



## MRATC Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Mount Rogers Appalachian Trail Club  
P.O.Box 789 Damascus VA 24236-3101

MEETING Nov. 14, 2018 Sugar Grove Forest Service Work Center on Flatridge Rd., VA

*Minutes were recorded and written by Mary Davis, MRATC Secretary*

**14 ATTENDEES:** Ron Bobko, Edie Bobko, David Hatcher, Bill Hurlebaus, Anna Sherrill, Beth Minnick, Janet Gibbons, Anne Maio, Sharon Trumbley, Doug Levin, Jim Warden, Mary Davis, Gerry Davis, Carol Broderson

Meeting was called to order by Sharon Trumbley (Club and Rec. Activities Chair) at 10:38 am. A motion was made to accept the July 18, 2018 meeting minutes by Bill Hurlebaus. It was seconded and approved.

### TREASURERS REPORT

**Cash Balance Available \$5282.02 Vanguard Acct: \$15,592.49 Trimpi: \$4586.26**

### COORDINATOR REPORTS

#### TRAILS - Doug Levin

- Bear boxes have been moved accordingly. 2 small boxes are at the work center. Three large boxes installed, one near Rhododendron Gap, one at Wise shelter, one at Thomas Knob. Also, two small bear boxes at Old Orchard. Looking at considerations for a shelf in the large bear boxes to accommodate more packs.
- NCCC group worked with us to finish 800 feet of sidehill from Barton Gap to Dickey Gap plus 2/3 of the boundary south of Damascus.
- The work scheduled for 11/15 Thomas Knob Privy, will be cancelled due to weather. It will be rescheduled for Sunday 11/18. Meet at Massie Gap at 10am. Mary Davis will send out an email. Doug Levin will confirm with park to be able to drive into the stile to bring group closer to work site.
- We will have a workday with Emory and Henry Outdoor Club on December 2nd to install blaze posts near 601.
- Doug thanked David Hatcher for work with the chainsaws. Discussion about replacing one with an electric saw. ATC has safety issues currently with electric saws. This is being reviewed with hopefully more options to come.
- We will be asking trail monitors about their intentions for next year. If a monitor has not given a report for their section this year, Doug will reassign.
- Researching materials and design for a bog bridge.

#### NATURAL RESOURCE MONITORING - Carol Broderson

- This was a good season for working with rare plants. Club members worked on identifying Blue Ridge St. Johns Wort, Longstalk Holly, and Carolina Sassafra. We need to get technical on some plant identification. Carol indicated that drop box is not user friendly and we are working to make this better and having the forms available.
- There are some new people willing to join the committee.

#### OUTREACH -

- Anne Maio reported that we participated in festivals for each of our AT communities on our trail sections. We hope to get new members this way.

### **RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES - Sharon Trumbley**

- We had lots of hikes, some well attended (8 people) and some only a couple folks attended.
- Sharon has emailed those leading hikes to respond for Jan, Feb, March. She encouraged hike leaders to plan something even if not positive they will be available as another hike leader can substitute.
- Carol Broderson has been forwarding the email from interested hike participants to the leaders. Some leaders have been responding to the website instead of the person. Carol asks that hike leaders make sure they are responding to the individual requesting the info and not the website email.

### **SOUTHERN PARTNERSHIP MEETING RPC (Regional Partnership Committee) REPORT - Bill Hurlebaus and Gerry Davis**

- Bill reported that Bob Proudman passed away. Bob was an intricate part of the ATC and co-authored the bible on trail maintenance. Bill offered his copy of this book.
- We are required to submit 2 memoranda. MOU (Memoranda of Understanding) and VSA (Volunteer Service Agreement) Gerry Davis indicated that a template is supposed to be available to complete this process.
- Gerry Davis commented that the RPC meeting was an eye opener to see how many different organizations have a serious interest in what we do as a volunteer organization. NPS, USFS, DOT and every community that the AT is routed through. Bill Hurlebaus likened this group to a 3-legged stool which includes the ATC, the government agencies, and the clubs that are to work together for the good of the trail.
- Gerry Davis reported that bears were a big topic at the meeting. Suggestions were made that at some point hikers will be required to carry a bear canister.
- We are requested to use the new NPS dispatch emergency # to report any accidents or emergencies. 1-866-677-6677 The park service wants this data. Calls to local EMS should come first with a call to the NPS # also.

