

## Board Meeting Minutes for October 5, 2022

By Bill Bunch

**Attending the meeting** – Bob Atkinson, John Barnes, Bill Bunch, Bruce Davidson, Mal Higgins, Ned Kuhns, Lee Lohman, Kama Mitchell, Jim Newman, Cecil Sayler, Jim Sexton, John Sima.

The meeting started at approximately 7:00 PM.

The previous minutes were approved.

**Review of monthly financial reports:** “We are going quite well” with \$56,443.19 in the bank after the payment of expenses for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Expenses for the anniversary party were \$18,861.74

**Membership Report:** The club now has 500 members.

**50<sup>th</sup> anniversary lesson learned** – Teamwork really helped especially after Steve’s illness. Fairly good response from the Harbor Club. Early advertising helped. 162 showed up with 29 no shows. Mention of the value of Senator Kaine’s as part of outreach efforts. There was discussion of the president and CEO of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Sandy Marra’s response to the invitation to attend the 50<sup>th</sup>.

**Report on the 50th Anniversary commemorative book sales and distribution** – Books were sold at the anniversary and now have 57 books on order. Jim is distributing books to libraries. Jim is getting credit from Amazon for damaged and missing books. Planning to release second order of books in the next week.

**Report on A.T. maintenance work completed** – Fall maintenance was successful, although we could have used more participants. We were not able to have crews work on St. Mary’s area. Approximately 40 people showed up for the Fall Maintenance Trip. Another maintenance trip in the winter may be needed. The superintendent of Sherando offered the heated administration building for accommodations for winter trips. The possibility of setting up a training center at Sherando was mentioned. Hours spent on planning, outreach, and other support activities need to be tracked and reported. John Sima is looking for a way to make the process of dealing with event sign ups and confirmation easier by possibly automating the process. A discussion ensued on the type of tasks to be included in the reporting of time spent and how to get an accurate number of hours.

Michelle Cobb’s contribution of her time and talents were recognized as essential to the success of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. John Barnes made an excellent performance as MC.

**Nominating Committee** – The position of Secretary is open because Steve Clayton has served 3 years limited by the bylaws. There is also one counselor position open. Terry Manns may be interested in running for this position.

Bruce Davidson mentioned that the Garmin In-reach devices subscription is \$20 per month per device but that the club may be able to “turn off” the device and that would lower the club’s cost to \$5 per month per device. Bruce’s idea is to suspend the subscription between now and April with the possibility

of turning the subscription “back on” for winter maintenance activities. It was agreed that the device subscriptions would be suspended for two months initially and reactivated as needed.

**Proposal for Decision:** Survey members to determine what would make the cabin more attractive to them. This concept was approved at the last meeting. The actual questions are being proposed.

Bob Atkinson said he was not very involved with the survey and thus suggested deferring to Greg Hodges on the survey. Lee Lohman questioned the order of the questions in the survey as being data collection rather than a solicitation of somebody’s opinion about what would make it more attractive to rent and visit the cabin. Bob doubted that the response would be satisfying if offered to the whole club because of the low number of club members using the cabin. Kama Mitchell mentioned the mouse problem at the cabin. Kama noted other entries in the log mentioning the problem at length. Other issues about the attractiveness of the cabin to female visitors were mentioned. Lee Lohman reminded the Board that the cabin was the largest asset of the club, a major expense and potentially a source of income. Lee said that he would suggest some text for the survey to move this survey along.

**Day in the Park Event** – Cecil Sayler reported for Sharon Sayler. Cecil reported that the event had been scheduled for Dec. 3 at the same shelter in First Landing State Park, and that the menu should be the same as last year. Sharon is looking for people to run hikes, bike rides and play music. Lee complimented Sharon on the detail and quality of the planning document that she has provided.

**Tree planting** – Jim Newman filled us in on the tree planting planned for November 5th in Chesapeake to plant 60, 15-gallon size trees. The location is a 4.5-acre park within a housing development. 40 people will be needed for this event. The holes for planting the trees will be dug ahead of time. Jim did not have any information on additional planting events.

**Proposal for Discussion: What contents (electronic, the history book of course, the 50<sup>th</sup> program, and other tangible items such as the bandana? a T-shirt? a whistle? a lanyard? a hat? really special photos printed?) does the Board want to insert into the time capsule? Does the Board support cutting a floorboard in the cabin and placing the time capsule below it for opening at a time to be set by the Board. Proposed by Mal Higgins.**

