

RATC Board Meeting Minutes
October 4, 2021
Glenvar Branch Library, 3917 Daugherty Road

In Attendance:

Board members: Jim Beeson, Andrew Bowman, Mark Farrell, Terri McClure, Bill Neilan, Susan Terwilliger, Jason Thompson, Mike Vaughn, Brendle Wolfe

Others: Suzanne Neal, Bob Peckman

Meeting was called to order by President Bill Neilan at 6:05 p.m.

Approval of September 13 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 reported \$5,800 in various purchases, to be reimbursed by NPS. She is starting to prepare the 2022 budget and requested that board members think about anticipated expenses. Funding sources, in addition to dues, include gifts from individuals, a matching contribution from GE, the Bonfire T-shirt sales campaign, Amazon Smile, Facebook, and Blackbaud (an online fundraising tool). Parkway Brewing Company recently contributed \$290 at a happy hour event on September 15. The club's biggest ongoing expense is storage unit rental at \$84/month. A brief discussion followed on whether and how to acknowledge contributors in the Trail Blazer.

Financial activity since last board meeting (as of 10/4/2021):

Total in Checking:	\$43,226.53
Total Monetary Assets:	\$58,889.23
Receipts (YTD):	\$13,588.57
Expenditures (YTD):	\$14,519.07

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

Membership Report (Mark Farrell):

Mark reported that one individual and three families joined last month. RATC currently has 648 members; around 60 were dropped due to nonpayment of dues. The membership brochures ordered earlier are still in transit but should arrive in time for the Go Outside Festival (GO Fest) on October 15-17. This large, well-attended annual festival is a prime membership recruitment opportunity for RATC.

Trail Supervisor's Report (Mike Vaughn):

Mike recently filed the club's annual report of hours worked by trail maintainers and work crews for the federal fiscal year (October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021). Work crews have recently completed new steps on the Andy Layne trail and a bridge in Bland County. After putting in more steps on the McAfee Knob trail, they will move to the Pearisburg area. Bill Neilan read a glowing testimonial from hikers who recently traveled the Andy Layne trail.

Hikemaster's Report (Jennifer Frye):

Jennifer did not attend. Group hikes are continuing in September and October.

Conservation Supervisor's Report (Butch Kelly):

Butch did not attend.

Shelter Supervisors' Report (Homer and Therese Witcher):

Homer and Therese did not attend.

McAfee Knob Task Force Report (Dee Case):

Dee did not attend. Suzanne Neal, Catawba Mountain Ridgerunner, reported that McAfee Knob Task Force volunteers have logged 1,200 hours this fiscal year. There will be no more training days for new volunteers until next spring. Unleashed dogs have been an issue in the Triple Crown area, with the potential for dangerous dog-bear interactions.

Land Management Supervisor's Report (Kevin Moore):

Kevin did not attend.

Newsletter Editor's Report (Ron Bradbury):

Ron did not attend. He has requested that content (articles, images, etc.) for the fall edition of the Trail Blazer be submitted to him as soon as possible but before the last week in October.

Updates and Action Items (Bill Neilan):

1. Hiker Happy Hour at Parkway Brewing Company

As mentioned in the treasurer's report, Parkway contributed \$290 to RATC on September 15. Mark Farrell set up an information table at the event.

2. GO Fest

Bill explained that, unlike in previous years, Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) staff will not attend GO Fest. Instead, RATC has reserved a space. We plan to recruit new members, sell T-shirts and hats (using a Square reader to accept credit cards), and run an activity or game. Volunteers are needed to staff the booth all three days.

3. Merchandise

As mentioned above, RATC items will be sold at GO Fest October 15-17 in downtown Roanoke.

4. VA License Plate Grant Program

Mike Vaughn explained that this program, administered through ATC and its partners, provides income from specialty license plate sales to Virginia trail-maintaining clubs. Money is apportioned according to club capacity, emergency structure requests, shelter maintenance, and other needs. Jim Beeson said he is in favor of consistent funding from year to year, based on a percentage allotment for each club or some other method. This would eliminate the need to reapply for funds each year. After some discussion on this topic, the board decided to reconsider it at a later date.

Calendar:

October 15-17: Go Outside Festival (GO Fest), downtown Roanoke

November 8: RATC board meeting at Glenvar branch library

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.