

RATC Board Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2020
Glenvar Branch Library, 3917 Daugherty Road

In Attendance:

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

Others: Caleb Fort, Lauren May, Kelly Perkins, Steve Urbaniak

Meeting was called to order by Bill Neilan at 6:04 p.m. (Jim Beeson was absent.)

Approval of January 6 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.

Financial activity since last board meeting (as of 2/3/2020):

Total in Checking:	\$45,978.25
Total Monetary Assets:	\$60,726.35
Receipts (YTD):	\$1,620.44
Expenditures (YTD):	\$504.02

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

Membership Report: (Mark Farrell)

Mark has moved to San Diego. Steve Urbaniak has agreed to be the new membership coordinator when confirmed at the March annual meeting. RATC has 663 members to date, including eight new members. Jim Beeson has contacted 107 members who have not paid their dues since 2018. Bill Neilan said the club plans to create a new process to remind RATC members to pay their yearly dues, using examples from other Appalachian Trail maintaining clubs. Bob Peckman pointed out that the announcement postcards sent out to members before the club's three annual events include a dues reminder. Bob also recommended calling those in arrears – especially long-time members.

Trail Supervisor's Report (Mike Vaughn):

Mike was absent. Bill Neilan reported that he, Jim Beeson, and Jim Webb did a considerable amount of trail work in January, including removing eight blowdowns in one day. They also put in eight new steps north of McAfee Knob near the Pig Farm campsite.

Hikemaster's Report (Josiah Leonard):

Josiah was absent. Bob Peckman has agreed to be the new hikemaster when confirmed at the March annual meeting.

Conservation Supervisor's Report (Butch Kelly):

Butch was absent. He has nothing new to report this month.

Shelter Supervisors' Report (Homer and Therese Witcher):

Homer and Therese were absent. They have nothing new to report this month.

McAfee Knob Task Force Report (Brian Boggs):

Brian said the task force has not yet begun its new season. He shared some statistics with the board. In the five years since the McAfee Knob Task Force began, volunteers have logged more than 6,000 hours, hiked more than 5,000 miles, picked up 2,230 gallons of trash, and broken up many illegal fire rings. National Park Service (NPS) Ranger Brian Wilson’s presence has greatly helped to improve compliance. Bill Neilan said the June 7 Ironman competition in Roanoke will bring many people to the area. Ridgerunners should be prepared for extra hikers that weekend.

Land Management Supervisor’s Report (Bill Neilan):

Bill said he has nothing new to report this month.

Newsletter Editor’s Report (Anne Pfeiffer):

The winter 2020 issue of the Blazer was published January 24. Anne asked Bob Peckman to contribute an article about Bob and wife Kris’s many accomplishments on and off the AT. Anne suggested combining trail and shelter maintenance reports into a monthly summary instead of listing every outing separately. Mike Vaughn agreed. Bob said he is opposed to summarizing group (recreational) hike reports in the same way because each hike is different. It was decided to keep group hike reports as they are but do monthly summaries of work hikes (with pictures).

Updates and Action Items

1. VA 311 Bridge Meeting

Jim Beeson and Jim Webb attended a meeting with VDOT officials on January 14. Bill Neilan reported that a study of the rock outcropping on the north side of the proposed bridge site has concluded. It found that no Native American artifacts present are worth saving; the area has degraded over time and any artifacts have lost their value. This means original construction plans may proceed. Some preliminary work has already begun.

2. PRESIDENT’S REPORT (Bill Neilan):

- a. *VA 311 property:* A house sits on about 7 acres of land adjacent to the McAfee Knob parking lot. Jim Beeson and Andrew Downs (ATC) have met with the owner, who is willing to sell. A fundraising campaign is under way to purchase the property. Bill Neilan said high-quality T-shirts will be sold for \$25 through Bonfire, a Richmond company, to benefit the campaign. He passed around a sample shirt for the board to examine.
 - o Bill said if the NPS buys the property, the house will be demolished as per park service policy. If ATC purchases it, the house could remain and possibly be repurposed.
- b. *Membership/hikemaster positions:* As mentioned above, Steve Urbaniak will be the new membership coordinator, and Bob Peckman will be the new hikemaster.
- c. *2020 RATC Board of Directors:* Same as current officers except for hikemaster (Bob Peckman), membership coordinator (Steve Urbaniak), and counselor (Brendle Wolfe). Chris Means, former membership coordinator, has agreed to be social media coordinator.
- d. *Backpacker magazine:* All renewing RATC members will receive a subscription to this publication.
- e. *RATC 2020 annual meeting:* March 21 at the Unitarian Universalist Church (2015 Grandin Road SW, Roanoke). Scott Karns, social chair, will organize. Susan Levy will do a presentation on the Mountains-to-Sea State Trail in North Carolina.
- f. *Southern Partnership meeting:* March 13-15 at Hungry Mother State Park. Jim Beeson plans to attend.

Calendar:

March 13-15	Southern Partnership meeting - Hungry Mother State Park
March 21	RATC annual meeting
April 6	RATC Board Meeting
October 24	VA Partnership meeting

Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.