

**RATC Board Meeting Minutes**  
October 2, 2017  
Glenvar Branch Library, 3917 Daugherty Road

**In Attendance:**

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

Others: Pearl Gearhart, Campbell Marsh, Tom Moore, Bill Neilan, Jill and Randy Pennington, Alan Ronk, Nancy Slaughter

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

**Approval of September 2017 Minutes (Susan Terwilliger):**

Corrections: None

Approved: Brian Boggs moved to approve the minutes, John Miller seconded, and the motion was passed.

**Treasurer's Report (Blanche Brower):**

Terry Shipley has agreed to be the new treasurer. The transition from Blanche to Terry should occur by December.

Financial activity since last board meeting (as of 10/2/2017):

Total in Checking:	\$51,790.75
Total Assets:	\$66,419.80
Receipts:	\$ 387.95
Expenditures:	\$ 810.40

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

**Membership Report (Bruce Agnew):**

- RATC and ATC will share a booth at Roanoke's Go Outside Festival October 13-15. More volunteers are needed.
- Jim Beeson suggested encouraging nonmembers signing up for Meetup hikes to join the club. There are currently 692 members in RATC.

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

- MVP status update: A decision about the pipeline is still deferred; nothing has been decided yet. DEQ has not yet issued its ruling on water quality permitting. Delays are good for anti-pipeline movement; MVP is losing its window to act before winter.
- Progress on speaker for December 2 Holiday Potluck: Jennifer Farr-Davis is a possible choice. We also need a good speaker for the March meeting.
- RATC Board of Directors: Should inform Diana if interested in serving another year.
- President's Box progress: Still filling in details.

**PROGRAM (Jim Beeson): "My Thru Hike" (2016):**

Jim (trail name "Hoosier") described in delightful detail some highlights of his 2016 through hike – especially the people he met. Some of these were trail angels, who provided services to hikers throughout their journey. For example, one family drove 14 hours to offer trail magic to through hikers. Another provided pizzas. He witnessed a great deal of kindness among complete strangers; people judged each other on their behavior as hikers and not on wealth or social status. Jim said a through hike is a huge mental (as well as physical) challenge, and each hiker needs an ironclad reason for making the hike. He recommended reading *Appalachian Trials* to prepare.

**External Updates and Action Items:**

1. EXPLORE ESTABLISHMENT OF ENDOWMENT FUND (Alan Ronk, Executive Director, Foundation for

## **Roanoke Valley):**

At its September 11, 2017, meeting the RATC board voted to explore establishing an Agency Endowment Fund with the Foundation for Roanoke Valley (FRV). The purpose of the fund would be to provide a financially sound vehicle for large donations and bequests to RATC. Diana Christopulos met with Alan Ronk on September 20. Ronk outlined an agreement wherein:

- RATC would establish an Agency Endowment Fund with a minimum balance of \$25,000.
- RATC would receive an annual payment based on interest earned in the account, with a goal of long-term growth.
- RATC would be free to solicit donations and bequests to the fund, paid either directly to the fund or to RATC, and to add surplus funds at any time.
- RATC would be free to withdraw any amounts over \$25,000 as long as the withdrawal is properly authorized by RATC and RATC remains a 501.c.3 organization.
- FRV would manage the fund within its investment portfolio, include the fund in its annual audit, and send official thanks to donors who contribute directly to the fund.
- Ronk further described the FRV as a professionally managed vehicle that holds \$65M in assets and has 30 years of clean audits. Its motto is “Do good things with your money.” Managing charitable endowment funds is FRV’s main purpose.

### Actions requested:

- A period of discussion followed Ronk’s presentation. John Miller and Jim Beeson asked several questions: Does FRV actively manage funds? Can we see investment choices, i.e., what fund is invested in? Have organizations pulled out of agreements with FRV?
- Ronk noted that the money placed into this fund is “put away” irrevocably with a spending rate policy of 4% each year. This would be a long-term endowment to maximize our reputation, help build for the future, and attract other donors.
- Motion to prepare documents to establish an Agency Endowment Fund with the Foundation for Roanoke Valley for vote by RATC Board of Directors at our November 6 meeting.

