

RATC Board Meeting Minutes
Sept. 11, 2017
Glenvar Branch Library, 3917 Daugherty Road

In Attendance:

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

Others: Johanna Arredondo, Josh Kloehn, Kathy O'Neill, Carl Zipper

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

Approval of July 2017 Minutes (Susan Terwilliger):

Corrections: None

Approved: David Youmans moved to approve the minutes, Bruce Agnew seconded, and the motion was passed.

Treasurer's Report (Blanche Brower/Diana Christopulos):

Blanche was absent with out-of-town company; Diana gave the treasurer's report. The club has accrued about \$1,500 through dues and donations since the last report. Biggest expense during this period was printing and mailing the Blazer. Financial activity since last board meeting (as of 9/11/2017):

Total in Checking:	\$52,213.26
Total Assets:	\$66,842.25
Receipts:	\$ 1,531.96
Expenditures:	\$ 1,452.31

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

Membership Report (Bruce Agnew):

Since the last board meeting, we welcomed nine new members and 22 renewals. Total members: 650 (550 memberships) plus 1,370 on Meetup.

President's Report (Diana Christopulos):

- Triple Crown meeting in Roanoke August 24-25: New ranger, Carin Farley, now on NPS staff. She is temporary but may become permanent. NPS staff addressed visitor use management issues. Plans for Catawba Valley Greenway will be discussed at October board meeting. Proposal to build a new trail to Catawba Valley is ready to submit to park service.
- Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) update: Much evidence of the environmental and safety hazards associated with the pipelines. Some of these include fire, water, erosion, and landslides. Six high-hazard areas are near the AT. Jefferson National Forest has steep slopes and is in a seismic zone where earthquakes have occurred. High rains are likely to contribute to flooding near pipeline. The City of Roanoke has officially objected to the Mountain Valley Pipeline, in part because of huge potential storm water costs to the city and its citizens.
 - At least five approvals are required (FERC, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers). None have occurred yet. DEQ water permits are required, and other states (Connecticut and New York) have stopped FERC-approved pipelines by denying water permits.
 - Hearing in Radford; public forums in Newport and Cave Spring. Paid protestors from pro-pipeline group attended these meetings.

PROGRAM: "Climate, Conservation, and the Earth's Critical Zone" (Prof. Kathy O'Neill, Roanoke College):

Kathy addressed some of the potential impacts of climate change on Virginia's AT, emphasizing how conservation management of soils and forests (the Earth's "critical zone") can offset greenhouse gas emissions and promote increased resilience in the face of a changing climate. There is more than three times as much carbon in the soil and vegetation as in the atmosphere, making conservation management vital to an effective climate strategy. Land management is an integrated unit of Earth's critical zone. Citizen science efforts can be very helpful. Global "weirding" refers to increased storm activity, warming, and cooling. Effects on the AT include increased erosion, blowdowns, and drought plus changes to water flow. Virginia's climate could be as warm as northern Florida's by 2099.

October program: Jim Beeson, "My 2016 Thru Hike"

External Updates and Action Items:

1. LL BEAN GRANT FOR VIRGINIA TECH OUTREACH ON MCAFEE/TRIPLE CROWN (Johanna Arredondo):

Johanna gave an update on her fall plans to educate the Virginia Tech student community on Leave No Trace. VT students sometimes make up over half of Triple Crown visitors, and many of them are unaware of LNT principles. Through the LL Bean program, Johanna has reached out through dorm visits, fliers, TV, radio (WUVT), festivals, and student events. She's also persuaded some websites, such as All Trails, to add information explaining LNT, outdoor ethics, and how to take care of the trail. Johanna shared planning for the coming year and asked RATC volunteers to help with outreach to fulfill our end of the bargain with LL Bean.

2. FOREST FRAGMENTATION AND MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE (Carl Zipper):

Carl, a Virginia Tech faculty member, is leading an effort to challenge MVP and the permitting agencies on grounds that the reforestation and invasive species control procedures of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for MVP are inadequate. He argues that FERC should issue revised reforestation and invasive species control procedures in the form of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. He wants to discuss further action with our board. Carl needs co-petitioners to attain legal standing. He is consulting lawyers on how to achieve this. He sees his role as an intervener – the goal is to request a rehearing and stay to minimize harmful effects on forests.

