

## MRATC Annual Meeting Feb. 23, 2019

Chair: Terry Walker

Meeting was called to order by Terry Walker

In attendance: Sigrid Phillips, Jeri Ward, Terry Walker, Joanna Wolfe, Bob Wolfe, Doug Levin, Jim Heaney, Mary Davis, Gerry Davis, Ron Bobko, Edie Bobko, Carol Broderson, Kathleen Ziglar, Issac Peters, Whitney Peters, Becky White, Carolyn Booth, Cornelius Booth, Judith Foster, Bill Krauser, Beth Minnick, George Kilgore, Betty Kilgore, Bill Hurlebaus

An introduction of guests and agency partners was made.

Dennis Sanders - VDOT, Marcie Holland - Grayson Highlands, Sigrid Phillips (lifelong member)

New members - Jeri Ward, Kathleen Zigler, Becky White, and Beth Minnick

**Treasurers Report:** Available for spending \$5324.17 We have \$1400 from VARO/ATC License plate money for Hardcore and \$250 from ALDA for Hardcore. Total of \$1650 for Hardcore. \$1300 from VARO/ATC for repair of bridge south of Dickey Gap. \$3780 in Stacey Levin Fund. 4597.73 in Trimpi CD. Vanguard is @ \$16,237.18

### **Guest Speaker from VDOT - Dennis Sanders**

#### *•Road Crossing signage*

Dennis informed the club about new AT crossing signs and planned improvements to trailhead parking at Elk Garden. The start receiving money for these types of projects was the underpass at the Creeper Trail. Signage for the Creeper trail is complete, and now we have money for signs at all 38 crossings of the AT in our area. These signs are for the traveling public on roads, and are not intended for direction for hikers. Dennis is working to make this happen throughout the state of Virginia. The signs are not only for safety but also for publicity for the AT. There is talk with the park service to continue this through other states from Maine to Georgia. The signs should begin being installed in the coming months.

#### *•Parking lot Improvements*

-Elk Garden- discussion as to a new lot addition for multi-use parking. Funding will be \$263,000

-603 where AT crosses. Looking to put a loop here with some parking for trailers and vans.

-Near Scales - proposing a 1 1/2 acre lot

Lewis Fork - proposing 15 spaces

Raccoon Branch on 16

-On the eastern end of Mt. Rogers two parking lots on Brushy Creek and Cripple Creek.

In total VDOT has requested \$800,000 from bicycle pedestrian and safety federal money for these projects.

#### *•Other work to be done by VDOT*

-AT crossing at Straight Branch will be reworked so that the area won't look like a parking lot.

-At the Mt. Rogers Recreation office.

March 22 is scheduled ribbon cutting for new underpass on Virginia Creeper Trail.

Dennis Sanders requested we bring ideas to him so we can get more money in this area. Currently most of the money goes to the northern VA area.

**Reports from MRATC Steering Committee Chairs on 2018 activities and plans for 2019:**

### **Trails - Doug Levin**

Hardcore Sign-up sheet - Volunteers for baking cookies, transporting hikers and transportation to get hikers within 50 miles of Damascus

- Last year we had great partnership with E&H working near 601 on blaze posts, sidehill, and cribbing.
- NCCC Americorp group - in two days group did about 800 feet of sidehill.
- We have funding for a bog bridge \$1300 near Dickey Gap. It will be replaced and we have a plan. This will require a good amount of help because components to be transported will be heavy.
- We have a full slate of monitors but if anyone is interested please let Doug know. Doug compiles a list of work projects from trail monitors and this list we use to create our workdays.
- Trails committee has split tasks. Gerald Davis asked members to see him about their current saw certification status.
- First workday Saturday, March 2, 2019.

### **Natural Resources - Carol Broderson**

Carol informed the group that the focus of this committee is on rare plants, invasives, and phenology. Group has been monitoring Red Maple, Red Spruce and Flowering Dogwood in Damascus. Carol named the list of rare plants we are monitoring and indicated the need for new people to work with natural resources.