### **Volunteer Leadership Meeting**

David Hatcher attended this meeting. He gave the following report.

- We should be in tune to anyone we meet on the trail to become a member of our club. Most sought after members are those people who are recently retired. We should work diligently to welcome new members.
- Suggestion to request more member interest information on our membership application. Anne has revised this application and has asked members for feedback before using it. This application can be used for interested participants as well as joining members.
- Janet Gibbons suggested we look into a spot device. Discussion concerning attributes of these devices. Gerry Davis suggested that for our club the single emergency button device may meet our needs the best.
- Bill Hurlebaus indicated that we should be permitted to borrow radios or spot devices from the USFS according to written information.

## **Volunteer Hours Reporting - Ron Bobko**

- ATC has expanded the recording hours info report. They have expanded the number of categories. Ron passed out a handout displaying the categories and subcategories. Each section has a general management category and a training category. Ron will be responsible for breaking this down for the report but wants members to be aware of the content of the form.
- Ron asked maintainers with a shelter, or bridge on their section to record the work time spent for this separately. If not, Ron will pull out time from the overall time reported. Also, anyone who maintains a section that goes through a park, indicate the time in the park separately.
- Ron reported on the specific volunteer hours for this year.
- Ron's time frame to report our hours to ATC is Oct 1 annually.

## **HARDCORE Funding**

Bill Hurlbaeus reported that at the RPC meeting it was acknowledged that MRATC has applied for \$1400 to pay for the meals for Hardcore out of the VA license tag program. There was general agreement but there was no vote taken. We should follow up with Andrew Downs by the 1st of the year. Bill suggested if we don't get these funds we don't do Hardcore.

## **HARDCORE planning for 2019**

- Anne requested anyone interested in helping with the planning committee sign-up today. Janet Gibbons indicated that she plans to be at Konnarock next year and could assist with the BBQ. A sign-up sheet was passed around for those interested in Hardcore planning.

## **STEERING COMMITTEE CLUB STRUCTURE**

Sharon Trumbley asked the group to discuss how they feel the steering committee club structure worked out?

- Doug Levin - indicated he felt his committee members participated and it went well. Doug would like to see the responsibilities within the committee to rotate.
- Sharon Trumbley has been taking on a number of jobs. Sharon felt the model was going well for her committee.
- Carol Broderson indicated we need a mechanism to appoint a chairperson for each group. Gerry Davis and Doug Levin suggested committees would be self-nominating by committee for the chair position with duties rotating in committee.
- Doug Levin made a motion to extend the trial of the subcommittee structure for another year with the idea that after two years we would be looking to rotate the chairman within the sub committees which would give us a full period of time for assessment. Carol Broderson seconded and motion passed. (We do not need to change the bylaws to continue the trial period).

## **NEW CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM DISCUSSION**

- Anne Maio revised the current form to get more interest information. It can be used for perspective members showing interest and for those who would like to join. Anne asked for comments and any revision suggestions. Anne asked to receive ideas on the membership form within a week so we can place it on our website.

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Only two board members terms are ending this year, Bill Hurlebaus and Jim Warden. Carol Broderson and Sharon Trumbley will work on the nominating committee.

## **SHELTER REGISTERS**

A suggestion was made to keep shelter registers for 1-2 years. Beth Minnick has agreed to take the old registers and possibly offer them to former hikers for a donation.

Edie Bobko suggested that if we had any shelter registers in very good condition we might want keep them to use a few for a display in the Trail Center.

## **Meetings for 2019**

**January 9, April 10, July 10 - Abingdon Library; Nov. 13 MRNRA and annual mtg Feb.23 St. John's Lutheran Church in Abingdon**

Carol Broderson moved to accept the dates and places. It was seconded and approved.

Meeting was adjourned.