

# TIDEWATER APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Monthly Meeting

February 5, 2025

### Members Present:

Bill Bunch, Chris Butler, Sandra Canepa, Lon Carpenter, Catherine Fowler, Andy Grayson, Paul Heymann, Mike Martin, Kama Mitchell, Greg Reck, Peg Seriani, Jim Sexton, Lelia Vann and Don Williams

### Members Absent:

Bruce Davidson, Greg Hodges, Ned Kuhns, Lee Lohman, Kaci Midgette, Jim Newman, Sharon Salyer, Rich Seriani and John Sima

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 January 2025 Board meeting minutes were accepted without amendment.
3. **Finance Report - Andy Grayson, Treasurer:** Andy presented the Treasurer's report.
  - The January financials show the club continuing to be in good overall financial condition. With 11 months completed in this fiscal year, Income is about \$3,600 above budget and the expenses for 11 months are about equal to our planned spending for 12 months, but keep in mind some of the income and spending was donation based (primarily the stove for the cabin and the donation for awards). We'll end up with a smaller net account decrease than we had anticipated when the '24 budget was approved.
  - Started looking at putting about \$28K of the club's cash-on-hand into CD's. Right now, we are not getting any interest on our checking account balance and are getting 0.01% on the savings. CDs are currently being offered at Wells Fargo for 7, 11, and 18 months with APRs in the 3.5% to 3.75% range. We could earn between \$800 and \$1000 per year (if those rates hold). Ran into difficulties during our first attempt to do this at the bank as they decided (after 1 preliminary visit and 25 minutes into a 2nd visit) that all of the club officers listed on the account had to be there. Hopefully this can be accomplished soon, but last year making the change to add Lelia as our president and Andy as the Treasurer took 6 separate visits. Also, while the formal statements from Wells Fargo are not yet available, Andy's tracking in MoneyMinder matches the on-line balances shown as of 2-1-25.
  - Balance: December balance was \$38,622.43. **Current January balance is \$37,515.59.**
4. **Membership Report - Sharon Salyer/Kama Mitchell, Membership:** Kama presented the Membership report. December 2024: 420 members. **Current January 2025 membership is 435 members.**
5. **Lightning Round Reported:**
  - A. Trail Supervisor Report - John Sima, Trail Supervisor/Kaci Midgette, Asst. Trail Supervisor**
    - March 28-30: Sherando Cleanup Day
    - April 11-13: Spring Backpacking AT Walk-Thru
    - April 25-27: Spring AT Maintenance (Williams Branch)
    - June 20-22: Swingblade & Lopperfest #1 (CCC Kitchen)
    - July 18-20: Swingblade & Lopperfest #2 (CCC Kitchen)
    - August 22-24: Swingblade & Lopperfest #3 (CCC Kitchen)
    - October 10-12: Fall Backpacking AT Walk-Thru
    - October 24-26: Fall AT Maintenance (Williams Branch)
  - AT Spring Maintenance Event Planning**
    - Advertise via ATC Volunteer Engagement Platform (VEP)
    - Email from hiker at Maulpin Shelter: "a new toilet seat is needed at this shelter's privy, or at least hinges to secure the toilet seat. A friend and I had a wonderful two nights in the shelter in the snow this past weekend! The shelter is in great shape even though there was no pen there is no pen for writing journal entries. It was wonderful hiking in the snow!"
    - Sunday, April 27 (Planned): Maintenance Training Session via Jim Sexton

**B. Cabin Report - Gregory Hodges, Cabin Committee Chair**

- April 11-13: Cabin Maintenance/Orientation Weekend led by Tom Miano
- tbd: Spring by tbd
- September 10-21: Cabin Maintenance/Orientation Weekend led by Greg Hodges
- October 31-November 2 or November 7-9: Cabin Maintenance/Orientation Weekend led by Greg Hodges

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

- Working on a draft "FLSP Trail Work Event Leader's Guide" - to be reviewed and then posted on the Education Documents page.

**Planned 2025 TATC Local Trail Maintenance First Landing State Park** - Live Oak/Cedar Swamp Trails. Subject to changes upon request of FLSP.

