

RATC Board Meeting Minutes

June 5, 2017

Glenvar Branch Library, 3917 Daugherty Road
Salem, VA

In Attendance:

Board members: Bruce Agnew, Brian Boggs, Blanche Brower, Diana Christopulos, Susan Herndon-Powell, Anne Kohinke, John Miller, Bob Peckman, Susan Terwilliger, David Youmans, Jim Webb

Others: Dee Case, Bill Gordge, Bill Hendon, Denise Hendon, Conner McBane, Mike Rieley

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

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Corrections: None

Approved: Anne Kohinke moved to approve; Bruce Agnew seconded; the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report (Blanche Brower):

Financial activity since last board meeting (as of 6/5/2017):

Total in Checking:	\$52,045.60
Total Assets:	\$66,574.40
Receipts:	\$ 502.96
Expenditures:	\$ 1,095.47

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

Blanche reported that there are still some problems with getting PayPal receipts.

Membership Report (Bruce Agnew):

Five new members have joined between May 8 and June 5. Bruce has placed membership brochures in the Blue Ridge Library and elsewhere. Barbara Duerk has offered to bring the RATC membership display to the ATC Biennial Meeting in Maine (August 4-11).

President's Report (Diana Christopulos):

- Update on task force for *Malcolm & Jimmie Black Memorial Fund* [grant from Katharyn Elizabeth Fell Demaree Fund] to develop management plan and provide quarterly updates to Community Foundation of Howard County, IN: No news this month because of intense involvement with Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) issues.
- Creation of RATC "President's Box": Diana has asked board members to create a calendar that lists their job duties month-by-month over a year. This will help new people stepping into board positions to more quickly understand their duties by having a written document in place. RATC counselors will help gather these timetables.

- Response to NPS proposal for “free speech” zone at McAfee Knob trailhead on Va 311: Ranger Todd Remaley informed Diana recently that a Jehovah’s Witnesses group wants to use part of the McAfee Knob parking lot – the emergency parking area – to hand out religious literature. Remaley explained that since this request is a free speech issue, a location must be provided. But there are safety issues involved with the McAfee Knob lot location, and an alternative (such as the 621 Craig Creek parking lot) should be found.
- Mountain Valley Pipeline update:
 - Diana is working on a response to an MVP administrator’s May 28 editorial in the Roanoke Times, in which MVP claims to be committed to safety and the integrity of natural resources.
 - Diana described Virginia DEQ’s confusing messages about its pipeline review. In April, DEQ announced that it would require both the MVP and the Atlantic Coast Pipeline to obtain Clean Water Act 401 water quality certification. This would mean providing details about individual crossings of streams and wetlands. However, seven weeks later, DEQ reversed itself and said it would rely only on a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers nationwide permit.
 - ATC has hired videographers to clearly show where the pipeline will run. Videos were shot on Peters Mountain and at Kelly Knob last weekend. Part of the concern about environmental damage is the presence of karst topography, where sinkholes and caves are common.
 - On June 9, Diana (RATC), NPS, and ATC will meet with MVP in Roanoke (the first such meeting since May 2016). Diana will ask questions about water quality permitting, with special emphasis on steep slopes and high hazard zones where the pipeline crosses the AT.
 - FERC will issue the final environmental impact statement for the MVP on June 23.
 - Diana recommended supporting a candidate for governor who is opposed to the pipeline.

Program (Conner McBane, Natural Resource Specialist, ATC):

- Conner’s topic was habitat management on the A.T. He explained how small habitat management projects fit into the larger landscape, including private land, and suggested ways that individuals can improve biodiversity.
- Burruss Tract, Symms Gap, Rice Field, and Sinking Creek are examples of open areas on the AT. They are prized for their wildlife, long-distance views, flora, historical representation of farming practices, and rarity. These tracts require much maintenance to control encroaching vegetation, protect viewshed, and preserve rare bird species, such as the golden-winged warbler and loggerhead shrike.
- Individuals can help preserve these spaces by removing invasive plants, supporting a natural habitat, planting native species, and creating a forest management plan. The goal is to manage property in an environmentally responsible way.

July program: Butch Kelly, “Appalachian Wildflowers.” Butch, a wildflower expert and gifted photographer, will help us learn more about one of our regional riches.

Action items

1. FILL VACANT COUNSELOR POSITION ON BOARD

Diana Christopulos

Jim Beeson, a through-hiker and active RATC volunteer, has agreed to fill the open counselor position. Diana nominated him; Bruce Agnew seconded; the motion passed.

