

Virginia Creeper Trail Club Meeting
June 24, 2015
Washington County Public Library

Present: Buddy Albro, Sean Albro, Carolyn Barry, Charles Barry, Rick Brakeman, Katie Burner, Jane Caldwell, Bo Catron, Gerry Davis, Mary Davis, I.B. Dent, Myrl Dunham, Lawrence Dye, Linda Fuller, Leigh Gleib, Dan Gleib, Gerry Henninger, Phillip Hoffer, Bob Horsch, Chris Lindeman, Steve Lindeman, Anne Maio, Lee Massicotte, Sara Massicotte, Dean McCall, Greg Meade, Wayne Miller, Lisa Quigley, Kelly Read, Paul Read, Roger Reynolds, Jeff VanCleaf, Lynda Warner, Marsha Wickle.

Guests: Sara Abbott, Gray Buckles, Ed Keys, Carene Miles

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

President's Report—Wayne Miller

- The Virginia Creeper Trail Welcome Center will open July 1st.
- The VCTC Board has approved \$2,500 funding to purchase replenishment of VCTC merchandise.
- VCTC inventory of hats is depleted. Attendees reviewed and discussed various styles of hats, colors, and logo designs. A consensus was reached to order a new style hat.
- 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 continues to receive memorial donations for Mr. Taylor Read and a picnic shelter will be built using these funds. Schedule and material delays have slipped the planned July completion date. A memorial bike ride and dedication ceremony is slated for September. The VCTC support discussions will continue in the August meeting.
- A suggestion was posed for a potential safety improvement at the gates: install signage with the appropriate "push to open" or "pull to open". This may prevent bike riders from mistakenly trying to open the "pull" gate with their front tire. Wayne will discuss this at the next VCT Advisory Board meeting as well as the current signage for gate closure that may no longer be necessary.
- The VCTC is working with the Town of Abingdon (TOA) and the Town of Damascus (TOD) to obtain grants for funding to upgrade the VCTC website.
- A big thanks to these volunteers for drafting the Request For Proposal to be sent to nine companies for the VCTC website upgrade: Jeff VanCleaf, Link Elmore, Kevin Costello, Debbie Myers, Amanda Livingston, Lisa Quigley, and Wayne Miller.
- The historic railroad bridge marker at Trestle #35 seems to be in the middle of the trail and is a potential safety concern. The VCTC plans to slightly modify the concrete marker to accept an arrow signage pointing trail users down the trail.
- The next VCT Advisory Board meeting is July 8th.

Treasurers Report—Gerry Henninger

- The VCTC needs to sell more merchandise. The approved \$2,500 to purchase new merchandise will benefit the club through return on sales.
- The latest financial statements were emailed to the VCTC Board and also available in hardcopy for attendees. The balance remains healthy (\$48,357.35 as of June 22, 2015).
- The club continues to receive memorial donations for Mr. Taylor Read. The Read family envisions an annual bike ride to raise funds for the VCTC.
- Recent expenditures include materials for the wing wall extensions for Trestles #25 and #35.

State of the Trail—Lawrence "the Legend" Dye

- Lawrence has ridden his bicycle 185,730 miles on the VCT.
- A huge tree fell across the trail in Damascus. The TOD had quickly removed the tree.
- An unauthorized vehicle parking overnight was reported to the TOA and subsequently resolved.
- The wet and loose grade at one end of Trestle #11 needs attention. Wayne will discuss with the TOA.

Events—Chris Lindeman, Lisa Quigley and Wayne Miller

- The Hops and Howlers brewfest event on June 20th was successful. A big thanks to volunteers Buddy Albro, Sean Albro, Mary Davis, Wayne Miller, Lisa Quigley, and Jeff VanCleaf. Each volunteer received a festive tee shirt, commemorative drinking glass, and a snack.
- Bike Virginia is June 26. Volunteers are needed for this huge event that anticipates about 800 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.

USFS—Sara Abbott, Gray Buckles, Carene Miles

- Gray Buckles is on a four month detail. He replaces W.J. Cober. Gray is investigating the warping boards on Trestle #16 and will keep in mind that it was refurbished within three to four years.
- Carene Miles is on an internship and is working with, and coordinating with, volunteers.
- The USFS desires to have an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) at both White Top and Green Cove Stations; these devices could save lives. Any ideas for partnership, funding, grants, and obtaining the devices are appreciated.

Program – Greg Meade, Worldwide conservation work of The Nature Conservancy

Greg Meade, conversation forestry program manager for The Nature Conservancy (TNC), provided a vividly colorful slide show presentation overview of the wonderful worldwide non-profit organization. Gregg initiated the presentation with an advisement to clear up a pervasive misconception about TNC: TNC is not part of the Government! Gregg's presentation provided some focus on the Clinch Valley, the river, and how this treasure impacts the region and the world. Various prizes were awarded to attendees that successfully answered Greg's delightful interim quizzes. Greg's office is at 146 East Main Street in Abingdon and on the web at

<http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/virginia/index.htm>

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff VanCleaf, VCTC secretary