

**RATC Board Meeting Minutes**  
February 5, 2018  
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, Chris Means, John Miller, Susan Terwilliger, Jim Webb, Homer Witcher, Therese Witcher, David Youmans

Others: Chasity Graham, Dan Johnson, Ed Kohinke, Tim Lewis, Bill Neilan, Nancy Wallace

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

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

Corrections: None

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

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

Blanche noted that the board needs to approve the 2018 budget.

Financial activity since last board meeting (as of 2/5/2018):

Total in Checking:	\$51,212.93	
Total Assets:	\$65,926.75	
Receipts:	\$ 1,187.48	
Expenditures:	\$ 932.48	(Full report included at the end of the minutes.)

**Membership Report (Bruce Agnew):**

RATC now has 592 members, including 10 new since the last meeting, with 29 renewals. Bruce has RATC brochures available for distribution to prospective members.

**PROGRAM: McAfee Knob through a Runner's Eyes (Tim Lewis):**

Tim is an ultramarathoner who has summited McAfee Knob on training runs dozens of times, often at sunrise and sunset. Many of his pictures are on RATC's Facebook page. He showed a stunning video, "A Sky Full of Painters," composed of photos from his runs up the Knob.

**Updates and Action Items:**

**1. PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Diana Christopulos):**

- Updates
  - Starlight Bikes donation: Starlight Bikes, a Roanoke cycling business, sells T-shirts decorated with an image of McAfee Knob. Starlight has offered to give part of the shirt sale proceeds to RATC. The owners have donated more than \$200 to date.
  - Upcoming board meeting dates: The April 2 meeting will not have a program. Andrew Downs of ATC will attend, and the focus will be orientation of new board members. The May 7 meeting will include a program by Eric Giebelstein of Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards (rescheduled from January) subject to his availability.
  - Endowment fund update: RATC will not invest its funds with the Foundation for Roanoke Valley (FRV) unless FRV changes its investment portfolio away from fossil fuel companies. Other firms (such as Edward Jones) with fewer fees and a better mix of investments are under consideration.
  - MVP status update: MVP wants to start cutting trees by February 15. Tree cutting must end by March 31 because of endangered species constraints. MVP is still facing delays in securing

- permissions from different agencies, and many lawsuits are ongoing. The combined effect of these roadblocks might be enough to halt the project if it begins to look like a money-losing proposition.
- March 3 annual meeting and potluck: Moved to Unitarian Universalist Church (across the street from Christ Lutheran) due to scheduling conflict with Lutheran church. Derrick and Bekah Quirin, who through hiked the AT with their baby, Ellie, will present the program.
  - RATC Partnership Meeting (with USFS, ATC, NPS, and others): Still working on a date. May be in April (Carin Farley or Suzanne Dixon may attend).
  - Conflict of interest policy/statement: Recommended for RATC board. This one-page statement, to be signed by board members each year, would apply to all RATC members. Its main provision is that any club member who stands to benefit financially from any business conducted by RATC needs to disclose this. The “interested” person could not vote on any such business matter. Homer Witcher moved that RATC should adopt a conflict of interest statement, Blanche Brower seconded, and the motion passed.

**2. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT (Bruce Agnew, Jim Beeson, Diana Christopulos, Susan Herndon-Powell, Anne Kohinke, Chris Means, Therese Witcher)**

- The committee has had great success in recruiting new board members. They include Jim Beeson, president; Diana Christopulos, vice president; Terri McClure, treasurer; Mike Vaughan, assistant trail supervisor; Chris Means, membership coordinator; Julio Stephens, counselor; and Josiah Leonard, counselor. We are also looking for a new Blazer editor to eventually replace Bob Peckman.
- John Miller moved to adopt this slate of nominees, the motion was seconded, and it passed. The approved list of nominees will be presented at RATC’s March 3 annual meeting.

**3. 2018 BUDGET - preliminary (Blanche Brower, Diana Christopulos, other board members)**

The board did a line-by-line review of the 2017 budget and discussed what changes should be requested for 2018.

Requests include:

- President: \$340 (\$200 added to cover copies, mailings, and other expenses).
- Blazer and reminder postcards (printing): \$1,800 (same as last year; reassess these charges later in 2018).
- McAfee Knob port-a-johns: \$3,000 (Diana will contact NPS to renew funding for another two years).
- RATC annual meeting and potluck: \$750 (includes a \$375 one-time expense to relocate to Unitarian Universalist Church). Fee includes use of video projector, microphones, kitchen amenities, and both large rooms on main floor. Use activities line item to fund and replenish as needed.
- Membership coordinator: \$450 (includes \$50 outreach expenses and covers displays, flyers, banners, and business cards).
- Treasurer: \$1,000 (covers P.O. box, mailing Blazers). Reassess postage costs later in 2018.
- Stocking RATC store: \$1,000 + \$425 currently allocated for volunteer hats, gloves, and other awards (amount may be adjusted after trial run is complete).
- Travel expenses to attend meetings: \$500 out of state, \$200 in state (to cover Southern Partnership meeting in March at Hungry Mother State Park). Four RATC board members plan to attend.
- Demaree grant: \$5,000 (as determined by the board’s resolution at its September 11, 2017, meeting to expend \$5,000 of this grant in the 2018 budget). Spending priorities to be determined.

