jim Webb

Volunteer Training, Nov 11-13, Mountain Shepherd Survival School

20 people attended

RATC, NBATC, OCVT were represented

Few new people, most current volunteers

Received a \$20.00 donation from someone staying at Mountain Shepherd

Work hikes

Recribbed trail tread on trail to McAfee knob, 2 work hikes

New steps on trail to Dragon's Tooth

Saturday work hike had 7 people work on Sinking Creek relocation

Hazardous Trees:

John's spring shelter—20 trees taken down by a contractor

Catawba shelter—contractor will cut hazard trees during the next week

Membership Report—Brendle Wolfe

New members	7
Life member	0
Renewals	3
Total members	485

Boy Scout event

Boy Scout leader's from all over the state of Virginia

Probably not worth stay all day for this event, from 8:00-12:00 next to no traffic due to meetings, if attend this meeting in the future consider only participating during lunch period when people are free to visit the display/table

Land Management Supervisor's Report—Bruce Davidson

Land boundary dispute—no news

Sign for 4 Pines hostel is not on AT property

Hikemaster's Report—Bob Peckman

Liability insurance for hike leaders and board members

Blue Ridge Land Trust is providing advice as to what RATC needs

For hike leaders must require training and first aid and CPR training

Botetourt Fire and Rescue Search and Rescue group will offer first aid and CPR to hike leaders for free

Will continue discussion with insurers for board and hiker leader coverage

Proposed requiring health form for anyone that goes on a RATC hike

Trail Blazer Editor's Report—Bob Peckman

Will send post card announcement/reminder for holiday potluck right after Thanksgiving

Digital Media Report--*Vacant*

No report

Conservation Supervisor's Report—Butch Kelly

No report

Ridgerunner report—Matt Allenbaugh

Ending season 11/11/2016

Meeting adjourned at 8:32

RATC
Treasurer's Report Info for Minutes
10/3/2016

Balance in Checking as of:	11/14/16	\$18,856.80
Bequest from Robert L. Trimpi Trust//Pine Swamp Shelter***	11/14/16	\$4,905.03
McAfee Task Force Fund !!!	11/14/16	\$1,227.22
ATC LL Bean Grant VT Leave No Trace****	11/14/16	\$4,000.00
Total Assets as of:	11/14/16	\$32,362.31
Total Equity as of:	11/14/16	\$32,362.31

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

Net Loss for Period:		(\$-934.86)
Total Income during Period:		\$692.70

Dues	\$595.00
Donations	\$62.00
Receipts Donation Box McAfee (\$86.91)/Tinker (0)	\$86.91
Stickers (\$2.50 each)	\$2.50
Patches RATC (\$5)	
Patch 113 Mile (\$3)	\$3.00
T-Shirt (\$20)	\$20.00
Hat (\$10)	\$10.00
Amazon Smile	
Interest Income – Savings	\$0.06
Interest Income – Checking	\$0.14
Refund Service Charge	
Interest Income-CD -Yearly Int. 2015	

Total Expense during Period:		\$1,627.59
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Handy John Handy Rentals (2 Port-a-Johns McAfee Knob)	\$130.00
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Brendle Wolfe (New member packets)	\$10.68
Brendle Wolfe (New member packets)	\$23.76
US Post Office—Stamps and postage for Fall Blazer	\$268.80
US Post Office—Annual fee Permit #P1 509	\$215.00
Sir Speedy—Fall Blazer (463 copies)	\$380.76
Jim Webb (Lock McAfee fire road/Rock drill bits/sharpen chainsaw)	\$224.73
Lowes (Homer Lamberts Meadow picnic table)	\$130.04
Lowes (Homer Tinker Crk bridge \$45.60, Jim tools \$28.47 McAfee \$39.75)	\$113.82

RATC Board Meeting Agenda

November 14, 2016 - 7 PM (*come by as early as 6:30 to socialize before the meeting*)

[Mill Mountain Coffee & Tea, 17 E. Main St., Salem](#)

(park in city lot behind Main St and enter through back; meeting in new conference room in back)

Welcome

Diana Christopulos

Approval of October 2016 Minutes (to be emailed by David)

David Jones

Treasurer's Report and updated Membership list (to be emailed by Blanche)

Blanche Brower

President's Report

Diana

- "Tupp and Tupp AT Adventure" confirmed for December 3 Holiday Potluck – need email and postcard reminders
- McAfee Knob wrap up 11/11/16 ~ growth in use continues. We have new partnerships for proposing changes that we believe are appropriate. Volunteers assisted dowsing of fire that started 11/8/16.
- Nominating committee and clarify open seats for next year.
- Mountain Valley Pipeline
 - October 12 Forum on Natural Gas Pipelines at Roanoke College and November 3 FERC hearing both drew large crowds and received good media coverage
 - ATC will launch major campaign against MVP this week with emphasis on four proposed amendments to Jefferson National Forest Plan
 - 500-foot utility corridor through JNF encourages additional massive pipelines on same route
 - Lowering of water quality standards is an admission that the project cannot be completed without adding too much erosion and siltation. Study done for MVP confirms that the project would add large amounts of sediment to local rivers, especially the North Fork of the Roanoke River, where consultants concluded that "a substantial amount of sediment detached from cumulative actions on private and JNF lands is expected to continue to downstream areas outside the hydrologic study. . . [and] increased sediment loads are likely to continue downstream until the sediment is arrested behind the first dam (i.e., Niagara Dam) or is deposited into Smith Mountain Lake."
 - Cutting down old growth forest for pipeline corridor
 - Reducing Scenic Integrity Objective of the AT from High to Low or worse for "5 to 10" years before returning to Moderate is an admission that the project would have major scenic impacts on the AT.

Regular reports

Shelter Supervisor's Report

Homer & Therese

Witcher

Adopt a Shelter program proposal

Trail Supervisor's Report

Jim Webb

Training at Mountain Shepherd

Membership Report

November 12 BOY SCOUT EVENT

Brendle Wolfe

Land Management Supervisor's Report

Bruce Davidson

Hike Master Report

Powell and

Liability and insurance for hike leaders and board members
(info from BRLC and RPC)

Bob Peckman, Susan

Diana (see attached health form)

- To get insurance for hike leaders, we will need to require first aid and CPR training; it looks like Botetourt Fire and Rescue SARS group will offer it for free
- We will also need a health form that leaders carry with them on hikes. Susan has drafted one based on other organizations.
- Still need to finalize discussions with insurers for board and hike leader coverage

Newsletter Editor's Report

Bob

Conservation Supervisor's Report

Butch Kelly

Ridgerunner report(s)

Matt Allenbaugh

Calendar:

December 3	Holiday Pot Luck – “Tupp and Tupp AT Adventure”
January 9 VA	Board meeting Glenvar Branch, Roanoke County Public Library 3917 Daugherty Road,Salem,
February 6 VA	Board meeting Glenvar Branch, Roanoke County Public Library 3917 Daugherty Road,Salem,
March 4, 2017	RATC Potluck and Annual Meeting
March 10-12, 2017	Southern Partnership Meeting, location TBD