## **2. TURN IN VOLUNTEER HOURS TO TRAIL SUPERVISOR (Jim Webb):**

Jim requested that RATC volunteers submit hours of service to him immediately (needed for end of fiscal year report).

## **3. APPOINT NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2018-2019 BOD ELECTION (Diana Christopulos):**

Diana needs to identify which board members want to continue to serve and which positions will need to be filled.

## **4. OPEN COUNSELOR POSITION – Chris Means, who is currently our assistant hikemaster and very adept with Meetup and other social media, is willing to take Susan Herndon-Powell’s place as counselor. Diana nominated him, Anne seconded the nomination, and the motion passed.**

## **5. IDENTIFY INFORMATION NEEDED TO DETERMINE INSURANCE COSTS FOR RATC HIKE LEADERS (Susan Herndon-Powell):**

We have found an insurance agency (used by the Carolina Mountain Club) that would cover our hike leaders. We also need to:

- Find out whether any RATC work hikes are not covered by insurance.
- Find out whether our conservation hikes (led by Conner McBane and Butch Kelly) are covered by insurance.
- Get quotes and fill out an application. Directors and officers (D & O) would be protected by this basic policy, which would cover costs to hire an attorney if necessary.

## **6. SET DATES FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2018 BOARD MEETINGS (Diana Christopulos):**

Suggested dates: Monday, January 8, and Monday, February 5.

**Regular Reports**

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

Finished the bridge over Route 624. The wooden steps on the Andy Layne trail are now completed.

**Hikemaster's Report (Susan Herndon-Powell):**

Susan discussed creating a searchable hikers' resource on our website.

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

Orientation Ridgerunner hike for McAfee Knob was held on September 15; orientation hike for Dragon's Tooth scheduled for October 6. Good overall coverage during the past month.

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

No report.

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

No report (Bob is on vacation).

**Shelter Supervisors' Report (Homer & Therese Witcher):**

Diana gave the report for Homer and Therese. John's Spring privy needs to be moved this winter. October 19, 21, and 22 are possible dates for Doc's Knob shelter work hikes.

**Land Management Supervisor's Report (Dave Youmans):**

No report.

**Next Meeting:** November 6. Program will be presented by Bill Hackworth and Meagan Cupka, Blue Ridge Land Conservancy (preserving land and AT corridor).

**Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30.**

**RATC Treasurer's Report Info for Minutes  
(as of 10/2/2017)**

Balance in Checking	\$51,790.75
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***	\$3,950.00
Total Assets:	\$66,419.80

Total Equity: \$66,419.80

\*\* Amounts are included in balance in checking

Net Loss for Period:

Total Income during Period: \$387.95

**Significant Items:**

Dues	\$365.00
Donations	\$0.00
Roanoke Valley Gives Fundraiser	\$0.00
Receipts Donation Box (McAfee/Tinker)	\$0.00
Stickers (\$2.50 each)	\$2.50
Patches RATC (\$5)	\$0.00
Patch 113 Mile (\$3)	\$0.00
T-shirt (\$20)	\$20.00
Hat (\$10)	\$0.00
Amazon Smile	\$0.00
Interest Income- Savings	\$0.06
Interest Income – Checking	\$0.39
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: \$810.40

**Significant Items:**

Homer Witcher (sharpen chainsaw chains)	\$19.50
Jim Webb (sharpen chainsaw chains/Maasdam rope puller)	\$133.98
Handy John Handy Rentals (1 reg/1 handy caps PJ, 8/13 thru 9/9)	\$190.00
Sir Speedy (475 Blazers)	\$406.84
State Corp. Comm. (reg. fee 1 yr)	\$25.00
Diana Christopulos (rental Glenvar Library 9/7 room & projector)	\$25.00
PayPal	\$10.08