

RATC Board Meeting Minutes
October 5, 2020
Online format (through Zoom)

In Attendance:

Board members: Jim Beeson, Ron Bradbury, Terri McClure, Bill Neilan, Bob Peckman, Julio Stephens, Susan Terwilliger, Jason Thompson, Mike Vaughn, Brendle Wolfe

Others: Libby Blankenship, Jill Pennington

Meeting was called to order by Jim Beeson at 7:30 p.m.

Approval of September 14 Board Meeting Minutes (Susan Terwilliger):

Corrections: Change date of October 2020 meeting from October 12 to October 5.

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

Treasurer's Report (Terri McClure):

RATC took in \$18,642 last month for the McAfee Knob property acquisition fund, bringing the club's total contribution to around \$43,000. Terri reported that our tax-exempt certification has been approved and is good through 2025.

Financial activity since last board meeting (as of 10/5/2020):

Total in Checking:	\$78,226.94
Total Monetary Assets:	\$92,941.90
Receipts (YTD):	\$41,124.80
Expenditures (YTD):	\$7,630.59

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

Membership Report: (Jim Beeson)

RATC currently has 607 members, including five who joined in September. Jim announced that Mark Farrell, former membership coordinator, is in the process of returning to Virginia and may take the position again.

Trail Supervisor's Report (Mike Vaughn):

Mike reported that weekly work hikes in September were along the Dragon's Tooth trail, putting in steps and cribbing. Current and upcoming work hikes will also be in the Dragon's Tooth area. The Andy Layne trail bridge needs repair. During the past fiscal year, trail maintainers have contributed 4,900 hours of work.

Hikemaster's Report (Bob Peckman):

Kris Peckman led the only recreational group hike in September. Bob said he plans to call RATC hike leaders and encourage them to post group hikes on Meetup. Jim Beeson noted that people are hiking; it's just a matter of getting organized hikes back on the schedule with participants using appropriate personal protective equipment.

- There followed a discussion on vulnerable spaces (like Dragon's Tooth summit) where camping is allowed but problematic because of overcrowding. Bob suggested asking the U.S. Forest Service to reclassify Dragon's Tooth as a no-camping area (like McAfee Knob and Tinker Cliffs). Jim asked the board to think about this issue and be prepared to vote on it at the November 2 board meeting.

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 group hikes in September.

McAfee Knob Task Force Report (Bill Neilan):

Bill said the task force is doing an adequate job of covering the Triple Crown area, despite the lack of training sessions this year and the impact of the coronavirus. Jim Beeson commended Bill for his leadership of the Ridgerunner task force and for implementing safety measures for volunteers.

Land Management Supervisor's Report (Bill Neilan):

Bill had no updates.

Newsletter Editor's Report (Ron Bradbury):

Ron needs any material (including high-resolution photos) for the Blazer by the end of October. He asked whether there were guidelines to gauge the appropriateness of Blazer material. Bob Peckman (former Blazer editor) said anything of interest to RATC members that follows CDC guidelines is allowed. Bob also requested that a notice of the death of Don Hoke, longtime RATC member, be included.

Updates and Action Items (Jim Beeson)**1. VA 311 Property Update – Bonfire**

Jim reported that we have sold 580 McAfee Knob T-shirts through Bonfire to date, raising \$8,000 for the VA 311 property purchase.

2. Open RATC Board Positions – Counselor – Andrew Bowman

Andrew Bowman, a partner at Gentry Locke law firm, has agreed to fill the open counselor position on the board. Jim moved to elect Andrew to this position, Bob Peckman seconded the motion, and the motion was passed. The RATC Board of Directors has now filled its open positions.

3. Trail Maintenance Funding Request – Andy Layne Bridge

Jim and Mike Vaughn reported that RATC trail maintainers can expect to receive \$6,600 from ATC license plate funds sometime in October. Some of this money will be used to repair the Andy Layne trail bridge.

4. McAfee Knob T-Shirts – www.bonfire.com/store/ratc

As reported in last month's minutes, the fundraising committee, led by Julio Stephens and Brendle Wolfe, will work to ensure a long-term funding stream for the club through the Bonfire T-shirt virtual store. A link to the store will be placed on the RATC website and on our Facebook page. Funds raised will help support ongoing Appalachian Trail maintenance work.

5. Other Items

- As reported in the August 2020 minutes, Jim is working on a formula to use when requesting trail maintenance funds from ATC license plate funds. Instead of requesting money for each item, he proposes an annual allocation (straight percentage) for each Virginia club. The percentage would be calculated on the number of miles each club maintains.
- On October 7, the VA 311 pedestrian bridge committee will meet with VDOT representatives to discuss progress on the bridge. Bill Neilan plans to attend. Jim said RATC has accepted responsibility for maintaining the area around the bridge but not the bridge itself. This frees us of such duties as snow removal in winter months.

- There will definitely not be a holiday potluck in December. The next in-person club general meeting and social event will be in March 2021 if circumstances permit. If not, we will have to meet via Zoom or some other online format to elect officers and conduct other essential club business.

Calendar:

October 24	VA Partnership Virtual Meeting
November 2	RATC Board meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.