- Saturday, February 15, 2025: Paul Heymann
- Saturday, March 15, 2025: Greg Reck & Lelia Vann
- Thursday, April 17, 2025: Bob Mooney
- Thursday, May 22, 2025: Kaci Midgette
- Thursday, June 12, 2025: Dave Plum
- Thursday, July 10, 2025: Lee Lohman
- Thursday, August 14, 2025: Jim Sexton
- Thursday, September 18, 2025: Kaci Midgette
- Thursday, October 16, 2025: Jim Sexton
- Saturday, November 15, 2025: John Iglodi
- Thursday, December 11, 2025: Paul Heymann

**D. Safety Report - Bruce Davidson, Safety Committee Chair**

- No report.

**E. Tool Shed Report - Rich Seriani, Tool Boss**

- No report.

**F. Program Report – Paul Heymann, Program Chair**

- February 12: Budget Presentation - Andy Grayson/TATC Treasurer
- March 12: Guest Speaker - Kalen Gilliam/FLSP Maintenance Ranger on Volunteer Maintenance Groups that can do work in park w/o Ranger supervision
- April 9: Guest Speaker - Sherri McQueen on Kayaking
- May 14: Guest Speaker - Lance Deaver/resident EMT on Severe Wound Management
- June 11: Guest Speaker - Don Williams/TATC Education Chair on Food on the Trail (description of foods and cooking methods useful on the trail --not car camping)
- July 9: Guest Speaker - Suzanne Moss/The Nature Bus
- August 13: Guest Speaker - Dr. Richard Wittecar on Formation and Legacy of the Chesapeake Bay Impact Crater
- September 10: Guest Speaker - Ned Kuhns: Part II of Hadrian Wall
- October 8: TATC Awards Ceremony - Jim Newman/Awards Coordinator
- November 12: Silent Auction
- December tbd: Holiday Party - tbd

**G. Outreach Report - Kaci Midgette, Outreach Committee Chair/Lon Carpenter, Co-Chair**

- Waynesboro's HikerFest, email sent to their marketing coordinator- waiting for response
- Devil's Backbone, if they have any events that we can have a table
- Norfolk PrideFest '25
- Considering Norfolk's St. Patrick's Day Parade
- Application for '25 Newport News Fall Festival filed and received January 16th
- Will reach out to SkiBarn to see if they would host us for a tabling event, seems like cold weather would be a busy time for them.
- 2025 Grand Illumination Parade - \$100 allocated in Outreach budget for entry fee
- Volunteer opportunities for tabling at REI/Great Outdoor Provisions Co coming soon.

- Reaching out to local Universities for project involvement

#### **H. Education Report - Don Williams, Education Committee Chair**

- Andy, Jim and Don are producing new articles every two months in alignment with newsletters. They invited new members to join the committee. Nobody has responded yet.
- Don will lead the 2nd Backpacker 101 trip. It will be in late May to False Cape State Park. He will also have Backpacker 101 prep trips on the Southside and Peninsula a few weeks ahead of the main event. See the club calendar.
- Don made a video with 3 exercises demonstrated that could help individuals prepare for their hikes.

#### **I. Social Events Report - Cathrine Fowler, Social Events Chair**

- Day in the Park Picnic scheduled for July 26 at LynnhavenRiverNow. They are waiving the \$125.00 fee to rent the pavilion. Also, we can use sternos so that way we bring the hotdogs and hamburgers precooked and keep them warm. Terri Gorman is planning on attending the Picnic. Terri will give us a tour of the Brock Center and the group will hike Pleasure House Point at the end. Since Terri will be there, the building will be open; therefore, we will have access to the bathrooms.

#### **J. Volunteer Time Report - Greg Reck, Timekeeper**

- Met with Jim Newman, Lelia Vann, Ellis Malabad and Phyllis Neumann regarding Tuesday Group timekeeping guidelines for TG event photography. Resolved to report this time as TG administration.
- Provided Newsletter article to Peg Seriani including brief description of timekeeping forms, and including total hours recorded for each form since start of new system in March 2024 (except Fed Lands--reported for FY 2024).
- Preparing brief "Guidance" paragraph for potential inclusion on the TATC website under "TIMEKEEPING" in the intro page banner.

