

TIDEWATER APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Monthly Meeting

May 1, 2024

Members Present:

Bill Bunch, Bruce Davidson, Andy Grayson, Paul Heymann, Ned Kuhns, Lee Lohman, Mike Martin, Kama Mitchell, Jim Newman, Greg Reck, Peg Seriani, Rich Seriani, Jim Sexton, John Sima, Lelia Vann, Don Williams

Members Absent:

John Barnes, Sandra Canepa, Brittany Collins, Kevin Dubois, Greg Hodges, Kaci Midgette, Sharon Salyer

- 1. Welcome and Call to Order:** The meeting, with a quorum, was called to order by President Vann at 7:00 p.m.
- 2. Proceedings of Previous Meeting:** The April 2024 Board meeting minutes were accepted without amendment.
- 3. Finance:** Andy Grayson presented the Treasurer's report. Expenses are within budget for all budget categories and income continued to be fairly high as we are still within our legacy Membership Renewal season. Balance: March 2024: \$39,803.86. Current balance is \$41,816.44.
- 4. Membership:** Kama Mitchell presented the Membership report. March 2024: 452 members. Current membership is 459 members.

5. Reported/Discussed:

A. Trail Supervisor Report - John Sima, Trail Supervisor

April 26-28: Spring Maintenance: 46 people showed up. No injuries. Great workday weather. 3 newbies. Tool Boss brought all the right tools and more.

- June 7-9: Swingblade & Lopperfest #1
- July 12-14: Swingblade & Lopperfest #2
- August 9-11: Swingblade & Lopperfest #3
- October 11-13: Fall Backpacking Walk thru
- October 25-27: Fall Maintenance

Upcoming SAWS work schedule for St. Mary's: June 5-12, 19-26, and July 3-10

A1. AT Spring Maintenance Dinner Report - Lee Lohman, Lead

-April 26-28: Spring Maintenance: Fed 46 people. \$467.61 reimbursement.

B. Cabin Report - Gregory Hodges/Kevin DuBois, Cabin Committee

- June 21-23: Cabin Maintenance Volunteer obtained.
- September 13-15: Cabin Maintenance
- November 1-3: Cabin Maintenance Still needs a volunteer.

C. Local Trails Report - Paul Heymann, Local Trail Supervisor

- April 18: FLSP Live Oak & Cypress Swamp Trail led by Kaci
- May 16: FLSP Trail Maintenance Workday
- June 20: FLSP Trail Maintenance Workday

D. Safety Report - Bruce Davidson, Safety Committee Chair

- Safety Committee Members: Bruce Davidson, Greg Reck, Lance Deaver, Kaci Midgette.
- Assessed some issues with Garmin InReach at Maintenance weekend. Bruce will address on website
- InReach training with Kaci and Greg
- Overall InReach communication was good during Spring Maintenance weekend. No safety concerns.
- Need to determine if old First aid kits have outdated components. New kits have been purchased.

E. Program Report - Lee Lohman, Program Chair

- May 8 GMM: Guest Speaker - Dr. Sherri McQueen on The Lambert's Point City Park Campaign
- June 12 GMM: Guest Speaker - Tanya Wisoker on the history of FLSP

-July 10 GMM: Guest Speaker - Ned Kuhns on Scotland Hike

-August 14 GMM: Guest Speaker - Lance Deaver on how to stop a major hemorrhage

F. Tool Shed Report - Rich Seriani, Tool Boss

-Took pictures of Sherando toolbox and tools. Would like to inventory, clean, and lubricate those tools during the June Lopperfest.

-Spring Maintenance tools have been cleaned, lubricated, and put back into the tool shed.

-We now have 11 Silky Saws in the Tool Shed.

-Disposed of 23 expired and/or broken hard hats. We still have 16 never-used (before the Spring Maintenance) hard hats that expire in 2028.

-Will visit the shed over the next couple weeks to begin cataloging the contents. Dates TBD.

G. Outreach Report - John Barnes, Outreach Committee Chair/Kaci Midgette, Co-Chair

-Successful April 20th TATC Earth Day Outreach event at Mt. Trashmore.

-May 1, 5th Annual Norfolk Bike Expo: 5-7 PM

-June 22, 36th Annual Hampton Roads Pridefest & Boat Parade: Registered on 4/8/2024 in Free lottery.

-October 5-6, Fall-O-Ween Festival (NN Fall Festival): Registration Accepted on 4/18/2024.

-Potential Events:

-Great Outdoor Provision Company, tbd

-REI, tbd

-FLSP, tbd

H. Education Report - Don Williams, Education Committee Chair

-Emailed Survey to Document Update Committee and emailed "editing suggestions - for discussion." Survey is back and will email to Committee.

I. Social Events Report - Sharon Salyer, Social Events Committee Co-Chair

-No report provided

J. Volunteer Time Report - Greg Reck, Timekeeper

-The timekeeping system seems to be working well and I'm getting a steady flow of input data (well over 50 submissions before last weekend).

-Jim Sexton has posted the links to the forms on the TATC website, so they're readily accessible.