Diana will send out corrected 2018 budget for an email vote. This will allow new board members to have an approved budget by the April 2 meeting.

**4. UPDATING AND UPGRADING THE RATC STORE (Jim Beeson, Diana Christopulos, Chris Means):**

- Store is up and running with “trial run” for orders:  
<https://shop.presspressmerch.com/collections/roanoke-appalachian-trail-club>

- New RATC hats and T-shirts given as awards for hike leaders and maintainers should be available at the March 3 annual meeting. We will place a wholesale order for stock items around February 12.
- Total cash outlay of \$1,000 (club items) + \$425 (line item for volunteer awards and any additional funds as needed) will be used to stock store to complete the trial run with Press Press Merch. If the experiment succeeds and we decide to use Press Press Merch, we will add a line item to stock and maintain the store in 2018. The board will consider this matter at its April 2 meeting.
- Store will operate on a break-even basis.

**5. RECONSIDER REQUIREMENTS FOR RATC MEETUP PROFILE (Susan Herndon-Powell, Anne Kohinke, Chris Means):**

In April 2017, RATC started requiring a full name and personal photo to join our RATC Meetup group. Some problems have emerged with this approach. Anne has been making the approvals and has documented the situation. Chris, Susan, and Anne will present ideas and suggestions at the next meeting.

**Regular Reports**

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

Jim recently bought some new tools. The first Monday work hike of the year will be on March 5. A trail maintainers meeting will be on March 17 (maintainers only). The Konnarock crew will be in our area for five weeks: May 10-14 and June 27-July 23. The Corn Boil will likely be on July 21.

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

Susan is still waiting for an insurance quote. She expects to have this information by the April 2 meeting. She is also creating new Meetup instructions that will update hike leader guidelines. A training session for hike leaders will be held in the spring.

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

No report (Butch was absent).

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

The Pine Swamp Branch shelter will open in April or May. Wapiti shelter maintenance will require lifting the shelter and replacing the logs (with the help of the U.S. Forest Service).

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

New Ridgerunner training is scheduled for March 3. David Youmans is returning as paid Ridgerunner. Need to encourage inactive or less-active Ridgerunners to fully participate. Anne Kohinke suggested submitting a notice to the Roanoke Times to publicize the training day and recruit Ridgerunners. Master Naturalists are another source of volunteers. RATC hats will be given to Ridgerunners.

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

Some land management volunteers are concerned about being mistaken for pipeline workers. David has encountered a few landowners who did not welcome management folks on their land.

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

No report (Bob was absent). Bob is looking for an eventual replacement.

**Calendar:**

March 3, 2018	RATC Annual Meeting and Pot Luck, 6 PM, Unitarian Universalist Church of Roanoke
March 9-11, 2018	Southern Partnership meeting, Hungry Mother State Park
April 2, 2018	RATC Board of Directors (no program; Andrew Downs and orientation of new board)
April 13-15, 2018	Wilderness First Aid and CPR, MRNRA Work Center, 609 Flat Ridge Rd, Sugar Grove, VA

May 7, 2018

RATC Board of Directors (program: Eric Giebelstein, SAWS)

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30.

**RATC Treasurer's Report Info for Minutes (as of 2/5/2018)**

Balance in Checking	\$51,212.93
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**	\$21,993.45
NPS/ATC Port-a-Johns McAfee Knob***	\$3,000.00
Total Assets:	\$65,926.75
Total Equity:	\$65,926.75

\*\* Amounts are included in balance in checking

Net Loss for Period:

Total Income during Period: \$1,187.48

**Significant Items:**

Dues	\$850.00
Donations	\$165.00
Roanoke Valley Gives Fundraiser	\$0.00
Receipts Donation Box (McAfee/Tinker)	\$169.52
Decals (\$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
Go Fest Sales (hats, patches, stickers)	\$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: \$932.48

**Significant Items:**

Postmaster/postage stamps	\$21.00
Wal-Mart (file boxes, folders, envelopes)	\$26.65
BB&T (print deposit slips)	\$9.11
Homer Witcher (Sunnybrook Garage – 6 chains sharpened)	\$39.00
Jim Webb (Trail Services LLC – Black Grant – tools)	\$556.78
Handy John Handy Rentals (1 handycap/1 reg. MFK 1-1 thru 1-28)	\$190.00
BB&T/Meetup 6 months	\$89.94