

Virginia Creeper Trail Club Meeting
May 28, 2014
Washington County Public Library

Present: Nancy Blaney, Paul Blaney, Tom Boyle, Kevin Costello, Tom David, Gerald Davis, George Dickert, Janice Donovan, David Donovan, Myrl Dunham, Link Elmore, Eleanor Grasselli, Margaret Gregg, Bob Horsch, George Kilgore, Betty Kilgore, Chris Lindeman, Anne Maio, Bunny Medeiros, Wayne Miller, Anna Sherrill, Tam Smith, Debbie Stern, Jeff VanCleaf

Guests: Linda Carder, James Elmore, Ben Elmore, Laura Georgi, Beth Merz, Mike Smith

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

President's Report—Wayne Miller

- Flyers regarding the June 12th Harvest Table restaurant event were available. The Harvest Table will share their dinner proceeds with the VCTC as part of their give-back-to-the-community endeavors.
- Bunny Medeiros volunteered to be Vice President, the position left vacant by Elliot Cannon. Link Elmore made a motion to elect Bunny as Vice President and Bob Horsch seconded the motion. The VCTC vote carried the motion. The Term is completed in May 2015.
- Wayne will do a radio interview with Carolina Outdoors at 10:00AM on 30 May 2014. This will attract folks from the Raleigh, N.C area to the VCT.
- A big thanks to the volunteers that worked the VCTC tent on Trail Days and Plumb Alley. The VCTC raised \$610 over these two events.
- The next event is Ride with the Legend. It begins at 8:00AM on August 2nd at the trail head in Abingdon. The train engine will be open for about an hour.
- There will be a celebration in September to honor the VCT as the latest inductee into the Rails-To-Trails Conservancy Hall of Fame. View the inductee information online:
<http://community.railstotrails.org/blogs/trailblog/archive/2014/04/30/2014-rail-trail-hall-of-fame-virginia-creeper.aspx>
- Lawrence "the Legend" Dye has ridden over 181,300 miles on the VCT.
- The latest VCT Advisory Board meeting of May 7th noted that (i) the lack of outdoor lighting at the Damascus Library is resolved; the timer was the issue, (ii) the two temporary gates past Trestle #7 will be removed once the cattle crossings under the trestle are complete, and (iii) a suggestion to accept gravel donations for specific VCT sections is being considered.
- Jeff VanCleaf noted that normal elections are held during the May meeting, and Directors Chris Lindeman, Belle Avery, and Lawrence Dye should be elected. Thus per parliamentary procedures, Link Elmore made a motion to reelect all three members as Directors and Tom Boyle seconded the motion. The VCTC vote carried the motion. The Term is completed in May 2016.

USFS—Beth Merz

- Green Cove Station will celebrate its 100th birthday on August 3rd beginning at 2:00PM.
- Review of the proposals to replace Trestle #35 and Trestle #36 is continuing.
- Doug Goss recently used a spot device (emergency transmitter/locator communicates to dispatch in Roanoke) to broadcast an "SOS" signal for emergency assistance.

Town of Damascus

- At the close of the VCTC meeting in March, there was no outdoor lighting. This issue was reported and has been remedied; the timer became maladjusted due to a glitch in electrical power.
- The removal of encroaching vegetation on a section of the VCT between Damascus and Drowning Ford is complete. The area may need grass seed and fertilizer as a finishing touch.

Town of Abingdon—Kevin Costello

- A date will be established to celebrate the induction into the Rails-To-Trails Conservancy Hall of Fame. It will most likely be in the September/October time frame.
- All of the content for the new brochure is at the subcontractor. Reprinting of the old brochure has continued and prints are available until the new brochure is completed.
- The Finley House is slated to be the first historic property to be renovated. It will most likely be in the July/August time frame. The Finley House will be shared between the TOA and the VCTC (our Clubhouse!).

Program – Mike Smith presented a pictorial documentary of the rebuilding of Trestle #7

Mike captured photographs of the construction of the new trestle, usually two to three times each week, from August 2013 to the opening ceremony on April 28, 2014. Photographs were usually captured in the early afternoon. Mike began his presentation with a few factoids about the new trestle:

The span of the new trestle is 452 feet. That is 228 shorter than the original trestle.

The south end is 17 feet lower than the north end.

The grade slope is 3.77%.

Unlike probably any other trestle, the new trestle has two cattle crossings between its bents.

Through his photograph documentary endeavors, Mike learned a lot about trestle construction and the formal names of the parts of a trestle and shared these parts and their definitions with the attendees. Mike's presentation then followed the chronological capturing of the photographs. A lot of Mike's photographs are available on Richard Smith's website at:

<http://www.vacrepertrail.us/>

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff VanCleaf, VCTC secretary