

RATC Board Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2021

Online format (through Zoom)

In Attendance:

Board members: Andrew Bowman, Ron Bradbury, Mark Farrell, Bill Neilan, Susan Terwilliger, Jason Thompson, Mike Vaughn, Homer Witcher, Therese Witcher

Others: John Kelly, Suzanne Neal, Bob Peckman, Jill Pennington

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

Approval of June 7 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. RATC members are reminded to check the website for complete financial details.

Financial activity since last board meeting (as of 7/12/2021):

Total in Checking: \$50,706.41

Total Monetary Assets: \$65,440.85

Receipts (YTD): \$11,625.00

Expenditures (YTD): \$5,516.34

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

Membership Report (Mark Farrell):

The club currently has 614 members. Around 100 were dropped in July for nonpayment of dues or for failing to renew their membership.

Trail Supervisor's Report (Mike Vaughn):

Mike reported that recent work hikes have centered on the lower part of the McAfee Knob trail, putting in cribbing, adding steps, and brushing in social trails. The next focus will be on the southern part of our section.

- Pete Irvine recently retired and will be working as a section maintainer on the McAfee Knob fire road. There are plans to get a bulldozer to smooth out parts of the fire road.

Hikemaster's Report (Jennifer Frye):

Jennifer did not attend. Several hike leaders led group hikes in June and July, with more coming up in August.

Conservation Supervisor's Report (Butch Kelly):

Butch did not attend but submitted a report to Bill Neilan. Conservation efforts are in progress to protect rare plant species on Sinking Creek Mountain. Extensive camping at Lost Spectacles Gap and the Boy Scout trail campground along the Dragon's Tooth trail has damaged several native plants, especially the piratebush, a rare shrub.

Shelter Supervisors' Report (Homer and Therese Witcher):

The Fullhardt Knob shelter privy was successfully moved on June 16 and 19. The Lamberts Meadow shelter moldering privy was also moved. Donna Logan, an RATC trail maintainer, recently repainted the Johns Spring shelter. Therese said it is a wonderful improvement.

McAfee Knob Task Force Report (Dee Case):

Dee did not attend. More Triple Crown orientation hikes happened in July, and a training day for new volunteer Ridgerunners is scheduled for July 17. Suzanne Neal, Catawba Mountain Ridgerunner, reported that the task force has a number of active volunteers, who have been especially helpful in reporting blowdowns and other trail hazards.

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):

Ron said he has plenty of content for the 2021 summer edition of the Trail Blazer, which will be published later this month. One article will feature the many contributions of Homer and Therese Witcher, longtime shelter supervisors. Other articles will highlight recent trail upgrades.

Updates and Action Items (Bill Neilan):

1. June 25 – Movie Night in Wasena Park with Roanoke Parks and Recreation

RATC set up a table at this event. The club received \$3 in donations from approximately 12 attendees.

2. Other Donations

Dudley Hafner, an RATC member, donated \$500, specifically to honor Diana Christopulos and Mark McClain. Jim and Rena Hart donated \$204 -- \$1 for each step they counted on the Andy Layne trail. In an email, the Harts thanked the club for a great hike and for superior maintenance of the AT. Bill acknowledged the hard work of Mike Vaughn's trail maintainers for keeping our section of the trail in such good shape.

3. National Weather Service

Bill said he recently received a request from a local National Weather Service (NWS) employee to designate a club member as a Weather Ready Nation Ambassador. The ambassador will receive quarterly emails from NWS about weather preparedness and share this information through social media and other outlets with hikers and others. Ron Bradbury, editor of the club newsletter, agreed to handle this job.

4. Storage Facility

Bill has discussed with Andrew Downs (Appalachian Trail Conservancy) RATC's need for a storage facility. The club needs space to store about 15 boxes of archival material and other paperwork. ATC may help us find such storage space.

Calendar:

August 28: Annual Corn Boil (no monthly board meeting)

September 13: RATC board meeting at Glenvar branch library

September 15: Hiker Happy Hour at Parkway Brewing Company

- Parkway plans to honor and support RATC by donating \$1 for every pint sold to a club member that evening. Members should identify themselves and thank Parkway.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.