### **Outreach - Whitney Peters**

Whitney passed out several sign-up sheets for booths at upcoming spring festivals for 2019. Sign-up sheets for Earth Day April 13 and Trail Days booth in May.

### **Club Recreational Activities - Sharon Trumbley**

This committee organizes fun hikes and potlucks. Most successful hikes were Roan Mt. and Grayson Highlands. We could use additional hike leaders for April, May, and June.

Pot Lucks - our main concentration will be on Hardcore. There is a sign-up sheet for baking and serving.

### **ATC Regional Partnership Committee RPC - Terry Walker**

Terry will be leaving this leadership position after serving 1.5 years. Gerald Davis will take over this committee and Terry Walker will be alternate. Main things worked on are Volunteer Service Agreements. Another issue, each club to nominate a volunteer of the year and an agency partner of the year. We submitted Doug Dajardin from Natural Bridge, and Carin Farley, Acting Chief Ranger Appalachian National Scenic Trail as our Agency Partner

Gerald Davis announced a conference call to be held Feb 27, 6pm on ATC issues that relate to RPC. If anyone wants to participate, Gerald will forward the email.

**Membership, Sharon Trumbley:** We have 202 current members. We have 30 new members.

### **Youth Involvement: Mary Davis**

Our club worked with Holston High and Emory and Henry this fall. Holston High Key Club painted the Saunders Shelter 9/15 and on Dec. 2, E&H worked near 601 replacing blaze posts, sidehill, and adding cribbing. We would like to continue our partnership with these two groups at least once or twice a year. Mary indicated an importance for us to work with youth groups in our region who can be good stewards of the AT in the future.

## Volunteer Hour Awards

Ron Bobko and Doug Levin presented volunteer hour awards from the ATC and Forest Service. Doug wanted to recognize those people who went above 1000 hours this year since they aren't officially recognized.

Six people in our Club passed 1000 hours this year. Carol Broderson 1200+, Bill Gurganus 1800+, Doug Levin 1600,1700,1800+, Anne Maio 9400,-10,000+, Anna Sherrill 1100+ and Terry Walker 2200+

Edie Bobko	FS 100 Bar / AT Patch / 112.5 hrs
Ron Bobko	FS 400&500 Bar / AT Cap / 581.00hr
Chris Bobko	AT pin / 9.25hrs
Mark Bobko	AT Pin / 9.25hrs
Gerry Davis	FS 300 Bar / 357hr
Mary Davis	FS 200&300 Bar / 339.5
Jeff Donahue	AT Pin / 23.25hr
Jane Gurganus	FS 700 Bar / 753.00hr
Wilbur Gurganus	FS1000 Bar / AT Vest / 1006.00hr
Kimberly Harmon	AT Pin / 41.5hr
David Hatcher	FS 50&100&200 Bars / ATpin & patch / 203.00hr
Gray Hauser	FS 200 Bar / 222.75hr
Whitney Osborne	AT Pin / 22.75hr
Isaac Peters	AT Pin / 15.75hr
Marcia Pruner	FS 50&100 Bar / AT pin & patch / 140.75hr
George SanFilippo	AT Pin / 26.75hr
Sharon Trumbley	FS 1000 Bar / AT Vest / 1192.75hr
Kathy Walker	FS 600 Bar / 634.50hr
Jim Warden	FS 400 Bar / 484.75hr

Terry Walker discussed the new slate of board members  
Carol Broderson and Sharon Trumbley acted as nominating committee

Vote on board approved slate

Jim Warden re-elected for 2019-2021

New board members

David Hatcher 2019-2021

Beth Minnick 2019-2021

Secretary and treasurer are not up for election this year

Doug Levin, Trails Coordinator to 2021

Gerry Davis, RPC rep to 2021

Whitney Osborne, Outreach to 2021

Carol Broderson, Natural Resources to 2021

Sharon Trumbley, Rec Activities to 2021

*Bill Hurlbaus will be leaving the board and was thanked for his service.*

Bill Hurlbaus made a motion to approve slate and all approved.

Motion was made to adjourn meeting and approved by all.