

RATC Board Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2017
Glenvar Branch Library, Salem, VA

In attendance:

Board members: Bruce Agnew, Blanche Brower, Diana Christopulos, Bruce Davidson, Susan Herndon-Powell, David Jones, John Miller, Bob Peckman, Jim Webb, Homer Witcher, Therese Witcher, Brendle Wolfe, Dave Youmans

Other Attendees: Andrew Downs (ATC Virginia Regional Director), Julia Chong (New Board Member), Ann Kohinke (New Board Member), Bill Neilan (RATC member)

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

Future meeting dates and locations:

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|----------|--|
| Mar 4 | Annual Meeting |
| Apr 10th | Glenvar Branch, Roanoke Public Library |
| May 8th | Glenvar Branch, Roanoke Public Library |

Minutes of previous meeting:

Corrections: None

John made a motion to approve the November minutes and this motion was seconded by Bruce Agnew and the motion passed

Treasurer's Report (Blanche Brower):

2017 Budget

Same as 2016 budget

Dave Youmans made a motion to accept the 2017 budget, Bruce Agnew seconded the motion, and the motion passed

A question was asked about the status of the NPS funds for the McAfee parking lot Port-a-johns. Andrew Downs said that after the federal 2017 budget was approved the club would receive the promised funds.

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

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Total in Checking | \$19,660.32 |
| Total Assets | \$34,288.90 |
| Receipts | \$1,650.39 |
| Expenditures | \$259.34 |

(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)

ATC Virginia Regional Office Report—Andrew Downs

- NPS has funds for the reconstruction of Wapiti shelter, \$28,000
- LL Bean Grants are open for new applications
- Virginia AT license plate funds—most of the money that is allocated for club projects is going to Mount Rogers for reconstruction of a long awaited bridge replacement, but some money is still available
- The spring Southern Partners Meeting will be held at Black Mountain, March 10-12. Fees are \$165 for two nights
- Funds are coming available for food storage devices at shelters

- VARO may be moving out of Nation Forest Service offices to a more visually prominent location
- Natural Gas Pipelines
 - Andrew works with one pipeline in the Roanoke area and another proposed to cross the AT in Nelson County
 - Andrew is going to Washington DC to present ATC concerns
 - AT crossings of these pipelines are one of the Top 10 current trails issues
 - Approval of the pipeline crossing will require the National Forest Service to change their current standards for the AT
- RATC, the National Park Service, the National Forest Service and the ATC (VARO) need to schedule a partnership meeting this spring—Diana said she would organize this meeting

President's Report (Diana Christopulos):

- Nominating Committee is composed of Carina, John, Diana and Bruce Agnew
- Liability insurance—no new information from last meeting
- Proposed Task Force Proposal
 - Want to focus on trail use from Pickle Branch Shelter to Mountain Road
 - This should have multiple community participants, but RATC should take the lead role
 - Diana is willing to lead this group for ~3years
- Spring Potluck and Annual Meeting
 - March 4th
 - Program will be Leonard and Lori Adkins
 - Diana will contact Hikemaster and Trail Supervisor to discuss annual service awards

Shelter Supervisor's Report—Homer and Therese Witcher

Have 2-4 Shelter Adopters for each shelter

New picnic table has been installed at Lamberts meadow tent site

Trail Supervisor's Report—Jim Webb

Konnarock work this summer

Working on the Sinking Creek Mountain relocation

3 weeks: May 27-31, July 12-16, and July 20-24

Will have to move the RATC corn boil to July 22

Hazardous Trees:

Pine swamp shelter is closed and will be closed for a prolong period due the hazard trees are located in a Wilderness Area where chainsaws cannot be used—cannot find qualified feller who uses Wilderness Area accepted felling methods

Sarver hollow shelter and war spur shelter are the last areas to be cleared of hazard trees

Sent pictures to the Pedler District of the hazard trees at Fulhardt Knob shelter and Wilson Creek shelter—have not heard back from them

Moving the information kiosk at Route 220 to a better location

Need a new kiosk at Route 624

The Overseers Meeting has is scheduled for Saturday, April 15, 6:00pm at the Catawba Community Center

Membership Report—Brendle Wolfe

From January 1st

| | |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| New members | 15 |
| Life member | 0 |
| Renewals | 28 |
| Total members | Did not provide this total |