2. RESOLUTION ON FIRE ROAD

There was a brief discussion about whether a gate is needed where the Trail crosses the fire road to keep hikers from getting lost. It was decided that no resolution is needed.

PREPARATION FOR KONNAROCK AND CORN BOIL

The Konnarock crew (with volunteers from the University of Central Missouri) has put in 15 rock steps at Sinking Creek. The crew will return on July 12 for 2 weeks. The Corn Boil is July 22 at the Catawba Community Center.

Regular Reports

Trail Supervisor’s Report (Jim Webb):

Jim’s proposed plan to replace the washed-out footbridge at VA 624/Newport Road was approved by NPS, with the stipulation that the ATC (Josh Kloehn) first must monitor for endangered bats at dusk before removing any trees. These tasks were completed, and the bridge can now be finished.

Hike Master’s Report (Susan Herndon-Powell):

Susan reported that some issues have arisen concerning the proposed health history form. Some hike leaders don’t like the form for privacy reasons. Diana Christopulos and Bruce Agnew suggested using a simple form that hikers carry with them, as the PATC does. This discussion will be continued at another meeting.

McAfee Knob Task Force Report (Brian Boggs & Dave Youmans):

The Task Force is currently in a lull. Some patrol days are not being covered. There are 64 MKTF members on Meetup but only 46 trained Ridgerunners. Of those, 30 to 34 are active. Trail reports don’t always match sign-up commitments. A new Ridgerunner orientation will be held on June 17.

Conservation Supervisor’s Report (Butch Kelly/Conner McBane):

Open area management has slowed down. Some herbicide spraying at Pickle Branch and Campbell areas; monitoring for ailanthus (tree-of-heaven). Conner hopes to get Radford (and possibly Virginia Tech) students out to do invasive weed removal at Symms Gap this fall.

Newsletter Editor’s Report (Bob Peckman):

Information for the summer issue of the Trail Blazer is due to Bob ASAP.

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

Homer out of the hospital but still has a long recovery ahead. He and Therese welcome company, cards, etc.

Land Management Supervisor (David Youmans)

No report.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30.

**RATC Treasurer's Report Info for Minutes
(as of 6/5/2017)**

Balance in Checking	\$52,045.60
Bequest from Robert L. Trimpi Trust//Pine Swamp Shelter***	\$4,905.03
McAfee Task Force Fund***	\$1,164.52
ATC LL Bean Grant VT Leave No Trace***	\$2,365.28
Grant: Katharyn Elizabeth Fell Demaree/Memory Malcolm & Jimmie Black**	\$25,000.00
NPS/ATC Port-a-Johns McAfee Knob***	\$4,710.00
Total Assets:	\$66,574.40
Total Equity:	\$66,574.40

** Amounts are included in balance in checking

Net Loss for Period:

Total Income during Period:	\$502.96
Significant Items:	
Dues	\$145.00
Donations	\$350.00
Roanoke Valley Gives Fundraiser	\$00.00
Receipts Donation Box (McAfee/Tinker)	\$00.00
Stickers (\$2.50 each)	\$2.50
Patches RATC (\$5)	\$0.00
Patch 113 Mile (\$3)	\$0.00
T-Shirt (\$20)	\$0.00
Hat (\$10)	\$0.00

Amazon Smile	\$5.00
Interest Income- Savings	\$0.06
Interest Income – Checking	\$0.40
Refund Service Charge	\$0.00
Interest Income-CD-Yearly Int. 2016	\$0.00
Extra from PayPal	\$0.00
ATC LL Bean Grant VT Leave No Trace	\$0.00
Total Expense during Period:	\$1,095.47
Significant Items:	
Roanoke Gives/chg. for handling funds	\$89.73
Treasurer, Glenvar Library room & projector	\$25.00
Jim Webb (chain sharpening)	\$15.00
Sir Speedy (Blazers/475)	\$387.00
Postmaster (\$150 Permit #509 postage/2 bk. stamps \$19.60)	\$169.60
*Lowe's (rebar Andy Layne Trail)/Homer \$35.14...	\$111.14
Mike Vaughn (removal of sofa from Andy Layne Trail lot)	\$9.00
SiteVision (GeoTrust-SSL Security Certificate/Domain Name	\$99.00
Handy John Handy Rentals (4/23-5/20 1 Handycap/1 reg.	\$190.00
*Lowe's (rebar Andy Layne Trail)/Homer \$35.14 stain graffiti War Spur/bench Doc's Knob)	