

## **RATC Board Meeting Minutes**

July 13, 2020

Online format (through Zoom)

### **In Attendance:**

Board members: Jim Beeson, Bill Neilan, Anne Pfeiffer, Julio Stephens, Susan Terwilliger, Jason Thompson

Others: None

Meeting was called to order by Jim Beeson at 6 p.m.

### **Approval of June 8 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 did not attend – she is out of town until late July.

Financial activity since last board meeting (as of 7/13/2020):

Total in Checking: \$59,032.68

Total Monetary Assets: \$73,747.55

Receipts (YTD): \$20,263.83

Expenditures (YTD): \$5,963.88

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

### **Membership Report: (Steve Urbaniak)**

Steve did not attend. Due to increased work responsibilities, he will be unable to continue as membership coordinator. Jim Beeson will temporarily take over this role.

### **Trail Supervisor's Report (Mike Vaughn):**

Mike did not attend. Work hikes resumed in July, and there have been two so far: one near Angel's Rest in Giles County on July 7 and one near Tinker Creek in Botetourt County on July 13. Mike has put in place a COVID-19 protocol of briefing work hikers about wearing masks, keeping social distance where possible, and disinfecting tools. This is the "new normal."

### **Hikemaster's Report (Bob Peckman):**

Bob did not attend. There were no group hikes in June because of the pandemic.

### **Conservation Supervisor's Report (Butch Kelly):**

Butch did not attend.

### **Shelter Supervisors' Report (Homer and Therese Witcher):**

Homer and Therese did not attend. There were no shelter maintenance hikes in June because of the pandemic.

### **McAfee Knob Task Force Report (Bill Neilan):**

Bill reported that Ridgerunner patrols resumed in July. Dave Youmans, the Catawba Mountain Ridgerunner, began work on June 24. He will now be patrolling mostly on weekdays. Bill commended Diana Christopulos and Kathryn Herndon-Powell for keeping Ridgerunners informed about the status of the program. All returning Ridgerunners are required to

take a short online training and report to Bill that they have done so before resuming patrols. Bill said nine people have reported to him so far.

**Land Management Supervisor's Report (Bill Neilan):**

Bill had no updates.

**Newsletter Editor's Report (Anne Pfeiffer):**

Anne requested PHOTOS for the Blazer: human interest, AT scenery, etc. As mentioned last month, she will soon be moving to the Seattle area and will be unable to continue as newsletter editor. The summer edition of the Blazer will be out around July 15.

**Updates and Action Items (Jim Beeson)**

**1. COVID-19 Update**

Jim noted that Virginia is in Phase 3 of reopening. This means trail maintenance, group hikes, and Ridgerunner patrols can resume with proper social distancing, wearing of masks, and conscientious hygiene practices. There will be no annual meeting this year. A decision has not yet been made about the December holiday potluck.

**2. VA 311 Property Update - Bonfire**

Jim said funds may be available through the Virginia Outdoors Foundation to help support the VA 311 property purchase. The plan is to kick off the 21-day fundraising drive with the Bonfire shirt sale. These high-quality shirts, available in different styles and sizes, will generate a risk-free income stream for RATC. The board decided to sell the shirts August 1 - 22. The sale will be advertised on the RATC website, social media, Roanoke Outside, the ATC, and through retail cooperators such as Walkabout Outfitters.

**3. Open RATC Board Positions**

Open board positions include treasurer, counselor, newsletter editor, and membership coordinator. The ancillary positions of social chair and webmaster are also open. Jason Thompson has agreed to act as webmaster until a replacement can be found.

**4. Fundraising Committee**

Jim asked board members to come up with some fundraising strategies to ensure the long-term financial security of the club. Since we have decided not to increase dues in the short term, we need an ongoing way to raise money. He suggested Julio Stephens and Brendle Wolfe as members of a standing fundraising committee.

**5. Great American Outdoors Act**

Jim mentioned that this act, recently passed by the U.S. Senate, will support deferred maintenance projects on federal lands. RATC will signal its support for this act to area congressmen as the bill heads to the U.S. House of Representatives.

**6. VA 311 Pedestrian Bridge**

Diana Christopoulos recently shared via email a preliminary design of VDOT's pedestrian bridge over Route 311. Public comments are welcome through this link: [www.virginiadot.org/TrailBridgeatRoute311](http://www.virginiadot.org/TrailBridgeatRoute311)

**Calendar:**

August 3	RATC board meeting (Zoom)
September TBD	ATC Volunteer Leadership Virtual Meeting
October 24	VA Partnership Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.