

Virginia Creeper Trail Club Meeting  
June 29, 2016  
Washington County Public Library

Present: Buddy Albro, David Altizer, Belle Avery, David Bunnell, Jane Caldwell, Jennifer Davis, Larry Durham, Lawrence Dye, Tim Fuller, Eleanor Grasselli, Gerry Henninger, Phillip Hoffer, Bob Horsch, Bill Lawson, Chris Lindeman, Steve Lindeman, John Lotz, Rhonda Marshall, Beverly Meadows, Bunny Medeiros, Wayne Miller, Eliza Quigley, Lisa Quigley, Sheila Rachael, Ellen Reynolds, Roger Reynolds, Debbie Stern, Jeff VanCleaf, Thomas Waller, Sharlene Warren

Guests: Sara Abbott, Ben Wascum

VCTC President Wayne Miller called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

**President's Report—Wayne Miller**

- The VCT is receiving a lot of publicity lately to include (i) a forthcoming article in Southern Living magazine, (ii) an article regarding the AEDs in the Bristol Herald Courier, and (iii) an article regarding Lawrence "The Legend" Dye and the VCT in Bristol VA/TN magazine.
- Sales of merchandise continue to grow. We now have new hats available in a wide variety of colors.
- The August edition of Consumer Reports magazine features an article regarding bicycle helmets and safety.
- The protruding manhole cover near the trail head is repainted in a bright orange color.
- Wayne has requested the Town of Abingdon ("TOA") clear/cut the invasive poison ivy vines in the first mile of the VCT.
- Retiring USFS Ranger Beth Merz will receive a VCTC lifetime membership as a retirement gift.
- Once the TOA gets a break in their workload, the removal of the cut tree trunks and branches as indicated by the VCTC will commence.
- The TOA has completed the work to address the water erosion issue underneath Trestle #15.
- The TOA has replaced the emergency call box at the stop light at Meade Drive.
- The next VCTC meeting is August 31st.
- Compliments of Lisa Quigley and Eliza Quigley, VCTC merchandise was available for purchase before and after the meeting, including the new hats.
- The building of the new VCTC website is progressing. Prototype is anticipated in August.
- The VCTC membership has surpassed the 200 member milestone. Membership is currently at 205.
- Recent construction accomplishments include installing a memorial bench for Robert ("Bob") David Vessey and as requested by a donor, an evergreen shrub was planted at the bench. Also a bench was repaired.
- The VCTC map of the VCT will be reprinted in July.
- Lawrence "The Legend" Dye has ridden his bicycle 190,280 miles on the VCT.
- The next VCT Advisory Board meeting is July 13th.
- Johnston Memorial Hospital provided training on how to operate the AEDs.

**Treasurers Report—Gerry Henninger**

- Although we are running a bit behind as compared to this time last year, especially in membership dues, the financials are running smooth. Sales are up. If viewed as a profit type business, we are operating slightly in the red.
- The VCTC is registered with the State of Virginia to collect retail sales tax. Sales for wholesale transactions to the bike shops are not taxed. Lisa and Gerry have formulated a retail sales price list that includes the tax.
- Large expected expenditures for the new VCTC website are forthcoming.
- The latest financial statements were emailed to the VCTC Board and also available in hardcopy for attendees. The balance remains healthy (\$32,284.70 as of June 26, 2016).

**Events—Wayne Miller, Lisa Quigley**

- The next event is Ride with the Legend (Lawrence Dye), July 30th, beginning at 8:00AM at the Welcome Center. This event is an activity of the Virginia Highlands Festival. Wayne Miller modeled a tee shirt from a previous Ride with the Legend.

- The Hops & Howlers Brewfest event at the Abingdon Farmers Market on June 18 was successful in raising funds (\$60) for, and awareness of, the VCTC.
- The VCTC received a request yesterday for eight volunteers (3 pourers, 3 cashiers, 2 ID checkers) for this Saturday night, July 2nd, Independence Day Extravaganza at the Market Pavilion from 6:00PM to 9:0PM.
- Club member Richard Smith is organizing a work crew to assist with clean up of the flood devastated town, Rainelle, WVA. Contact Richard at grsmith07@gmail.com for details.

**USFS—Sara Abbott**

- Sara announced Ben Wascum as a new intern.
- Ben is looking forward to working for the USFS and with the VCTC.
- The annual mowing was recently completed.
- A deteriorating retaining wall at the parking lot at Green Cove Station has been replaced.
- Volunteers will revamp and rearrange the historic items inside Green Cove Station. Anticipated completion by the end of August.

**Program – Ms. Belle Avery, Alvarado resident since 2002**

Ms. Avery provided an overview of her vision to turn the empty room of the replica Alvarado Station into an interactive museum. The content will be provided through multiple television touch screens and will encompass topics such as history, Virginia overview, safety, tourism, maps, photographs, restaurants, and places to stay. No museum staffing will be necessary.

Belle is working closely with the Alvarado community, the TOA Tourism office, and the TOA Parks and Recreation office. Funds for the project will be raised through donations to the VCTC. Alvarado community volunteers will open the door in the morning and close the door at night.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff VanCleaf, VCTC secretary