

RATC Board Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2019
Glenvar Branch Library, 3917 Daugherty Road

In Attendance:

Board members: Brian Boggs, Diana Christopulos, Susan Herndon-Powell, Anne Kohinke, Josiah Leonard, Terri McClure, Bob Peckman, Julio Stephens, Susan Terwilliger, Jim Webb, Homer Witcher, Therese Witcher

Others: Jonathan Eagle, Mark Farrell, Kathryn Herndon-Powell, Bill Neilan, Jason Thompson

Meeting was called to order by Diana Christopulos (who presided in Jim Beeson's absence) at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of January 7 Board Meeting Minutes (Susan Terwilliger):

Corrections: None

Approved: A motion was made to approve the minutes, it was seconded, and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report (Terri McClure):

Terri recently filed IRS Form 990-N for small tax-exempt organizations. She briefly reviewed the expenditures for last month (e.g., printing and mailing the winter edition of the Trail Blazer). The club's net income for January 2019 was about \$1,700.

Financial activity since last board meeting (as of 2/4/2019):

Total in Checking:	\$48,955.53
Total Monetary Assets:	\$63,669.89
Receipts (YTD):	\$2,809.34
Expenditures (YTD):	\$1,119.89

See RATC website <https://www.ratc.org/financial-report/> for full financial reports.

Membership Report (Chris Means):

Chris was absent; Terri McClure reported on membership totals. As of January 31, 2019, RATC has 654 members (including family memberships). Of these, 117 are unpaid through all of 2018. Terri said these members will be dropped from the club in March if they remain in arrears.

Regular Reports

Trail Supervisor's Report (Jim Webb):

Jim reported that since the government shutdown has ended, he and his crew are back at work clearing trails. The first official work hike of the year is February 25. Work hikes are planned for most weeks in 2019, including hikes led by Bruce Agnew on weekends. Jim plans to attend the one-day Central Regional Partnership Meeting on February 16. He also plans to attend the Southern Partnership Meeting in Black Mountain, N.C., on March 8-10. According to Diana Christopulos, there is money in the RATC annual budget to help cover lodging expenses for those attending the March meeting.

Hikemaster's Report (Susan Herndon-Powell):

Susan reported that RATC has received \$1,125 from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy license plate grant to allow hike leaders to attend a Wilderness First Aid training class during the next few months. The grant will cover tuition for five hike leaders or McAfee Knob Task Force volunteers (if funds are available).

- Each hike leader is expected to lead at least two hikes per year. Susan and Josiah Leonard, the incoming hikemaster, will hold a training class for new leaders on March 30.

Conservation Supervisor's Report (Butch Kelly):

Butch was absent due to illness.

Shelter Supervisors' Report (Homer and Therese Witcher):

Homer said Catawba Mountain shelter needs a new roof but it may not happen right away. The National Park Service may require a preliminary study since the shelter's asphalt shingles will be replaced with tin (at a cost of \$454). This shelter also needs interior restraining.

- Other jobs: the Campbell shelter privy needs to be moved, and Fullhardt Knob shelter needs a gutter guard to properly channel rainwater into the gutter. Homer suggested attaching an awning to keep rain out of the shelter. The 2019 budget allots \$1,000 for shelter maintenance.

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

Dave was absent. Brian reported that Brian Wilson, the new National Park Service ranger, has removed graffiti in the McAfee Knob area. A task force planning session is set for February 20 at Olde Salem Brewing Co. Dave Youmans is returning as 2019 Catawba Mountain Ridgerunner from early April through November.

Land Management Supervisor's Report (David Youmans):

Dave was absent.

Newsletter Editor's Report (Bob Peckman):

Bob announced that the next issue of the Trail Blazer comes out in April. All submissions are due to him the first week of March, and the deadline for final composition is mid-March. The emailed link to the Blazer goes out to all members, including those who receive a hard copy.