There was a long discussion of the items to be put in the time capsule and the document formats to be used. Discussion of where to put the time capsule, under the floorboards beneath a bed was mentioned. Discussion of current time capsule: Mal Higgins proposed to the Board that the current time capsule be chiseled out. When asked about the contents of the original Mal said that he had no plans to preserve the items. Mal also said the contents have been encapsulated for 40 years and “it’s time to take a look at it”. Lee Lohman called for a vote on Mal’s proposal and the vote was 5 in favor, 3 opposed. Mal asked about talking to Steve Crate about chiseling out the time capsule. Bob Atkinson then spoke up to say that vote took place very fast and that he thought that there would be more discussion. He also said the time capsule was not just for the club but also for the Putman family. Bob went on to say that he thought the Putman family would be concerned about the treatment of Putman related items. Bob suggested that the items should be cataloged and returned to the time capsule. Mal suggested that the items from the original time capsule could be added to the new time capsule. Bob agreed that this would be acceptable. Lee offered that the contents could be reviewed with the Putman family and put in the new time capsule as they would like. There was further discussion of the possible condition of the articles in the time capsule and when the capsule should be opened. Lee offered a secondary proposal

that we open and look at it and then take the next step of figuring out what to do with it. After we know what is good and what is not, we will re-preserve what we can. There was general agreement on this proposal but no formal vote. Discussion of the time capsule ended at this point.

**Ride sharing/carpooling for general meetings** – Fay Bailey has approached Lee about not feeling safe driving to the General Meeting but wanting to attend. Lee asked about possibly providing a rideshare website to allow people wanting a ride to the meeting to let others know about their desire to attend and for others to provide the rides to the meetings. Jim Sexton suggested that an article might be included in the newsletter and that the need for ride sharing might extend beyond the general meeting.

**Discussion: Optimal mix of agenda items for the next general membership meeting** – Lee Lohman - We are looking for the best configuration for the meeting after COVID measures and Zoom meetings.

There was a brief description of things that have been tried. Jim Sexton commented that the configuration was correct, but the timing was off because of the length of some programs. Jim suggested that the program be limited to 30 to 40 minutes. Programs need to be adjusted to the timeframe. There was a discussion about how to keep program presentations within the amount of time allowed and the difficulties in having presenters pace themselves to keep the meeting from going too long. A possible five-minute warning to long running speakers to wrap things up was one suggestion. It was mentioned that people leave when meetings run too long and may not come back to future meetings. It was agreed that meetings should be no longer than 90 minutes. After some additional discussion it was agreed that the format for the meeting should be a greeting and introduction of new attendees, announcement time for Board members and committee chairs, the program, the break and any business issues after the break.

**Discussion: Presidential succession and Board management of the club** - Lee Lohman

Lee Lohman said that he will probably run again for president. Lee has suggested that we try to identify and possibly groom someone to be president when Lee's term ends. Lee suggested that we have this discussion over the next several meetings. Lee went on to discuss Board performance as it relates to the fiduciary responsibility to monitor all the activities for the Board and for the corporation of the TATC. Lee gave the example of Sharon Saylor's report on the upcoming Day in the Park. The Board should receive regular reports on the money spent, progress and the success of all projects against the established criteria. The reports do not need to be long but enough to make sure that the Board is aware. Situations have occurred where this information has not been reported back to the Board.

**Report on the expenditures for Fall Maintenance Dinner and lessons learned:**

The target was to feed 50 people which cost approximately \$660.38. This amount will be reviewed for accuracy before being submitted to the treasurer. The approximate cost per person was \$11.50-12.00. Refrigeration was an issue. Items that need to be refrigerated need to be purchased on the day of the event. Lee used large plastic containers with bags of ice to provide refrigeration for about half a day. Lee recommended the Walmart Marketplace because of the supplies they had on hand, the ability to order in advance and low prices. Serving pieces purchased can be use at future events.

**Consideration of matters not previously discussed:**

Jim Sexton – Sherando Mini-Multiclub Campout – Would like to invite the members of the Old Dominion and Natural Bridge clubs to join the TATC at Sherando for a campout in May. Jim would like to reserve all

5 group sites and the CCC Kitchen at Sherando for the event. The park will waive the \$50 per group site fee for the two nights on each group site. Jim is planning for 100 people or more attending the event. The date in May must be determined and reservations for the group sites need to be made. Hike leadership is encouraged but hikes will not be pre-scheduled. Sign-up sheets will be available at the event. The only scheduled event will be the evening meal. Jim plans to stage the evening meal from his home near Sherando and may need some volunteers to help. May need barbecue grills. Need May date and an authorization to pay for the evening meal, approximately \$1,300.

**Facebook** – Bill Bunch reports that Juliet Stephenson is still providing a lot of the content. A post on the Fall Maintenance Trip was recently posted. Bill is trying to post a weekly schedule of events on Mondays. A photographer that has been contributing to the page under Juliet's management is providing very good mountain landscape photos that receive a lot of attention. This leads him to believe that good pictures are the way to go. Would like to get away from the memes and post more TATC pictures and content. Having members not being able to post to the page is still a problem. Switching over to a "group" page may solve this problem and give us some additional benefits. Bill will be working on this.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 PM.