

RATC Board Annual Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2019

Unitarian Universalist Church

2015 Grandin Road SW

Roanoke VA

Jim Beeson, RATC president, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He presented a year-in-review slideshow recognizing hike leaders, trail maintainers, and other volunteers who received service awards for work done from October 2017 through September 2018. Hats and RATC T-shirts were awarded to those working 100 or more hours.

- Maintenance highlights included relocating Sinking Creek, replacing the Andy Layne trail bridge, and adding 110 rock steps along the Dragon's Tooth trail. Several AT shelters (including Campbell, Niday, and Pickle Branch) also received maintenance such as new roofs or relocated privies.
- The McAfee Knob Taskforce recognized active volunteers in the McAfee Knob and Dragon's Tooth areas.
- Hike leaders who led and organized recreational hikes were also recognized.
- Brendle Wolfe was recognized for her outstanding efforts to help RATC raise \$2,730 in donations through Roanoke Valley Gives on March 13. This exceeded last year's total.

Jim reported on several other items:

- The Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club has contributed \$5,000 to help the ATC purchase some property directly below McAfee Knob known as Doc's Way. This action will conserve the property and help prevent commercial development there.
- Diana Christopulos, former RATC president, attended a recent meeting of the VA-311 pedestrian bridge project. The bridge is expected to be complete in 2024.
- The online RATC store is currently operated through Press Press Merch and has a variety of appealing items for sale (including Triple Crown-themed T-shirts).
- *Backpacker* Magazine has offered a free, one-year subscription to RATC members renewable each year that members renew their club membership.
- Dr. Siegfried Kolmstetter, a longtime hiker and maintainer of the McAfee Knob trail, passed away in February. His family has arranged for memorial donations to go to RATC.

Terri McClure, RATC treasurer, gave a brief overview of the club's current finances. She noted that although RATC had a deficit of \$4,200 in 2018, its assets total around \$62,000. Extra expenses last year included a new insurance policy premium for hike leaders, a culvert, and nine new fire rings. Overall, the club is in good financial shape. Its assets include dues, donations, grants, and merchandise sales.

Brian Wilson, the new National Park Service ranger, greeted the club and said he was looking forward to getting out on the trail. He will spend 75% of his time patrolling the AT (including the RATC section) and 25% on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

The last piece of business was the election of the 2019-2020 RATC Board of Directors. Here is the slate of officers:

- i. President – Jim Beeson
- ii. Vice President – Bill Neilan
- iii. Secretary – Susan Terwilliger
- iv. Treasurer – Terri McClure
- v. Conservation Chair – Butch Kelly
- vi. Land Management Supervisor – Vacant
- 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
- xv. Counselor – Brian Boggs

There being no additional nominations, the new board was elected by acclamation.

After a drawing for gift cards from Walkabout Outfitters, Jim and Carol Steiner of Atlanta presented a program on day hiking the Appalachian Trail. The presentation was based on their book, *The Appalachian Trail Day Hikers' Guide*.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.