

Minutes

MRATC Annual Meeting February 29, 2020

Attendees: Edie Bobko, Cab Booth, Carolyn Booth, Carol Broderson, Gerald Davis, Mary Davis, Doug Levin, George Dickert, Eleanor Grasselli, David Hatcher, Robert Hagan, Joseph Hayes, Betty Kilgore, George Kilgore, Anne Maio, Wayne Manly, Felicia Mitchell, Ina Price, Sharon Trumbley, Terry Walker, Jim Warden, Bob Wolfe, Joanna Wolfe

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair, Doug Levin

There were no guests or agency partners present.

MRATC Steering Committee Chair reports:

- **Trails - Doug Levin**

There are currently trail monitors for all sections, but more are always welcome, and sections can be shared between monitors. Upcoming trail work day is Tuesday, March 10th, and will involve replacing a bridge just south of the fork to Saunders Shelter. Doug and Ron Bobko have procured needed materials and are preparing them. A college group from Tennessee of approximately 10 students and 3 faculty members will participate.

- **Natural Resources – Carol Broderson**

Upcoming events will focus attention on identifying plants and what is being monitored, and include a hike from Whitetop to Elk Garden as part of the Mount Rogers Naturalist Rally in May.

- **Outreach – Whitney Peters** Whitney was not able to attend but sign-up sheets for staffing our booth for Earth Day (4/18/2020) and the Virginia Creeper Festival (4/25/2020) were circulated.

- **Club Recreational Activities – Sharon Trumbley** Reminder about Friday and Saturday Fun Hikes and the Earth Day celebration on April 18th.

- **ATC Regional Partnership Committee – Gerry Davis**

The Southern Regional Partnership meeting is scheduled for March 14-15 at Hungry Mother Park in Marion, VA. Anne Maio plans to attend. There are still spaces available, but registration deadline is today. The meeting is a great opportunity to hear from other involved and concerned groups.

Other reports:

- **Membership, new members – Sharon Trumbley**

MRATC added 27 new members this year. Membership renewal is due on 3/1.

- **Club activities with youth groups – Mary Davis**

A group of Tennessee college students is coming to help with the Saunders bridge construction – important to complete before hiker season really kicks in.

- **Treasurer's report – Kathy Walker (Terry Walker in Kathy's absence)**

Cash balance as of 01/01/2019: \$8,909.05

Total receipts: \$7,979.77

Total expenditures: \$4,451.13

Vanguard: \$17,102.50

Trimpi CD: \$4,643.71

Stacey Levin: \$3,780.00

Cash Balance as of 2/29/2020: \$8,433.24

The club no longer maintains tax-exempt status, determined to be not worth it in the long run.

A report on the number of club volunteer hours in 2019 was given by Doug Levin and volunteer hour awards were given to club members.

Club T-shirts will be available soon. If you still wish to order them, talk with Terry Walker. Cost is \$18-\$20 per shirt.

Carol Broderson gave a description of proposed by-laws changes to the titles of club officers. A motion to approve was made by Carol and seconded by Jim Warden. The membership voted to approve.

Mary Davis gave a report from the nominating committee presenting the slate of club officers to be elected that were approved by the board. The membership voted to approve. A list will be included with the March newsletter.

Special appreciation was given to Kathy Walker, who is stepping down as Treasurer, and George Dickert, who will be leaving the board this year.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the Damascus Public Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Board votes by email between meetings:

Our revised bylaws stipulate that any votes by email between meetings need to be appended to the minutes of the previous meeting.

On March 25-26, the majority of the Board voted against adding the club's name as a supporter of the ATC's request to the Dept. of Agriculture, National Park Service, and US Forest Service to close all national forest trails in areas the AT passes through, due to coronavirus concerns. The vote was 8 against; 6 for; 5 not voting by the ATCs designated time.

On March 30-31, the majority of the Board voted for the ATC's revision of that letter, which included trail closure until April 30th, with an option to extend if needed. The vote, using a combination of email and Survey Monkey, was 10 for; 4 against; 5 not voting by the ATCs designated time.