-I do have one request: when filling out the input form for any event, please input your email address in the first block (marked with a red asterisk). That block is empty on many of the inputs that I've received.

-Thanks to all for helping with this reporting process.

K. Awards Coordinator Report - Jim Newman, Awards Coordinator

-Working on ATC APPA Awards due July 1.

-Michelle Cobb has agreed to design the logo for each award: AT, Local Trails, Cabin, etc.

L. Hikemaster Report - Kaci Midgette, Hikemaster

-May 15: Happy Hiker Hour at Afterglow Brewery

-May 17-19: Lelia - For AT Hiking & Jazz Lovers at Delaware Water Gap 8 have signed up (3 couples, 1 mom & daughter)

-June 1: Jim Newman - Trail Magic at Tye River Completely Filled

M. Merchandise Report - Mike Martin, Chair

-Transferred stock from Lee Lohman.

-Received stock from Jim Newman and Kaci Midgette at Spring Maintenance.

-Inventorying all merchandise and will reconcile. For example, we have many more Cabin Cards than inventory reports.

-Giveaways: Trail Maintainer t-shirts at Spring Maintenance. Men's and Ladies' embroidered t-shirts and can cozies for the 5/1 bike expo.

-Orders: 1 order for the month of April.

-Agreed to have clearance sale at May GMM for T-shirts and Polo shirts

N. Newsletter Report - Peg Seriani, Newsletter Editor

-The Jun/Jul Newsletter will be sent out on June 1st, so the next deadline for articles/photos will be Friday, May 24th.

O. Webmaster Report - Jim Sexton, Webmaster

-No report provided

P. Facebook Report - Bill Bunch, Facebook Master

-548 people have joined the group page and we had some good posts on the last week's maintenance trip from Kathy O'Hara and Robin Zaleski.

Q. ATC RPC Report - Ned Kuhns/Jim Sexton, ATC RPC Representative

-Minutes provided from SPM and Spring VA RPC meeting

-ATC has developed a good list of YouTube training video's related to the AT, particularly maintenance. ATC is looking for additional curriculum needs. Let Kathryn at VARO know of any needs we might have.

-To try and assess the health of AT clubs, the Stewardship Council has designed a proposed Club Vitality Checklist. What are the clubs' strengths and weaknesses? Theresa Duffey, the RPC Chair, would like our comment about the checklist as soon as possible. The checklist will be revised and sent to the clubs for completion after approval by the Stewardship Committee.

-ATC's Director of Volunteer Use Management, Morgan Sommerville, has an on-going program to update resource information for recognized camping sites. For TATC that would be Maupin Field and Harper's Creek. They gave us three pages on how to collect Visitor Use data at the sites. I'll bring the information to the May 2024 Board meeting. New maps are being prepared and should be available for club use in the future.

R. Counselors Report - Bill Bunch/Sandy Canepa/Jim Newman

S. Prez Report - Lelia Vann

-Spring Maintenance:

- 1.) I thought the two signs (suggested by John Barnes and designed by Michelle Cobb) that we posted at entrance Tye River and Reed's Gap trail heads were a successful in giving notice of our club. We had several hiker's mention the sign as they were hiking up to Maupin Field shelter area.
- 2.) Great having Bruce Davidson as our Safety Head reviewing how to use the Garmin's with the leads.
- 3.) Great having Lee Lohman head up the dinner event. I heard many saying they enjoyed having grilled meat and potatoes.

-The Bold Mariner option for our GMM in summer months is NOT an option. Not enough parking available. :(We did have a great Happy Hiker Hour with ~20 participants.

6. Approval Requests:

A. Approved Andy Grayson as the Land Management Chair. Dave Plum agreed to be an advisor.

B. Agreed to report Trail Maintenance Hours as specified by federal agency partners and ATC.

C. Approved the May GMM Agenda with the addition of showing the Merchandise Clearance Sale for selected T-shirts and Polo shirts.

7. Discussion Items:

A. Donations - Jim Sexton will form an ad hoc committee to draft approval request for Bequest in Wills for cash in accordance with By-Laws. Lee Lohman and Andy Grayson will be included in the committee.

B. Different Venue for our Monthly Meetings was discussed and agreed to be halted.

C. Toolshed Items - Rich Seriani/Toolboss

-Plan to dispose of old bow saws – should we offer any to club members? Rich will bring saws to give away at May GMM.

-Need to send a request for club members to report any tools that they have in their possession. Not necessarily to get them back, but to know what tools we have and where they are. Rich will make this request in the next Newsletter.

-Does the Tool Boss have a budget to replace broken tools? There is \$750 budgeted.

-Would like to discuss and look into finding a climate-controlled storage facility for items that shouldn't be exposed to the extreme temperatures of the tool shed. Examples are electronics, rubber gloves that were found melted together, and social events equipment. Lelia agreed to house electronics for 1-year. If we do not use any of this equipment we will auction or donate.

-We have a sack full of never-used REI backpacks that could/should be used as give-away items at our AT Maintenance events and/or Lopperfests. We will have them available at next Lopperfest for anyone who doesn't bring a backpack.

Reported Later:

- May 2024 GMM had 52 people in attendance

Adjournment: President Vann adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.