3. RESOLUTION ON DEMAREE FUND GRANT TO RATC (Diana Christopulos):

Diana reported on the August 3, 2017, task force meeting (attended by Bruce Agnew, Kevin Black, Blanche Brower, Diana Christopulos, Jim Webb, Homer Witcher, and Therese Witcher) to discuss the \$25,000 unrestricted grant to RATC from the Katharyn Elizabeth Fell Demaree Fund of the Howard County Community Foundation (Indiana) in memory of Malcolm and Jimmie Black. The task force recommends that the funds be expended as follows:

- a. \$5,000 in the 2017 budget, with the following priorities (any unspent funds remain in the general fund):
 - i. Doc's Knob Shelter deck to manage flooding in front of shelter: \$2,000 in materials (Homer and Therese Witcher).
 - ii. Equipment for trail maintenance: approximately \$2,500 (Jim Webb).
- b. \$5,000 in 2018 budget: priorities to be established.
- c. \$15,000 to establish an endowment fund: money would be managed in a balanced portfolio with a balance left for withdrawals (around \$5,000) for certain items.
- d. Diana moved to accept this resolution on how to use the grant money. After discussion, the motion passed.

4. CREATION OF RATC "PRESIDENT'S BOX" (Diana Christopulos):

Diana provided an update on this ongoing project to create a spreadsheet of the calendar year for each RATC position that details the month-by-month responsibilities of that position. People involved:

- a. Officer tab: Jim Beeson
- b. Other board: Anne Kohinke
- c. Ancillaries: Brian Boggs

5. OPEN COUNSELOR POSITION – Deferred to October. We are seeking diverse leadership comfortable working with social media.

Regular Reports

Trail Supervisor's Report (Jim Webb):.

Recent activity includes workdays on the Andy Layne Trail – two more needed to finish up the 150 wooden steps in this section. Work continues once a month on the Sinking Creek relocation. The bridge over Route 624 is in progress. Jim Beeson will take Jim Webb's place at the October 14 RPC meeting.

- **Josh Kloehn's report:** Wapiti Shelter will be replaced. Relocation ongoing around low spots on Dismal Creek. Nineteen bridges in poor shape will be removed. The Pine Swamp Shelter roof will be rebuilt. This shelter is currently in danger from falling trees. The shelter cannot easily be removed because of long distances between shelters on this stretch of the AT. A meeting with the Forest Service is planned following a discussion with Diana Christopoulos, Josh Kloehn, Jim Webb, Homer Witcher, and Therese Witcher.

Hikemaster's Report (Susan Herndon-Powell):

Susan will bring proposed health history forms to the October meeting. For information on liability insurance, we should consult ATC southeastern office. A volunteer services agreement (for hike leaders) is needed for hikes on the AT, with a separate policy for non-AT hikes. Hike leader training will occur on Saturday, September 16.

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

An orientation hike for new volunteer Ridgerunners occurred on September 10. Kathryn Herndon-Powell reports 94% coverage of patrol areas so far in 2017 and 13,400 visitors.

Conservation Supervisor's Report (Butch Kelly):

No report.

Newsletter Editor's Report (Bob Peckman):

Bob needs work hike dates from leaders for the Blazer. He also requested a new member report and described problems in collecting overdue member dues.

Shelter Supervisors' Report (Homer & Therese Witcher):

Work on the Doc's Knob Shelter deck will begin since funds have been approved. Therese made a motion to award Kevin Black a lifetime membership for his long and faithful service on work crews. Diana seconded, and the motion passed.

Land Management Supervisor's Report (Dave Youmans):

No report.

December 2 was chosen as the date of the holiday potluck.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:40.

**RATC Treasurer's Report Info for Minutes
(as of 9/11/2017)**

Balance in Checking	\$52,213.26
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***	\$4,140.00
Total Assets:	\$66,842.25
Total Equity:	\$66,842.25

** Amounts are included in balance in checking

Net Loss for Period:

Total Income during Period: \$1,531.96

Significant Items:

Dues	\$745.00
Donations	\$779.00
Roanoke Valley Gives Fundraiser	\$0.00
Receipts Donation Box (McAfee/Tinker)	\$0.00
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	\$0.40
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: \$1,452.31

Significant Items:

Lowe's (624 bridge \$86.33/McAfee \$12.48/Andy Layne \$30.40)	\$129.21
Jim Webb (chains sharpened)	\$30.00
Handy John Handy Rentals (6/18 thru 7/15)	\$190.00
Sir Speedy (Blazer, 475/\$387.00; postcards, 488/\$131.10)	\$518.10
Corn Boil (supplies \$41.31/used \$15 for her dues)	\$26.31
Meet-up	\$89.94
TransFirst Charge	\$0.70
Lowe's (J. Webb, Andy Layne \$114/H. Witcher, shelter outhse door \$29.06)	\$143.06
Handy John Handy Rentals (6/16 thru 8/12)	\$190.00
Lowe's (J. Webb, Andy Layne \$98.23/H. Witcher, chain/bar \$25.52)	\$123.75
PayPal	\$11.24