

RATC Board Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2017

Glenvar Branch Library, 3917 Daugherty Road
Salem VA

In attendance:

Board members: Bruce Agnew, Brian Boggs, Blanche Brower, Julia Chong, Diana Christopulos, Bruce Davidson, Susan Herndon-Powell, Anne Kohinke, John Miller, Susan Terwilliger, Jim Webb, Homer Witcher, Therese Witcher, David Youmans

Other Attendees: None.

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

Minutes of previous meeting:

Corrections: Spelling of Diana's first name.

Anne Kohinke motioned to approve the February minutes, David Youmans seconded, and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report (Blanche Brower):

Blanche reported a \$25,000 bequest to come from the estate of Katharyn Elizabeth Fell Demaree to the RATC general fund. Diana read a letter from Will Kyle, an Eagle Scout who designed the kiosk in the 311 parking lot. He sent RATC a check for \$447.96, excess funds he raised for construction of the kiosk.

Financial activity since last board meeting (as of 4/10/2017):

Total in Checking: \$20,142.26

Total Assets: \$33,962.29

Receipts: \$2,810.22

Expenditures: \$2,077.81

(Full report included at the end of the minutes.)

President's Report (Diana Christopulos):

- Diana requested that the Board send Brendle Wolfe a letter of thanks for single-handedly raising \$2,150 in one day for RATC as part of Roanoke Valley Gives (mostly from Facebook). Request was approved.
- Diana briefly discussed the Mountain Valley Pipeline and showed an image of the scar that would deface the Kelly Knob area if the pipeline goes through.
- Future meeting dates and locations were tentatively set as follows (all at Glenvar Branch, Roanoke Public Library): May 8, June 5, July 17, September 11, October 2, and November 6. Corn Boil will be July 22 at the Catawba Center. No August meeting.

Program: Visitor Use Management Strategy (VUM) for Triple Crown (Dragon’s Tooth, McAfee Knob, Tinker Cliffs) – Diana:

- VUM is a framework for managing high-use areas, including the Triple Crown and entire 50 miles of AT and non-AT trail from south of Pickle Branch Shelter to VA 652 south of Blue Ridge Parkway. It involves a partnership with NPS, ATC, and USFS, with possible funding available.

Land Management Supervisor’s Report (David Youmans):

- David has agreed to take over this position from Bruce Davidson, and his appointment was approved by the Board. David will also become the new Catawba Mountain Ridgerunner, effective April 28. Matt Allenbaugh, the former paid Ridgerunner, has taken another job (but will remain as a volunteer).
- Southern Regional Partnership Meeting: David presented two ATC draft policies: one on side and connecting trails and one on the Appalachian Trail experience. Feedback to the Stewardship Council is required. Discussion ensued about side trails and whether the fire road is considered one. David will check with Conner McBane or Josh Kloehn. Further discussion about how to maintain wild and scenic characteristics of the AT, especially in high-use areas.
- ATC Stewardship Council has requested a RATC member. Membership involves an application process, two meetings, and monthly phone calls. Interested parties should contact David.

RATC Hiking Issues (Susan Herndon-Powell):

- A new policy has been proposed to deal with people who sign up for recreational hikes on Meet-Up but do not show up. Members who no-show for hikes 3 times in 6 months will be removed from Meet-Up for 3 months. If they no-show 6 times in 6 months, they will be removed for 6 months. This applies only to hikes, not to meetings or social events. A warning will be issued before the person is removed.
- Susan and Bob will coordinate by checking the hike roster against Meet-up. Susan will communicate with no-shows and inform them of the new policy. Susan will train hike leaders about this new policy in April. All members will be informed through the Blazer and emails.
- New policy approved unanimously by the Board.

Health Form for RATC Hike Participants (Susan Herndon-Powell):

- To secure liability insurance and for general safety reasons, it was proposed that all hikers fill out a health form listing allergies, chronic illnesses, etc. This is not a release but provides essential information in case of a health emergency.
- Bruce Agnew moved to approve a “soft release” of this policy, Susan Terwilliger seconded, and the motion passed.

Trail Supervisor’s Report (Jim Webb):

- The county has been improving and widening the fire road, and much has been done. Hikers have reported many blowdowns, and some of these have been dealt with.
- Work groups have been consistent, and participant numbers are rising. Jim leads Monday groups; Bruce Agnew leads Saturday ones.

Hikemaster’s Report (Bob Peckman and Susan Herndon-Powell):

Hike leader training is scheduled for April 18, 6:00 to 7:30, at Glenvar Library.

Membership Report (Bruce Agnew):

- From March 5 to April 10, there were 10 new members and 22 renewals.
- Bruce gave out brochures to distribute to possible new members. Stated that membership recruitment likely to be more successful at popular events such as GoFest and Troutville Days. Contact Bruce to share ideas about member recruitment.

Conservation Supervisor’s Report (Butch Kelly):

No report.

Newsletter Editor’s Report (Bob Peckman):

No report.

Shelter Supervisor’s Report (Homer and Therese Witcher):

War Spur Shelter’s wood shingle roof will be replaced by a new tin roof on April 23.

Digital Media Report (Vacant):

No report.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30.

**RATC Treasurer's Report Info for Minutes
(as of 4/10/2017)**

Balance in Checking	\$20,142.26
Bequest from Robert L. Trimpi Trust//Pine Swamp Shelter***	\$4,905.03
McAfee Task Force Fund !!!	\$1,227.22
ATC LL Bean Grant VT Leave No Trace***	\$2,365.28
Total Assets:	\$33,962.29

Total Equity: \$33,962.29

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

Net Loss for Period:

Total Income during Period:	\$2,810.22
Significant Items:	
Dues	\$605.00
Donations	\$45.00
Roanoke Valley Gives Fundraiser	\$2,150.00
Receipts Donation Box (McAfee/Tinker)	\$0.00
Stickers (\$2.50 each)	\$5.00
Patches RATC (\$5)	\$5.00
Patch 113 Mile (\$3)	
T-Shirt (\$20)	\$0.00
Hat (\$10)	
Amazon Smile	
Interest Income- Savings	\$0.06
Interest Income – Checking	\$0.16
Refund Service Charge	
Interest Income-CD-Yearly Int. 2016	\$0.00
Extra from PayPal	
ATC LL Bean Grant VT Leave No Trace	

Total Expense during Period:	\$2,077.81
Significant Items:	
Handy John Handy Rentals (2 Port-a-Johns McAfee Knob)	\$130.00
Lowes (Jim Webb cement 220 kiosk)	\$12.16
Linda Akers (Annual Banquet Supplies)	\$23.46
David Youmans (SPM Meeting)	\$165.00
Christ. Evang. Lutheran Church (Annual Mtg.)	\$75.00
Postmaster (N/M packets)	\$13.09
Print Checks	\$24.38
Johanna Arredondo (LL Bean Grant LNT)	\$1,634.72