

Virginia Creeper Trail Club Meeting
April 29, 2015
Washington County Public Library

Present: Rick Braudman, Mike Brillhardt, Jane Caldwell, Bo Catron, Gerald Davis, Mary Davis, Myrl Dunham, Lawrence Dye, Linda Fuller, Gerry Henninger, Phillip Hoffer, Bob Horsch, Sally Johnson, George Kelley, J.E. King, Chris Lindeman, Steve Lindeman, Anne Maio, Dean McCall, Wayne Miller, Lisa Quigley, Roger Reynolds, Jeff VanCleaf, Marsha Wikle

Guests: Buddy Albro, W.J. Cober, Jay Prevatt, Dennis Sanders

VCTC President Wayne Miller called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

President's Report—Wayne Miller

- Publicity for the VCT is rising. For example, USA Today is conducting a contest for the Best Southern Small Town and Abingdon is a contestant. The VCT is a highlight in the synopsis of Abingdon. The contest ends May 25. Vote daily at <http://www.10best.com/awards/travel/best-southern-small-town/abingdon-va/>.
- The VCTC website will be upgraded this year; the upgrade will include mobile device access. A Request For Proposal is out to three bidders.
- Kevin Costello has suggested that the Town of Abingdon ("TOA") and the VCTC consider hosting a symposium in 2016 for stakeholders from other trails to come and learn about the VCT and how its success can help their trails.
- Wayne passed around a sign up list for attendees to volunteer for a position on the VCTC board or a VCTC committee. Elections will be held during the meeting on May 27.
- Wayne Miller, the family of Mr. Taylor Read, and Kevin Worley (TOA) have agreed that a memorial shelter/structure will be built in the TOA's park at Alvarado Station. The VCTC has received \$6,445 in donations.
- The remodeling is continuing of the second floor of The Virginia Creeper Trail Welcome Center. The VCTC headquarters will reside in this building.
- The VCTC has built one new bench and repaired three benches.
- The VCTC and the USFS will join together tomorrow to extend the wing wall of Trestle #25.
- Dennis Sanders will present the Rte. 91 Creeper Trail Crossing at the VCT Trail Advisory Board meeting of May 13.
- Lawrence "the Legend" Dye has ridden 184,530 miles on the VCT.
- Wayne provided a history of the gates on the VCT. There are ten gates. Six are on the Smith brothers farm and are for cattle stock control. Two of these gates are next to their driveway. Two of these gates are on the flat area and are temporary gates to be removed now that Trestle #7 construction is complete. The remaining two of the six gates are up the VCT in the woods. Past Alvarado, there are two gates for cattle stock control. Near Drowning Ford at MM 12, there is one gate for cattle stock control. The final gate is a garden gate near Taylor's Valley.

Events—Chris Lindeman

- Chris provided a sign up roster for volunteers for events.
- Damascus Trail Days is May 16, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Volunteers are needed to staff the VCTC tent.
- Plumb Alley Days is May 23, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Volunteers are needed to staff the VCTC tent.
- Bike Virginia is June 26. Volunteers are needed for this huge event. Details are forthcoming.
- Ride With The Legend is August 1. Join him for a ride on the VCT. Everyone is invited to enjoy some free cake at Alvarado Station.

Treasure's Report—Gerry Henninger

- The latest financial statements were available in hardcopy for attendees.
- The balance remains healthy (\$50,000.21 as of April, 28 2015).
- The VCTC continues to receive memorial donations for Mr. Taylor Read and for Dr. Alvin Graham.

USFS—W.J. Cober

- Despite the heavy rains lately and during the winter, the trail surface is in pretty good shape. No major concerns with flooding.
- Doug Goss has been patrolling the trail. Susan Hmurciak will begin patrolling May 3.

- This is W.J.'s last VCTC meeting. He is relocating to West Virginia and will remain with the USFS. Wayne presented W.J. with a parting gift and noted W.J.'s years of service, cooperation, and dedication to the VCT.

Program – Mr. Dennis Sanders, VDOT representative

Dennis provided an update to his presentation of 27 August 2014 at the VCTC meeting regarding a potential solution to the safety issues with the VCT bicycles and pedestrians crossing Highway 91 at the junction of Highway 58. The potential solution is to provide an alternate route for VCT traffic to travel underneath the Highway 91 bridge along the edge of the stream. VDOT Richmond has approved this initial concept to proceed. The alternate trail is an estimated 12 feet wide, 710 feet in length, the bridge is about center, the trail height under the bridge is about 8 feet, and the grade will range from 2% to 8%. The trail surface material may be "trail asphalt", the walls are envisioned to be formed/textured concrete, and a hand rail is slated for the stream side. Also included is landscaping and tree planting.

The estimated cost is \$320,000 with construction estimated to commence in the summer of 2017 and complete in the summer of 2018, but regardless must commence after construction completion of the bridge. Bridge construction still faces funding and timing challenges. The VCT will not be closed during construction.

The VCTC has provided Mr. Sanders with a Letter of endorsement for this project.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff VanCleaf, VCTC secretary

