

**RATC Board Meeting Minutes**  
May 8, 2017  
Glenvar Branch Library, 3917 Daugherty Road  
Salem VA

**In Attendance:**

Board members: Bruce Agnew, Brian Boggs, Blanche Brower, Julia Chong, Diana Christopulos, Butch Kelly, Anne Kohinke, John Miller, Susan Terwilliger, Jim Webb, David Youmans

Other Attendees: Bill Hendon, Denise Hendon (new members); Brendle Wolfe (former membership coordinator)

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

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

Corrections: None

Approved: John Miller moved to approve; Jim Webb seconded. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report and Updated Membership List (Blanche Brower):**

Blanche reported an Arbor Day donation of \$903.25. She also reported five new members and six renewals between April 11 and May 8.

Financial activity since last board meeting (as of 5/8/2017):

Total in Checking: \$52,702.42

Total Assets: \$67,331.17

Receipts: \$27,196.46

Expenditures: \$ 622.79

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

**President's Report (Diana Christopulos):**

- Julia Chong, who was in training to succeed Blanche as treasurer, is leaving the area in July. Will need to find a replacement.
- Dave Youmans is the new ATC Ridgerunner – congratulations to him.
- RATC members Bill Hackworth, Rupert Cutler, and Diana will participate in May 11-12 meetings in Roanoke on Mountain Valley Pipeline with MVP, FERC, ATC, USFS, and BLM. They plan to inquire about environmental impacts of the pipeline, especially in certain high-risk locations (which Diana has mapped on Google Earth).
- VDOT has organized a committee to manage a likely-to-be-funded project for a pedestrian bridge over Va 311, connecting the NPS parking lot to the AT on the far side. Representatives from RATC, ATC, Roanoke County, NPS, and VDOT are on the committee and will hold the first meeting May 10. Diana Christopulos and Jim Webb will represent RATC, and Bruce Agnew would also like to be a member.

### **Program (Brendle Wolfe):**

- **"Hopkins Basin-Mono (Pass) Divide High Country Backpacking":** Brendle described her recent backpacking adventure as a co-leader on and off trail in the Eastern Sierras near Mammoth Lakes, California. This 30-mile, strenuous hike reached elevations as high as 12,000 feet, crossing Sierra Crest twice over very rugged terrain. Eighty percent of the trip was off trail. Brendle accompanied her talk with some stunning photos.
- **June and July programs:** At the June meeting, Conner McBane (ATC staff) will discuss his work on invasive species and his background in the Roanoke College Environmental Studies program. In July, Butch Kelly, wildflower expert and gifted photographer, will share his knowledge of Appalachian wildflowers.

### **Action Item (Diana):**

#### **APPOINTMENT OF MALCOLM & JIMMIE BLACK MEMORIAL FUND TASK FORCE**

- On April 17, 2017, RATC received a check for \$25,000 from the Katharyn Elizabeth Fell Demaree Fund of the Howard County Community Foundation (Indiana) in memory of Malcolm and Jimmie Black. RATC will establish a four- to six-person task force to recommend how to spend the money, reporting to the board in July. Diana Christopoulos, Blanche Brower, Butch Kelly, Jim Webb, and Anne Kohinke volunteered to serve on the task force.
- The role of the task force will be to:
  - Develop a list of budgeting priorities
  - Recommend a budgeting strategy to the RATC board by August 2017
  - Submit quarterly reports to the Howard County Community Foundation on fund expenditures
- Jim Webb moved to establish the Malcolm and Jimmie Black Task Force. Julia seconded it; motion passed.

### **Regular Reports**

#### **Trail Supervisor's Report (Jim Webb):**

- County crews are working on the McAfee Knob fire road and will be bulldozing on May 9. A work crew has recently brushed in social trails off the Andy Layne Trail. Copperheads observed near bridge on the Andy Layne Trail.
- Jim discussed a possible relocation off Andy Layne; ATC will approve with permission from Roanoke Cement.
- A high-flowing creek that crosses the AT near Route 624 is causing hikers some problems. NPS has been consulted but has not responded. Need to resolve this within a month.

#### **Hike Master's Report (Bob Peckman and Susan Herndon-Powell):**

No report.

**Membership Report (Bruce Agnew):**

Troutville Trail Days are June 2-3; volunteers are needed to staff the RATC/ATC table. Contact Kathryn Herndon-Powell to volunteer.

**McAfee Knob Task Force Report (Brian Boggs):**

- Eight people attended the recent first aid and CPR/emergency training. Two Ridgerunners attended: Brian Boggs and Mark Gustafson. Four RATC hike leaders attended: Brian Boggs, Jamie Brown, Bob Peckman, and Kris Peckman.
- There are 46 volunteer Ridgerunners, as of the March 25, 2017, list. All but one are McAfee Knob Taskforce Meetup members.
- Nine of the 13 new volunteers from the March training have gone on orientation hikes to McAfee Knob, based on Meetup signups.

**Newsletter Editor’s Report (Bob Peckman):**

No report.

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

No report -- Homer has been ill.

**Land Management Supervisor’s Report (David Youmans):**

No report.

**Conservation Supervisor’s Report (Butch Kelly):**

- During two work days at the Burruss site, a group of Radford students helped pull multiflora rose and other invasive weeds. Other groups, including college students and middle schoolers, have recently pulled invasives such garlic mustard. On April 29, a team of four people pulled 240 pounds of garlic mustard around Campbell Shelter.
- Butch described his phenology project (how climate change affects plant growth). He also led a natural history hike up to McAfee Knob with Friends of the Blue Ridge Parkway. He’s planning other hikes this spring to locate rare birds.

**Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:10.**

**RATC Treasurer's Report Info for Minutes  
(as of 5/8/2017)**

Balance in Checking	\$52,702.42
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
Grant: Katharyn Elizabeth Fell Demaree/Memory Malcolm & Jimmie Black**	\$25,000
NPS/ATC Port-a-Johns McAfee Knob***	\$4,900
Total Assets:	\$67,331.17
Total Equity:	\$67,331.17

\*\* Amounts are included in balance in checking

Net Loss for Period:

Total Income during Period: \$27,196.46

**Significant Items:**

Dues	\$215.00
Donations	\$26,981.21
Roanoke Valley Gives Fundraiser	\$00.00
Receipts Donation Box (McAfee/Tinker)	\$0.00
Stickers (\$2.50 each)	\$0.00
Patches RATC (\$5)	\$0.00
Patch 113 Mile (\$3)	
T-Shirt (\$20)	\$0.00
Hat (\$10)	
Amazon Smile	
Interest Income- Savings	\$0.06
Interest Income – Checking	\$0.19
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: \$622.79

**Significant Items:**

Treasurer, Glenvar Library room & projector	\$25.00
Jim Webb (rock net/chain sharpening)	\$114.62
Lowe's/Jim Webb Sinking Ck-Homer Witcher Laurel Ck Shelter	\$91.55
Susan Herndon-Powell	\$50.27
Diana Christopulos (NPS/USFS/RATC P/S Mtg. 4/5)	\$58.35
Handy John Handy Rentals – 3/26/17 thru 4/22/17	\$190.00
Bud LaRoche (MWC) Flat tire, McAfee fire rd. prep for dozer work	\$93.00