#### **K. Awards Coordinator Report - Jim Newman, Awards Coordinator**

- No report

#### **L. Hikemaster Report - Jim Sexton, Hikemaster**

- Posting and advertising new events as they are identified
- Always looking for event leaders and/or event ideas (Need Hike Leaders)
- Continuing to "Not" highlight Tuesday Groups events because the number of participants are consistently hitting their limit.

#### **M. Merchandise Report - Mike Martin, Chair**

- No report

#### **N. Newsletter Report - Peg Seriani, Newsletter Editor**

- Thanks to everyone who sent in articles and photos for the Feb/Mar newsletter. Feb/Mar Newsletter sent out on January 30th. Apr/May will be sent out on April 1st, so the next deadline for articles/photos will be **Tuesday, March 25th.**

#### **O. Webmaster Report - Jim Sexton, Webmaster**

- Sent out twelve blast emails
- Wrote one training document on Common Trail Maintenance Tasks.
- Worked with the Educational Committee and posted five new educational documents to the educational documents page on the TATC Website
- Reworked the A.T. Volunteer Injury Packet and printed out 25 copies.
- Gave Kaci TATC business cards and notecards for the Winter Wildlife Festival – we need to reorder
- Worked on scheduling additional club events.
- Attended the January VARO Meeting.
- Attended the January TATC Board Meeting.
- Provided 2025-2026 budget input for Website and VP

- Submitted A.T. Museum donations article for inclusion in Feb/Mar 2025 TATC Newsletter
- Turned over documentation on Bequests information to Lee Lohman
- Worked with Catherine Fowler on establishing a date for Day-in-the-Park picnic
- Worked on the submission of the TATC 2025 Club Affiliation Document to ATC

#### **P. Facebook Report - Bill Bunch, Facebook Master**

- There are now 719 that have joined our group page as of 1/29/2025 up from 698 last meeting.

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

- The Central VA Partnership Meeting will be held on February 8. Ned will attend by Zoom and Jim will attend in person depending upon the location and weather or via Zoom.
- An ATC Volunteer Leadership Meeting (VLM) is scheduled for August 15 - 17, 2025. TATC can have two attendees funded by ATC. Our club able to send more attendees if we fund their attendance. ATC has requested one experienced leader and one new leader with potential for the future. I recommend that Lelia and Kaci fill the two ATC funded attendee positions. I have contacted Leanna Joyner at ATC and asked if any other clubs are not sending their attendees funded by ATC, could the funds be transferred to allow TATC to send more than two members. No response yet. If the answer is a negative, I recommend that TATC pay for Greg Reck to also attend the VLM to gain experience for the future.
- The 2025 Southern Partnership Meeting (SPM) and spring Virginia Regional Partnership Committee (RPC) Meeting is scheduled for March 21 - 23, 2025 at the Blowing Rock Conference Center in NC. We will be receiving additional information in the new year.

#### **R. Membership Planning/Recruiting Committee - Bill Bunch, Chair**

- No report

#### **S. Corridor Monitoring and Boundary Maintenance - Andy Grayson, Corridor Monitoring Lead**

- Andy is planning on walking the Club's section of the AT Corridor on Saturday, March 8th. As the '24 corridor walk was led by ATC staff personnel and all of the markers were found and re-surveyed, the '25 effort will be primarily focused on verifying that there has been no property encroachment. The 8th is the Saturday after the 1-day Friday cross-cut recert at Locher Tract (near Natural Bridge), which Andy is attending. He will be staying overnight on Friday (somewhere) and getting started on the corridor efforts around 9:30-10 ish. Andy will coordinate with any others available and wanting to support on workday details.

#### **T. Past Prez Report - Lee Lohman**

- Bequest/Donation Update next month.
- Survey results from TATC Ticket survey for movie screening of Grand Rapids Moon at NARO. So far, 44 members responded to the survey indicating an interest in 86 tickets. Date still to be determined.

