

RATC Board Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2019
Glenvar Branch Library, 3917 Daugherty Road

In Attendance:

Board members: Brian Boggs, Mark Farrell, Josiah Leonard, Bill Neilan, Bob Peckman, Anne Pfeiffer, Susan Terwilliger, Jason Thompson

Others: Caleb Fort

Meeting was called to order by Bill Neilan (acting for Jim Beeson, who was absent) at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of August 5 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 was absent. The financial report is located on the RATC website, as stated below.

Financial activity since last board meeting (as of 9/9/2019):

Total in Checking:	\$46,170.60
Total Monetary Assets:	\$60,928.26
Receipts (YTD):	\$9,779.77
Expenditures (YTD):	\$10,675.25

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

Membership Report (Mark Farrell):

RATC currently has 613 members (about 50 fewer than last month), with seven new members joining in August. Bob Peckman said the decline in membership may have resulted from members who have not paid their dues being dropped. He recommended calling people who are in arrears. Some of Mark's Facebook posts about work hikes have attracted more than 8,000 views. The club needs volunteers for next month's Go Fest, especially on Sunday, October 20.

Regular Reports

Trail Supervisor's Report (Mike Vaughn):

Mike was absent. Bill Neilan said a cooperative relationship between Natural Bridge Appalachian Trail Club maintainers and RATC maintainers has evolved. Each group is working with the other as needed.

Hikemaster's Report (Josiah Leonard):

There were six recreational hikes in August. New hike leaders are stepping up and offering a good variety of hikes. Josiah is trying to encourage hike leaders to offer a consistent, predictable schedule. He also suggested launching an incentive program to encourage more people to hike. This would involve keeping track of miles hiked, both on recreational hikes and individually. Hikers achieving a certain level would be recognized at the annual spring meeting. Anne Pfeiffer noted that local outdoor stores might donate prizes.

Conservation Supervisor's Report (Butch Kelly):

Butch was absent. He reported through Bill Neilan that a meeting is coming up on September 25 concerning possible placement of wind turbines and solar panels near the McAfee Knob trail. The meeting will be held at the Catawba

Community Center at 2:00 pm. RATC board members are encouraged to attend. There is a concern that large-scale wind turbines and solar panels may harm the McAfee Knob viewshed.

Shelter Supervisors' Report (Homer and Therese Witcher):

Homer and Therese were absent. The Jenny Knob shelter will be reroofed on September 15.

McAfee Knob Task Force Report (Brian Boggs):

Eleven new Ridgerunners were trained on September 7. This training day included some time on the trail, led by NPS Ranger Brian Wilson and USFS Recreation Program Manager Erik Taylor. An orientation hike for new Ridgerunners will be held at Dragon's Tooth on September 14. Brian said water sources in the McAfee Knob Task Force patrol areas are becoming increasingly dry owing to lack of rain. Bill Neilan reported that a mentoring program is now in place. New Ridgerunners have been assigned to an experienced person, who will accompany them on their first patrol.

Land Management Supervisor's Report (Bill Neilan):

Bill said he plans to start working with Josh Kloehn (Appalachian Trail Conservancy resource manager) within the next month or two.

Newsletter Editor's Report (Bob Peckman):

The deadline to submit information for the fall Blazer is September 15. Mark Farrell said he is working on an article for the Blazer about the importance of protecting endangered plants on the Spy Rock trail in Nelson County.

Updates and Action Items

1. PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Bill Neilan):

- a. *Starr Hill Brewery:* Starr Hill has designated September 2019 as RATC Month. The brewery has pledged to donate \$1 for every Love wheat beer (pint) purchased all month. Bill requested that club members visit Starr Hill this month to thank them for their donations.
- b. *Dragon's Tooth parking lot improvements:* Bill reported that Erik Taylor, a Forest Service manager, has authorized a crew to repair potholes in the parking lot within the next two or three weeks.

Calendar:

September	Starr Hill Brewery's RATC Month (Starr Hill will donate \$1 to RATC for every Love beer purchased)
October 7	RATC board meeting
October 18-20	Go Fest (Go Outside Festival, Roanoke)
November 4	RATC board meeting

Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.