

Virginia Creeper Trail Club Meeting
May 27, 2015
Washington County Public Library

Present: Buddy Albro, Carolyn Barry, Charles Barry, TomBoyle, Rick Brakeman, Jane Caldwell, Bo Catron, Gerry Davis, Mary Davis, I.B. Dent, Gene Divers, Myrl Dunham, Lawrence Dye, Linda Fuller, Eleanor Grasselli, Margaret Gregg, Gerry Henninger, Bob Horsch, Sally Johnson, Joe LeVine, Donna LeVine, Anne Maio, Dean McCall, Jeann McClay, Bunny Medeiros, Wayne Miller, Bill Myers, Debbie Myers, Pat Phillips, Lisa Quigley, Jeff VanCleaf, Marsha Wikle

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

President's Report—Wayne Miller

- Wayne elaborated on the committees, members and their support to the VCTC.
- Special thanks to Lisa Quigley for the article published in the May 25th Bristol Herald Courier regarding the VCTC and USF partnership that extended the two wing walls (20ft each) of Trestle #25. A copy was passed around for attendees. The VCTC purchased the materials and provided labor.
- Compliments of Lisa Quigley, VCTC merchandise was available for purchase after the meeting. Merchandise sales and memberships are the primary sources of income for the VCTC.
- The VCTC website will be upgraded this year; the upgrade will include mobile device access. A Request For Proposal is out to three bidders.
- The VCTC continues to receive memorial donations (~\$10,000 to date) for Mr. Taylor Read and a picnic shelter will be built using these funds. Megan Read, sister, has conceptual models of a design that were displayed for attendees. Completion of the structure is desired by July. Perhaps a memorial bike ride and picnic will follow.
- This year, the VCTC has built five new benches and repaired three benches. Also washed the exterior of the Straight Branch trailside toilet.
- The VCTC and the USFS will partner to extend a wing wall (15ft) of Trestle #36. The VCTC will purchase the materials and provide labor.
- The VCTC has received reimbursement of \$5,462.35 under the publicity grant from the Virginia Tourism Corporation for the new brochure. An approved extension to November for the grant will enable the remaining balance from the \$10,000 to be used for the new VCTC website. Provide any suggestions for website improvement to Lisa Quigley.
- The latest financial statements were available in hardcopy for attendees. The balance remains healthy (\$51,679.98 as of May 25, 2015).
- The next VCT Advisory Board meeting is June 8th.

Elections for Board Members - Club Officers and Directors

Wayne Miller presented the slate for 2015-2017 Board election:

President - Wayne Miller
Vice President - Buddy Albro
Secretary - Jeff VanCleaf
Treasurer - Gerry Henninger
Director - Chris Sullivan
Director - Kevin Costello
Director - Greg Meade

The following were noted for Service Opportunities:

Director (2014-2016) - Chris Lindeman
Director (2014-2016) - Belle Avery
Director (2014-2016) - Lawrence Dye
Nominating : Lawrence Dye,(Greg Meade),(Link Elmore)
Internet: Lisa Quigley, Kevin Costello, Link Elmore, Jeff VanCleaf
Publicity: Anne Maio, Lisa Quigley, Tonya Triplett
Events: Christine Lindeman, Lisa Quigley, Steve Lindeman

Merchandise: Christine Lindeman, Lisa Quigley, Mary Davis
Construction: Bob Horsch, Roger Reynolds, Wayne Miller, Myrl Dunham
Newsletter: Debbie Stern, George Kelley
Historical: Jane Caldwell, Eleanor Grasselli
Archivist - Jane Caldwell
Special supporters - Dean McCall, Rick Braveman

There were no nominations from the floor. I.B. Dent made a motion that the slate be elected by acclamation. Charles Barry seconded the motion. VCTC vote carried the motion.

State of the Trail—Lawrence "the Legend" Dye

- Lawrence has ridden his bicycle 185,180 miles on the VCT.
- An article in the Spring 2015 Carolina Mountain Life magazine featured Lawrence. The magazine is free and is available in hardcopy at tourist information locations, The Historical Society, and online at www.cmlmagazine.com. The website was displayed for attendees.
- Lawrence suggested a safety improvement. A concrete footer remains after the removal of an old version of Trestle # 35. This footer could cause a hazard to wide bearing bicycle riders and he suggested removal of the footer.

Events—Lisa Quigley and Wayne Miller

- The Damascus Trail Days event on May 16th was successful. A big thanks to volunteers Bunny Medeiros, Chris Lindeman, Lisa Quigley, and Jeff VanCleaf.
- The Abingdon Plumb Alley Day event on May 23rd was successful. A big thanks to volunteers Lisa Quigley, Bunny Medeiros, Jane Caldwell, Carolyn Church, and Margaret Gregg.
- Bike Virginia is June 26. Volunteers are needed for this huge event that anticipates about 1,200 bike riders at a rest stop at the Abingdon Farmers Market pavilion. Refreshments will be enjoyed along with entertainment.. This is our chance to showcase the VCT and attract return riders. Volunteers are needed 12:00 - 4:30 and Lisa provided a sign up sheet.
- Ride With The Legend is August 1. Join Lawrence for a ride on the VCT.

Program – Ms. Bunny Mederios, author of the book "Friendliest Town on the Trail"

Bunny Mederios discussed excerpts from her book about Damascus, Virginia. She described the book as more than just the history of the town, and indeed the book is a resource (seven trails cross Damascus!). Many historic facts were highlighted about the people of Damascus, from early settlers to current folks that continue to impact Damascus. Bunny discussed how both the Appalachian Trail and the Virginia Creeper Trail have truly helped shape Damascus.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff VanCleaf, VCTC secretary