

RATC Board Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2017
Glenvar Branch Library, 3917 Daugherty Road

In Attendance:

Board members: Bruce Agnew, Jim Beeson, Brian Boggs, Diana Christopoulos, Susan Herndon-Powell, Butch Kelly, Anne Kohinke, John Miller, Bob Peckman, Susan Terwilliger, David Youmans, Jim Webb, Homer Witcher, Therese Witcher

Others: Joanne Derryberry, Kim Karns, Scott Karns, Virginia Klara, Bert Spetzler, Nancy Wallace

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

Minutes of Previous Meeting (Susan Terwilliger):

Corrections: None

Approved: Motion to pass was seconded and approved.

Treasurer's Report (Blanche Brower):

Blanche was absent; Diana gave the report. We have a healthy balance, including some special funds. Jim Beeson pointed out that the Amazon Smile program donates .05 to designated nonprofits for every dollar spent. Susan Herndon-Powell or Diana will remind RATC membership of this.

Financial activity since last board meeting (as of 7/10/2017):

Total in Checking:	\$52,106.30
Total Assets:	\$66,735.17
Receipts:	\$ 822.94
Expenditures:	\$ 719.31

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

Membership Report (Bruce Agnew):

Since the last board meeting, we have welcomed three new members and three renewals. Total members: just under 600 with many family memberships, plus ~ 1,000 on Meetup and 1,600 Facebook followers.

President's Report (Diana Christopoulos):

- Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) update: Met with MVP 6/15/2017. Environmental issues discussed included AT scenic integrity, surface water, and runoff impacts with an increased risk of landslides and explosions. Pipeline poses a significant hazard to hikers, communities (such as Newport), and water quality. A great loss of tourist value, especially around Kelly Knob and Peters Mountain, is likely. FERC has not yet approved anything; its earlier environmental impact statement claimed no measurable impact except on forests.
- MVP agency review: Approvals are required from FERC, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, and Virginia DEQ. DEQ must issue water permits for pipeline to go forward. Other states (Connecticut and New York) have stopped FERC-approved pipelines by denying water permits. RATC is working with local and county representatives to stop MVP using water permit objections. Too much fracked gas is being shipped; there is no demonstrable need for it in the public interest. MVP surveyors are regarded by many as "legal trespassers."

- Creation of RATC President's Box: Diana has requested a Board of Directors annual Schedule of Actions to be entered onto an Excel spreadsheet. This will provide a month-by-month summary of duties for each position, which will help both current and future board members. Counselors (Jim Beeson, Anne Kohinke) will oversee this effort.
- Open positions: Need a counselor to replace Susan Herndon-Powell, who is now hikemaster. Need nominations to fill the position by September 11 (next board meeting). Also need a new treasurer. Jim Beeson recommended Terry Shipley, a Ridgerunner and Konnarock crew member who currently lives in Indiana but is moving to this area soon. In general, we are looking for younger board members, more diverse leadership, and people comfortable with social media.
- Task force on Malcolm & Jimmie Black Memorial Fund [grant from Katharyn Elizabeth Fell Demaree Fund] update: We have not yet met to develop management plan and provide quarterly updates to Community Foundation of Howard County, IN. A meeting is planned before the next RATC board meeting.

Program: "Appalachian Wildflowers" (Butch Kelly, RATC Conservation Chair):

Butch, a wildflower expert and gifted photographer, shared some stunning photos of area wildflowers during all four seasons. These flowers, which he called "old friends," are mostly found along the AT.

September program: Kathy O'Neill, Roanoke College. Kathy will discuss trail ecology and climate change.

Action Items (Diana):

1. **ATC Regional Directory**: ATC is preparing an online regional directory for clubs, ATC staff, and agency partners to view information (including contact info) for all regional contacts. RATC's club leadership will be included. This information will only be accessible by those they are shared with and will be updated periodically. Recommended action: direct ATC staff to use listings on the RATC website for the regional directory. Bob Peckman so moved, Susan Herndon-Powell seconded, and the motion was passed.
2. **Preparation for Konnarock and Corn Boil**: The Konnarock crew will be working at Sinking Creek July 12-16 and July 20-24. RATC trail maintainers will be working with the crew. The Corn Boil is July 22 at the Catawba Community Center. Bob Peckman will send out reminder postcards this week.

Regular Reports

Trail Supervisor's Report (Jim Webb):

Recent work includes putting in steps on part of the Andy Layne Trail. Work continues on the 624 bridge. Some through-hikers have reported blowdowns in the Mountain Lake area. Jim Beeson reported that the owner of Northwest Hardware is offering the club a 25% discount (including Stihl items, such as chain saws and trimmers) for trail work. Jim has notified Northwest Hardware that we would like to use the Vinton and Brambleton Avenue stores for this purpose.

Hikemaster Report (Susan Herndon-Powell):

Health history form options discussed at the last meeting are still under consideration. Susan is gathering information from other clubs and hike leaders to come up with a form that works for us. She will bring more details and a recommendation to the board meeting in September.

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

There are currently 49 trained Ridgerunners. Turnout has been good during the past month. Volunteers are occasionally encountering lost hikers. Free RATC T-shirts will be available to Ridgerunners at the Corn Boil.

Conservation Supervisor's Report (Butch Kelly):

Butch and Conner McBane have sprayed for ailanthus (tree-of-heaven) around the McAfee Knob/Sawtooth Ridge area and at the Burruss Tract. Radford University students are helping with invasive species removal. A rare plant search is planned for later this summer.

Newsletter Editor's Report (Bob Peckman):

The summer Blazer will arrive in July (~ 425 hard copies). Bob asked board members and hike leaders to note Blazer and other deadlines (as posted on the Schedule of Actions) as a prompt to submit information in a timely manner. Bruce Agnew suggested putting extra Blazers in new member packets.

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

Homer is recovering well. Therese reported that the Lambert's Meadow shelter privies were moved with the help of three people.

Land Management Supervisor (Dave Youmans):

No report.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30.

**RATC Treasurer's Report Info for Minutes
(as of 7/10/2017)**

Balance in Checking	\$52,106.30
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***	\$4,520.00
Total Assets:	\$66,735.17
Total Equity:	\$66,735.17

** Amounts are included in balance in checking

Net Loss for Period:

Total Income during Period:	\$822.94
Significant Items:	
Dues	\$375.00
Donations	\$440.00
Roanoke Valley Gives Fundraiser	\$00.00
Receipts Donation Box (McAfee/Tinker)	\$00.00
Stickers (\$2.50 each)	\$2.50
Patches RATC (\$5)	\$5.00
Patch 113 Mile (\$3)	\$0.00

T-shirt (\$20)	\$0.00
Hat (\$10)	\$0.00
Amazon Smile	\$0.00
Interest Income- Savings	\$0.06
Interest Income – Checking	\$0.38
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: \$719.31

Significant Items:

Treasurer, Glenvar Library room & projector	\$25.00
Jim Webb (safety fence \$114.31/signs \$51.45)	\$165.76
Bruce Agnew (brochures \$103.99/nm pkts \$29.75/pix foam bd \$28.28)	\$171.99
Lowe's/Jim Webb (Andy Layne \$60.78/McAfee \$105.78)	\$166.56
Handy John Handy Rentals (5/21 thru 6/17) 1 Handycap/1 reg.	\$190.00