#### **U. Prez Report - Lelia Vann**

- TATC 2024 Budget Audit will be held at Ned Kuhns home on February 19, 2025, with Andy presenting and Ned conducting the audit. Chris Butler/Counselor, Jim Sexton/VP, Kaci Midgette/Past VP, Greg Reck/TK, and Lelia/P will be present as well.
- Registered for the ATC "Club Webinar - 5 Years of the Volunteer Engagement Platform" scheduled for February 26.
- Cutoff date for 2025 Awards is June 15, 2025. My submittal date to ATC will be NLT June 30, 2025. We plan to submit Reese Lukei for the ATC Gold Award (50 years of membership). Jim Sexton pulled the list of all members that qualify for the ATC Silver Award (25 years of membership). And he researched what needs to be done to allow TATC to submit members for the Presidential Lifetime Service Awards for volunteer work on AT, Local, Leadership, Service and Cabin events.
- First Hasty Hike (January) was postponed to makeup "rain" date because of snow. 19 participants showed up.
- January TATERS was cancelled due to snow.
- Registered for For Hiking and Jazz Lovers Event in May at The Deer Head Inn in Delaware Water Gap.

## **6. Approval Requests:**

### **A. Approved the following Board positions/candidates:**

- ATC RPC Representative: Ned Kuhns
- Alternate ATC RPC Representative: Jim Sexton
- Webmaster: Jim Sexton
- Membership Co-Chairs: Kama Mitchell/Sharon Salyer
- Cabin Committee Chair: Gregory Hodges
- Local Trail Supervisor: Paul Heymann
- Program Chair: Paul Heymann
- Safety Committee Chair: Bruce Davidson
- Tool Boss: Rich Seriani
- Outreach Chair/Co-Chair: Kaci Midgette/Lon Carpenter
- Education Committee Chair: Don Williams
- Social Events Committee Chair: Cathrine Fowler
- Timekeeper: Greg Reck
- Awards Coordinator: Jim Newman
- Merchandise Chair: Mike Martin
- Newsletter Editor: Peg Seriani
- Facebook Master: Bill Bunch
- Membership Planning/Recruiting Committee Chair: Bill Bunch
- Corridor Monitoring and Boundary Maintenance Lead: Andy Grayson

### **B. Approved the 2025 TATC Proposed Budget to be presented at the February 12, GMM – Andy Grayson**

### **C. Approved the February 12, 2025, GMM Agenda**

## **7. Discussion Items:**

### **A. SignUp Genius and MeetUp for Event Advertising - Jim Sexton**

- Will use SignUp Genius reports and invites more.
- Found a kayak event leader and kayaking events may possibly start in the spring.
- Discussed the need for better visibility as to who is coming to local maintenance events. Jim Sexton will start to send event leaders a report so they can see attendees who signed up.

### **B. Focused Events for recent Sawyer A Cert – Paul Heymann, Jim Sexton, Andy Grayson**

- For Level A Sawyer Practice at FLSP, a fallen tree has been found located adjacent to Cypress Swamp Trail, near Trail Center end that would be a suitable practice log. This could be planned for Saturday March 15 or Thursday April 17, after Kalen Gilleiam's presentation to TATC, but before Spring AT Maintenance weekend (April 25-27). Currently, Jim Sexton has session scheduled on Sunday, April 27.
- Discussed sending an email to the A Certified people asking what training they signed up to attend.

### **C. AT Spring Maintenance Dinner Plans - Catherine Fowler**

- Discussed the menu and the use of SignUp Genius to form a committee for the event.

### **D. Bring back Name Tags – Kaci Midgette**

- Lon discussed bringing back name tags. These would be beneficial for new people to address members as they would be helpful at Outreach/tabling events.
- Jim Sexton will get outreach event dates from Kaci so Jim can add to the calendar.

### **E. FLSP Trail Maintenance Activity Leaders - Paul Heymann**

- After discussing, the BOD voted that activity leaders must be TATC members.

## **Reported Later:**

- February 2025 GMM had 41 people in attendance.
- The 2025 TATC Proposed Budget was unanimously approved.

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