

Virginia Creeper Trail Club Meeting  
October 28, 2015  
Washington County Public Library

Present: John Brenner, Patty Brenner, Jane Caldwell, Bo Catron, Lawrence Dye, Linda Fuller, Gerry Henninger, Bob Horsch, Joe LeVine, Chris Lindeman, Steve Lindeman, Dean McCall, Bunny Medeiros, Wayne Miller, Sharon Miller, Lisa Quigley, Kelly Read, Paul Read, Debbie Stern, Jeff VanCleaf, Marsha Wikle

Guests: Sara Abbott, Steven Spangler

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

**President's Report—Wayne Miller**

- During a summary review of VCTC accomplishments for 2015, Wayne noted some of the many successful VCT projects through the much appreciated efforts of club volunteers and club funds for materials.
- Ms. Kelly Read offered the Read family's appreciation to the VCTC for supporting the Taylor Read Memorial Project and the October 3rd dedication. The shelter has already been used by many folks, including some from outside the United States!
- Wayne provided an overview and noted many highlights of VCTC Events throughout 2015.
- As requested by the USFS, a forthcoming VCTC project will be to replace the Green Cove Station porch, flooring, and cargo deck. The VCTC plans to provide materials and labor.
- The Virginia Creeper Trail Welcome Center, located at the Abingdon trail head, is open and club merchandise is available for purchase, including VCTC branded bottled water. The second floor is the VCTC clubhouse headquarters.
- The Town of Abingdon ("TOA") is building a public access dock on the river at Alvarado for canoes and kayaks.
- The TOA has received a new appraisal to purchase property at Watauga for a new larger parking lot and to build restrooms, similar to those at Alvarado Station.
- Compliments of Lisa Quigley, VCTC merchandise was available for purchase before and after the meeting. This includes new VCTC branded bottled water and Christmas tree ornaments.
- The next VCT Advisory Board meeting is November 11th.
- The next VCTC meeting is March 30, 2016.
- Lawrence has ridden his bicycle 188,340 miles on the VCT. Bicycle manufacture Litespeed is planning a blog.

**Treasurers Report—Gerry Henninger**

- The club received over \$19,000 in memorial donations for Mr. Taylor Read. The shelter is now complete so an equity accounting adjustment is forthcoming. The VCTC funds and builds physical assets and then transfers ownership to the trail owners.
- The latest financial statements were emailed to the VCTC Board and also available in hardcopy for attendees. The balance remains healthy (\$35,499.00 as of October 26, 2015).
- The VCTC is continuing contract performance with a company for a new VCTC website. An expense of \$5,000 has been incurred towards the anticipated cost of \$15,000. A \$10,000 maximum grant from Virginia Tourist Corporation will provide eventual funding reimbursement.

**Town of Damascus—Marsha Wikle**

- Rumor has it that on Halloween, there could be three trestles that may have trolls to spook riders!
- There are bike shops that remain open all year and will ferry riders to the end of the VCT at White Top. The weather is the major determining factor for other bike shops that close for the season.

**USFS—Sara Abbott**

- The last day of the season for White Top Station and Green Cove Station is October 31st. A big thanks to all the volunteers for a successful year.
- The contract has been awarded to remedy the sagging of Trestle #27. A permit from the Core of Engineers is in process and must be in place before commencement by the contractor. No trail closures are anticipated during construction. Completion is anticipated this year.

**Other—"AEP Transmission Lines" and "The Meadows Project"**

- Appalachian Electric Power ("AEP") is assessing paths for transmission lines from a future substation south of I-81 near the stockyard and water treatment plant to the Arrowhead substation near Highway 58. One of the paths under consideration is the existing path that crosses the VCT near MM3, Trestle #3, and the VCTC recommends to use this existing path in order to minimize impact to the viewshed.
- The Meadows Project is conceptual development project for 70 acres in Abingdon on Green Springs Road near Magic Mart. Of the approximate 70 acres, approximately 38 is adjacent to the VCT and is planned to be developed with three soccer fields, four baseball fields, playground, and parking lot. The approximate remaining 32 acres is not adjacent to the VCT and is planned to be rezoned and developed with retail stores (Food City), restaurants, and hotel(s).
- The position of the VCTC is that, if the rezoning is approved, the impact can be minimized by imposing, as a condition for The Meadows development, the planting of evergreen tree species adjacent to or along the trail right-of way to supplement the existing border of mixed hardwood tree species to thus serve as an all-season buffer to sight and sound.
- Steven Spangler, Food City real estate Director, provided an overview in favor of The Meadows Project. Hardcopies of a conceptual plat overlaid on an aerial photograph along with six points of view along the VCT were available for attendees.
- Joe LeVine, club member, provided an overview from "The Friends of Abingdon" opposing The Meadows Project. Hardcopies of the essay "One Last 'All Aboard!' for the Virginia Creeper" were available for attendees. Neither Joe's opposition nor the essay reflect the Club's position on the issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff VanCleaf, VCTC secretary

