

Virginia Creeper Trail Club Meeting  
April 24, 2013  
Washington County Public Library

Present: Tom Boyle, Eliot Cannon, Kevin Costello, I.B. Dent, Myrl Dunham, Lawrence Dye, Larry Harrison, Bob Horsch, Chris Lindeman, Steve Lindeman, Debbie Meade, Greg Meade, Sharon Miller, Wayne Miller, Roger Reynolds, Debbie Stern, Chris Sullivan, Jeff VanCleaf

VCTC President Wayne Miller called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**President's Report—Wayne Miller**

- The Minutes from our previous club meeting of 27 March 2013 were approved on-line.
- Lisa Quigley has volunteered to manage the VCTC merchandise, thus no more Sharon's sale items.
- Roger Reynolds made a motion to set aside \$10K of VCTC funds as a reserve in case the USFC fails to timely obtain funding to repair the erosion that has closed the trail at MM 31. Bob Horsch seconded the motion. The VCTC vote carried the motion.
- The 39th annual Mount Rogers Naturalist Rally will be held on May 10 and 11. Steve Linderman is leading one of the hiking events.
- The Washington County Library graciously thanked the VCTC for our donation of the book Flora of Virginia.
- Volunteers are needed to fill leadership roles for this year. Elections will be held during the May meeting.
- Construction activities this year include building a memorial bench to raise funds for a Johnston Memorial Hospital auction and painting the large signs for both Green Cove and White Top stations.
- The VCT advisory board next meeting is May 1. Topics to include trestle transitions and recent trail surfacing.

**Vice President's Report—Eliot Cannon**

Due to the medical review board's belief that the project is too complex, the fundamentals of the VCT injury monitoring project has changed. Injury data for 2013 is being collected and will be provided in a forthcoming VCTC meeting. Safety remains a focus of the VCTC.

**Treasurer's Report—Greg Meade**

The cash balance is \$35,722. Deposits for funds collected at recent Events will be posted soon. In accordance with the vote during this meeting, \$10K will be reserved.

**Membership Committee—Chris Sullivan**

Membership has remained steady. Expect to distribute the bi-annual email notification to pulse members for Current or Expired status. Chris passed around a hard copy for attendees to review their information.

**Events—Chris Lindeman**

- Event activities this year include the April 6 trail clean up, April 20 Hitting the Trail for Hunger to raise funds for Faith in Action, and April 20 Earth Day at the Fields-Penn House.
- The next event is May 18 Damascus Trail Days. A following event is May 25 Plumb Alley Day. Volunteers are needed for both events. Subsequent events are June 1 National Trail Day, August 3 Ride with the Legend, September 29 VCTC Picnic.

**Publicity & Website Updates**

The VCTC website is averaging about 2,000 visits per month with new visits about 75% and repeat visits about 25%. Through technical problem perseverance, the website now reflects our partnership with the Abingdon Vineyard and Winery. Kevin Costello graciously volunteered to assist Link Elmore with the website.

**State of the Trail—Lawrence "the Legend" Dye**

The trail surfacing added near Meade Drive in Abingdon remains loose. The trail surfacing from BVU's installation of the fiber optic line consists of patches of large gravel; very rough to ride. He is currently at 175,420 miles on the VCT.

**Town of Abingdon -**

- From Kevin Worley's pre-brief email, Wayne Miller reported: For trestle #7 replacement, there were nine bidders and a contractor was selected to be presented to the Town Counsel to award the contract. Once awarded, a media blitz will ensue and contain the details.
- It is anticipated that the town owned Finley House at the Abingdon trail head may become a tourism/VCTC information annex.
- The Virginia Tourism Corporation grant is open for the new brochure; initial writing of the grant has begun.

**Program: Video of Virginia Creeper Train**

Provided by Myrl Dunham, a ten minute narrated video of the Virginia Creeper train, traffic, stops, and commerce. The VCTC will seek to produce copies to raise funds.

**Misc**

The Damascus Parks and Recreation has painted the Caboose a very nice bright red color.

The Evergreen Community Charter School group will arrive on May 29th to work on the VCT.

The VCT made the Top 10 Great Hiking Trails in the Livability.com rankings.

The Rails-To-Trails Conservancy will feature the VCT in their May edition; both Lawrence and Wayne were interviewed.

The Virginia Master Naturalist Holston River Chapter is placing a copy of the Flora of Virginia book at each of the county libraries where they operate.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff VanCleaf, VCTC secretary