Land Management Supervisor’s Report—Bruce Davidson

Land boundary dispute—property owner said he was going to log his property and the NPS sent a Cease and Desist Order

Hikemaster’s Report—Bob Peckman and Susan Herndon-Powell

Tuesday, April 18 will have a hike leader training

Topics may include lost hiker situations, first aid, responses to unusual situations

Issue with using Meet-Up

People are signing up for hikes and then not attending hikes

Need training for hike leaders on how they can use Meet-Up to control hikes: who and how participants sign-up

Trail Blazer Editor’s Report—Bob Peckman

No report

Digital Media Report--*Vacant*

No report

Conservation Supervisor’s Report—Butch Kelly (Diana gave report)

Butch and Conner (ATC) are working with students from Radford University

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30

RATC
Treasurer's Report Info for Minutes
2/6/2017

| | | |
|---|---------------|--------------------|
| Balance in Checking as of: | 2/6/17 | \$19660.32 |
| Bequest from Robert L. Trimpi Trust//Pine Swamp Shelter*** | 2/6/17 | \$4,905.03 |
| McAfee Task Force Fund !!! | 2/6/17 | \$1,227.22 |
| ATC LL Bean Grant VT Leave No Trace**** | 2/6/17 | \$4,000.00 |
| Total Assets as of: | 2/6/17 | \$34,288.90 |
| Total Equity as of: | 2/6/17 | \$34,288.90 |

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

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Net Gain for Period: | \$1391.05 |
| Total Income during Period: | \$1,650.39 |

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Dues | \$1,280.00 |
| Donations | \$247.30 |
| Interest Income – Savings | \$0.06 |
| Interest Income – Checking | \$0.14 |
| Refund Service Charge | |
| Interest Income-CD -Yearly Int. 2015 | \$122.89 |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Total Expense during Period: | \$259.34 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Handy John Handy Rentals (2 Port-a-Johns McAfee Knob) | \$130.00 |
| Lowes (Jim Webb 23.54 Homer Witcher 9.65) | \$33.19 |
| BB&T (Meet-Up renewal) | \$89.94 |
| PayPal | \$6.21 |

RATC Board Meeting Agenda

February 6 2017 - 7 PM (come by as early as 6:30 to socialize before the meeting)

Glenvar Branch Library
[3917 Daugherty Rd, Salem, VA 24153](#)

Welcome

Diana Christopulos

Approval of November 2016 Minutes (attached)

David Jones

Treasurer's Report and updated Membership list (to be emailed by Blanche)
2017 Budget approval (to be emailed by Blanche)

Blanche Brower
Blanche

Appalachian Trail Conservancy update
ATC

Andrew Downs,

- Mountain Valley Pipeline
- Other issues and Q/A

President's Report

Diana

- Nominating Committee report
- Annual Meeting Potluck March 4 Leonard Adkins Visual Histories of the AT
- Set board meeting dates for April and May (please bring your calendars) Proposed dates:
 - Monday, April 3 or Monday, April 10
 - Monday, May 1 or Monday, May 8
- Liability and insurance for hike leaders and board members
 - 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

Regular reports

Conservation Supervisor's Report

Butch Kelly

Plans for Spring 2017

Hike Master Report

Bob Peckman Susan

Powell

- Hike Leader Training – Susan has tentatively schedule another session on Thursday, April 13 from 6 to 8 pm. would like Requested action: input from the board about topic(s), date and location.
- Authorization of task force to recommend changes in how hike leaders handle Meet Up – include how to deal with no-shows and training of hike leaders to understand their options in Meet Up.
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Shelter Supervisor's Report
Witcher

Homer & Therese

Trail Supervisor's Report

Jim Webb

Membership Report

Brendle Wolfe

Land Management Supervisor's Report

Bruce Davidson

Newsletter Editor's Report

Bob

Calendar:

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| March 4, 2017 Visual | RATC Potluck and Annual Meeting, Annual Meeting Potluck March 4 Leonard Adkins Histories of the AT |
| March 10-12, 2017 | Southern Partnership Meeting, location TBD |
| August 4-11, 2017 | ATC Biennial Meeting, Maine – Colby College, Waterville, ME |