

RATC Board Meeting Minutes

June 7, 2021

Online format (through Zoom)

In Attendance:

Board members: Jim Beeson, Ron Bradbury, Mark Farrell, Terri McClure, Bill Neilan, Susan Terwilliger, Jason Thompson, Brendle Wolfe

Others: Cathy Butler, J.T. Hutchens, Bob Peckman, Jill Pennington

Meeting was called to order by President Bill Neilan at 6:02 p.m.

Approval of May 3 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): The biggest expenditure in May was payment of RATC's annual liability insurance premium (\$1,471). The club took in \$780 in contributions and \$280 in membership dues.

Financial activity since last board meeting (as of 6/7/2021):

Total in Checking: \$51,077.24

Total Monetary Assets: \$66,729.44

Receipts (YTD): \$10,442.03

Expenditures (YTD): \$4,811.76

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

Membership Report (Mark Farrell):

The club has 720 members, with six new members joining in May. The problem in acquiring fabric patches for new members has been resolved. RATC membership is the highest it has been in recent history, thanks in large part to Mark's ability to attract new members. Jim Beeson complimented Mark's success in this regard.

- In July, some members who are in arrears on their dues will be dropped from the club.

Trail Supervisor's Report (Mike Vaughn):

Mike did not attend. Work hikes continue; a crew recently added new steps and cribbing to the McAfee Knob trail. The next two work hikes will be in Bland County, south of Kimberling Creek.

- Bill Neilan, Mark Farrell, and Jim Webb were recognized for their hard work and dedication to AT maintenance as described in a recent Roanoke Times article ([Behind the scenery: Roanoke's 'Mountain Goats' help keep the Appalachian Trail's popular spots accessible | Local News | roanoke.com](#)). These "mountain goats" have earned a reputation for their tireless efforts, and the story has been picked up by the Washington Post and social media.

Hikemaster's Report (Jennifer Frye):

Jennifer did not attend. Group hikes have resumed, with several in May and more scheduled for June. Updated hiking guidelines now allow vaccinated people to carpool to trailheads.

Conservation Supervisor's Report (Butch Kelly):

Butch did not attend.

Shelter Supervisors' Report (Homer and Therese Witcher):

Homer and Therese did not attend. Jill Pennington said the Fullhardt Knob shelter privy is full and needs to be moved. Homer and Therese have planned a work hike to move the privy on June 19.

McAfee Knob Task Force Report (Dee Case):

Dee did not attend. Several Triple Crown orientation hikes (for McAfee Knob, Dragon's Tooth, and Tinker Cliffs) took place in May with more scheduled for June.

Land Management Supervisor's Report (Kevin Moore):

Kevin did not attend. He will likely not have much to report until this fall and winter, when boundary work is done.

Newsletter Editor's Report (Ron Bradbury):

The 2021 summer edition of the Trail Blazer will be published in July. Ron has requested that any content (images and articles) be submitted to him by June 28. The board briefly discussed how to elicit more content from club members.

Updates and Action Items (Bill Neilan):

1. Corn Boil

Bill asked whether the board wanted to hold the Corn Boil, canceled in 2020 and usually held in July, later this summer. Board members supported the idea, so Bill will try to schedule the get-together on a Saturday in August. He will reach out to Liz Belcher to reserve the Catawba Community Center and to Scott Karns, former RATC social chair. Ordinarily, the Konnarock crew are the guests of honor, and the event is a way to thank them for their hard work. But this year, they will not be able to attend.

2. Sustainability Center Parking

Bill announced that a new parking lot, which will hold 25 vehicles and two handicap spaces, will open soon. The lot, which has an information kiosk, connects to the so-called Biscuit Trail, which forms a loop with the fire road and the Sawtooth Ridge area. Once the blazing is done, the parking lot and trail will be officially open. McAfee Knob Task Force volunteers can then inform hikers about the parking area and new trail.

3. Dragon's Tooth Trailhead Restrooms

Bill reported that the Dragon's Tooth trailhead restrooms are now open. The McAfee Knob porta-johns should reopen in about two weeks, though no exact date has been given.

4. Other Items

- Jill Pennington, webmaster, has recently updated the financials on the RATC website.
- Bill clarified that work hike participants do not have to be RATC members. They sign a waiver in advance, which includes them under a group insurance policy.
- Now that COVID restrictions are easing, we may not be able to access Zoom (provided through ATC) for meetings much longer. The Glenvar library, where pre-pandemic board meetings were held, is not yet renting out rooms. A discussion ensued on where to meet; one suggestion was at a brew pub.
- Jason Thompson asked for an update on when the house just off the McAfee Knob trailhead will be razed. Bill said ATC is handling this, and a company hired to do the work has scheduled it.
- Bill reported that a cemetery near McAfee Knob, previously considered an eyesore, has been repainted and cleared of debris. This cemetery is located on the 900 acres purchased by ATC some months ago.

Calendar:

July 12: RATC board meeting

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