Updates and Action Items

1. PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Diana Christopulos):

- a. March 16 annual meeting: 6 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church on Grandin Road. Jim and Carol Steiner will do a presentation on AT day hiking. Bob Peckman will send out reminder postcards, Jim Beeson or Scott Karns will post the event on Meetup and email the RATC Google Group, and Diana can cross post to Facebook after the email and Meetup events are up.
- b. McAfee Knob Task Force leader: Diana pointed out that this role, currently held by Brian Boggs, is an ex officio board position.
- c. Roanoke Valley Gives: March 13. Brendle Wolfe is coordinating this one-day fund drive to benefit RATC. Last year, the club received more than \$2,000 from this drive. Give Big NRV on April 24 is the New River Valley equivalent. Julio Stephens will check out Give Big NRV and report to Jim Beeson and Terri McClure.
- d. Meetup management roles: A work group met at 6 p.m. this evening to clarify Meetup leadership roles. Anne Kohinke, Mark Farrell, Brian Boggs, and Bill Neilan will coordinate Meetup responsibilities such as vetting new members and making the Meetup groups as helpful and useful as possible.
- e. Google Group emails: The board discussed how to handle and improve mass emailing from the current RATC membership list. The list contains inaccuracies, which lead to bounced emails and communication delays. We need to update our list maintenance procedures so that email addresses are correct and current. Terri McClure and Bob Peckman discussed different ways to maintain the list by removing old

names and addresses and adding new, updated ones. This may include writing a macro to reconcile lists and eliminate duplicates.

- Diana Christopulos noted that the Google Group listserv includes only RATC members, whereas Meetup lists include the public. All email lists need to be updated and corrected. Jonathan Eagle and Jason Thompson are willing to assist with technical aspects of both Meetup and Google Group lists.
- f. RATC Board of Directors slate: The following are nominees for the club's 2019-2020 officers:
- i. President – Jim Beeson
 - ii. Vice President – Bill Neilan (Bill commented that he will serve in this role for now but that the position is still open to others who may be interested.)
 - iii. Secretary – Susan Terwilliger
 - iv. Treasurer – Terri McClure
 - v. Conservation Chair – Butch Kelly
 - vi. Land Management Supervisor – Dave Youmans
 - vii. Trail Supervisor – Mike Vaughn
 - viii. Shelter Supervisors – Homer and Therese Witcher
 - ix. Hikemaster – Josiah Leonard
 - x. Newsletter Editor – Bob Peckman
 - xi. Membership Coordinator – Mark Farrell
 - xii. Counselor – Anne Pfeiffer
 - xiii. Counselor – Jason Thompson
 - xiv. Counselor – Julio Stephens (term expires 2020)
 - xv. Counselor – Brian Boggs (term expires 2020)

2. Mountain Valley Pipeline Update (Diana Christopulos):

Diana reported that she, on behalf of the Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club, has written a letter to Virginia Senators Tim Kaine and Mark Warner urging them to oppose a reported effort to circumvent the regulatory review of the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline (and Mountain Valley Pipeline). These pipeline companies appear to be asking Congress to pass an amendment approving a specific place where the ACP or MVP could cross the Appalachian Trail without following established review procedures. Anne Kohinke moved to authorize Diana to write and send this letter, Susan Terwilliger seconded, and the motion passed (with Josiah Leonard abstaining). Diana will email the letter to board members to review before sending it.

3. Closing Comments (Diana Christopulos):

Five members of the RATC Board of Directors are leaving their positions in March 2019: Anne Kohinke (counselor), Susan Herndon-Powell (hikemaster), Jim Webb (trail supervisor), Diana Christopulos (vice president), and Chris Means (membership). All were recognized and applauded for their hard work, leadership, and contributions to the club and to the AT.

Calendar:

February 21	VA 311 committee
March 8-10	ATC Southern Partnership Meeting
March 16	RATC annual meeting
April 8	RATC board meeting
September	Starr Hill Brewery's RATC Month (Starr Hill will donate \$1 to RATC for every beer purchased all month)

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.