

MRATC Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Mount Rogers Appalachian Trail Club

P.O.Box 789 Damascus VA 24236-3101

Quarterly MEETING April 11, 2018 Abingdon Library,
Abingdon, VA

Minutes were recorded and written by Mary Davis, MRATC Secretary

16 ATTENDEES: Anne Maio, Ron Bobko, Edie Bobko, Doug Levin, David Hatcher, Kathy Walker, Terry Walker, Anna Sherrill, Bill Hurlebaus, Whitney Osborne, Issac Peters, Sharon Trumbley, Mary Davis, Gerry Davis, George SanFilippo, Carol Broderson (via Skype).

Meeting was called to order by Anne Maio at 7pm. A motion was made to accept the quarterly meeting and amended annual meeting minutes.

TREASURERS REPORT

Cash Balance Available \$5190.17

Vanguard Acct: \$15,126.94

Trimpi CD \$4586.26

SOUTHERN PARTNERSHIP MEETING RPC REPORT

- Terry Walker's report was brief and "inconsequential" according to Terry. Bill Hurlebaus discussed the ATC is considering grants be given from the license plate committee to fund a Forest Service law enforcement dog for law enforcement and search and rescue. Anne Maio discussed the Saturday meeting about national trail system events. Our club has the following events: April 28th - National Trail Systems Act, Damascus Trail Days in May, and Public Lands Day in September.

- Two wilderness interns are to be in our area, Anne discussed our club involving them in our AT community and trail work.

- There was discussion on the crackdown on unlicensed shuttle drivers

- There is an AT Visitor Use Management website to post information. This should be useful in tracking groups. The ridge runner should be able to use this to convey important information, eg. bear activity, trail closings.

- Bill Hurlebaus reported that PATH club (Piedmont Appalachian Trail Hikers) working with Davis Valley Winery to have a hiker day at the winery or a hike from the Settlers Museum or Headquarters on hwy 16.

COORDINATOR REPORTS

TRAILS - Doug Levin

- A walk thru of the bridge south of Dickey Gap needs attention. Stephen Hmurciak is providing plans and materials for a new bridge that will be less than 20ft long. It will be a 1-2 day project in summer.
- The section from Bear Tree to Saunders is now free for a monitor and will be offered to Marcia Pruner. If Marcia doesn't want it, it will be given to another club member.
- April 11 we replaced a sign on Briar Ridge. We have more coordination with the Forest Service.

OUTREACH - Whitney Osborne

- We have followers on Instagram and Twitter.
- Please pass along photos of events, workdays, etc., so they may be posted.
- We can also get promotion with the ATC. Katy Houston (ATC) will post our events.
- Anne suggested promoting the rare plant workshop.
- Anne indicated we could use more help for the Virginia Creeper Trail Fest on April 28 and Trail Days in May.

NATURAL RESOURCE MONITORING - Carol Broderson

- **May 5** Connor McBane will hold rare plant workshop. (Anne passed around a sign-up sheet.) We will stop at Whitetop library at 10am, then proceed to Elk Garden for more intensive practice. We have a phenology (*the study of cyclic and seasonal natural phenomena, especially in relation to climate and plant and animal life*) program monitoring red spruces and red maples as well as dogwoods.

May 12 Hike at Naturalists Rally from Whitetop to Elk Garden with discussion about wild flowers.

- **June 16** We will be pulling invasive with Connor McBane

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES - Sharon Trumbley

- Sharon thanked all the hike leaders and those attending hikes. She discussed importance of contacting hike leaders when requested.
- Mary explained the process for info for email vs. facebook in order to protect privacy. Decision was made to keep interested hiker email at mratcinfo@gmail.com

ATC LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE / AUGUST 2018

- Terry and Kathy talked about what the conference offered. If anyone is interested please contact Terry Walker

OTHER

• Remote participation in meetings

Anne asked Carol if it was working well. Suggestion was made to move meeting from July 11 to Wednesday, July 18 since a number of members will be out of town.

•Club reimbursement for First Aid/CPR for non sawyers

Discussion as to the need for folks who are not sawyers to get first aid and it be reimbursed.

-Ron Bobko suggested we have a workday to offer CPR and First Aid

-Gerry Davis suggested at the end of the summer or fall we poll as to how many members would be interested in a group training.

-Carol Broderson suggested the club decide individually as to reimbursing members.

-Kathy Walker made a motion that we give full funding for CPR and First Aid with Board approval. It was seconded by Terry Walker. It was passed unanimously.

•Local Management Plan

-Anne Maio explained why we need a LMP (passed document around to attending members). Useful for maintainers and people wanting to learn more about the club. She stated we must decide, as a club, whether we need one. Terry Walker stated he was not in favor. George SanFilippo indicated he read it, and as a new member it was valuable to him. Kathy Walker indicated it might be of use for her as a new member, but as a long-time member she wouldn't read it. Kathy Walker made a motion that we accept the document as written given to Andrew Downs. It was seconded by Sharon Trumbley. Vote: 9 in favor, 1 against.

•Hardcore

-We have several offers to take trailers for hiker packs. Hikers will be able to leave tents and gear in Grayson Highlands. We are feeding 45 Hardcore participants plus approximately 10 MRATC members. We must transport hikers at three points, eating, camp site, and work site. Terry Walker spoke about logistics from camp site to work site. We need a camp sitter (guard) for Sunday and Monday, May 20-21. Anne Maio and Edie Bobko will be camp sitting. Anne has sign-up sheet for others to help out possibly and reduce time.

-Terry Walker explained what the club needs to supply for hardcore and indicated we can get 6 pick mattocks for \$30 each. Doug suggested we reach out to Sarah Abbott for additional funds. Doug will coordinate with Josh on any additional.

Kathy Walker made motion to adjourn meeting and Doug Leven 2nd.