

TIDEWATER APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Monthly Meeting
November 5, 2025

Members Present: Bill Bunch, Chris Butler, Sandra Canepa, Lon Carpenter, Michelle Cobb, Bruce Davidson, Catherine Fowler, Andy Grayson, Paul Heymann, Ned Kuhns, Lee Lohman, Kaci Midgett, Kama Mitchell, Jim Newman, Greg Reck, Jim Sexton, John Sima, Lelia Vann and Don Williams

Members Absent: Greg Hodges, Sharon Salyer, Peg Seriani, and Rich Seriani

Other Attendees: Heather Bailey and Joe Stell

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 October 2025 Board meeting minutes were accepted without amendment.
3. **Finance Report** – Andy presented the Treasurer's report.
 - Our October financials show the club continuing to be in good overall financial condition.
 - Balance: September closing balance is \$38,443.07 and the October closing balance is \$38,706.95.
 - The Wells Fargo statement was received prior to the Board meeting submittal deadline and all accounts in MoneyMinder fully match the Wells Fargo statement.
4. **Membership Report** – Kama presented the Membership report.

September 2025 balance was 443 members. **Current October 2025 balance is 429 members.** The membership numbers are down because of purged members that did not renew their memberships.

TATC 2025 - How did new members hear about us?

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October
Friend	5	1	2			2	1			
Member		3	1	4				1	1	
Outreach Event	1	1		1						
FLSP		1						1		1
Social Media		2	2	1	1		1			
Online Search	1						1			1
ATC or AT Club								1		
Other									1	
Total	7	8	5	6	1	2	3	3	2	2

5. **The Lightning Round Report** – BOD members' monthly status updates.

-No discussion or questions on the topics reported.
6. **Proposals and Approval Requests:**
 - A. Lelia proposed the November 12, 2025 GMM be a Silent Auction. The proposal was approved.
 - B. Lelia proposed the December GMM be a Holiday Social. The proposal was approved.
7. **Discussion Items:**
 - A. **October Fall Maintenance: Lesson's Learned (What worked? What did not?)**
 - Discussed Forms: 301a (Minor Form) and 301b, AT Volunteer Injury/Near Miss Report Packets, Maintenance Activity Sign Up, and TATC Check-in/Check-Out Forms. Some parts worked well, and others were complicated. For example, Bruce highlighted 1) difficulties in identifying locations needing

InReach and persons taking InReach in a timely manner, 2) having little time to spend with InReach recipients to make sure they understood operation, and 3) having no time to discuss work area with new members so they did not go beyond their skill level. We agreed to establish an ad-hoc committee of John Sima, Bruce Davidson, and chaired by Lelia to develop a plan forward before our 2026 Spring Maintenance Event.

- Discussed and agreed to identify a couple of "easier" tasks available for volunteers that want to attend our events but don't feel comfortable carrying tools on the trails for maintenance. We talked about trash pickup, tool cleaning/maintenance at Sherando, pulling invasive species at Reids Gap as potential tasks.
- Catherine says there is no need to ask people to sign up to bring appetizers and desserts because a lot of people just brought stuff without signing up and there was too much, especially desserts. She will also plan a veggie option but not individual preferences for everybody.
- John will follow up with Andy to find out how much of the maintenance budget remains. He recommends using the remaining funds to purchase additional Garmin inReach devices.

B. 2026 TATC Annual Work Plan - Lelia Vann and John Sima

- Proposed dates for Corridor/Boundary Monitoring and Maintenance trips provided. No one objected to any of the dates proposed but it was noted that the 2026 Southern Partnership Meeting hosted by the Virginia RPC would coincide with the Sherando Cleanup Day. Lelia will send this work plan to Jonathan Bennett/NPS for approval.
- John will send an email to Jonathan Zimmerman/Sherando regarding the use of the Admin Building for the Corridor/Boundary Monitoring event the weekend of January 10, 2026.
- Kaci will contact Jessie Carter/Devils Backbone regarding basecamp for the Spring Maintenance Training session prior to our Spring AT Maintenance event in April 2026.

C. TATC-ATC Hurricane Helene Recovery Stewardship Agreement Signed 10/18/2025 - Lelia Vann and Greg Reck

- Greg Reck/TATC Timekeeper, Kathryn Herndon-Powell/ATC Regional Director of the Virginias, and Lelia Vann/TATC President signed a 5-year Stewardship Agreement between TATC and ATC which requires **MONTHLY Reporting** of volunteer hours worked on USFS land only. 95% of the work that we do is in the USFS land including Sherando. The volunteer hours includes the VARO meetings, our Board meeting time, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership, etc. It does not include time for our local trail maintenance, our fun activities leaders, Happy Hiker Hours, etc.
- All Board members are asked to submit their admin hours worked by the end of each month. Lelia agreed to submit hours for everyone attending the Board meetings each month.

D. Holiday Party Update - Catherine Fowler

- The Holiday Party will be at The Cove. Jim Sexton agreed to draw a diagram of the location because some people were confused last year.
- Dan Fowler and Lelia will collect admission at the front entrance. All money collected will be turned into Andy.

E. VA Rules on Sales Taxes and Raffles - Lee Lohman

- TATC can solicit donations from members only. Lee is applying for permission to solicit donations from non-members and public. In reviewing the VDACS registration process there are rules on sales tax (specifically merchandise sales) that we are seeking additional guidance on.
- Lee Lohman described the limitations of the sales tax and charitable gaming laws. TATC's raffles would not be restricted unless the total amount of the proceeds exceeded \$40,000 in one calendar year. He described the process of applying for an exemption to the requirement to collect and pay sales tax. The Board discussed whether to proceed with the exemption request or terminate any logo item sales. They decided to proceed with the request and deal with the merchandise sales question separately.
- A motion was made and accepted to allow Michelle to decide what merchandise should and could be considered "junk" and disperse with accordingly.

F. VDACS Registration Process - Lee Lohman

- Lee Lohman mentioned that the Board should be aware of downsides to being registered with VDACS for purposes of soliciting donations with the public. He noted that the public could see our financial statements, and we will have to file a form similar to the registration form every year. Objections were not raised. Lee said that the registration document was complete and will be mailed to VDACS.

G. Honorariums for Guest Speakers - Paul Heymann

- A motion was made and accepted to allow the Program Chair to offer up to 3 honorariums (no greater than \$150 each) for non-member guest speakers per year.

Reported Later: November 2025 Silent Auction had **70** people in attendance. The total amount raised by the auction was \$1005.84 after an anonymous donation of \$120.

Adjournment: President Vann adjourned the meeting at 8:17 p.m.