

ROC Meeting Minutes: April 2017

In Attendance: Jerry Stensland, Willie Lowe, Dana Bradley, Hallie Zeedik, Zach Byers, Bruce Byers, Ray Grant, Steve Gilbert, Fred Matthews, Brenda Wilson, Robin Worcester, Van King

- The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm
- **ROC General:**
 - Jerry Stensland reminded everyone that the ROC membership drive is still going on and that we had not had as many memberships as we had hoped so far. Dana Bradley stated that she is writing an article about the membership drive and that it would be in the Rutherford Weekly and Daily Courier soon.
 - Hallie Zeedik went over a recap of last month's outings including the April Fool's River Float, Roan Mountain hike, and Buffalo Creek Park workday. She said there is an ICC work day coming up on **May 5th** at 9 am, the Broad River Spring Sweep on **May 27th**. Mayfest in Rutherfordton is **May 6th** and ROC will have a booth set up there.
- **Outdoor Programs Director – Projects Update:**
 - Dana Bradley said there are around 15 people that are regularly attending the Couch to 5K trainings each day now. She will be leading practice runs on the Leader of the Pack 5K race course on Tuesday, May 2nd and Tuesday, May 9th. A second Couch to 5K program is planned for the summer and will begin on June 26th.
 - Grants: We were not selected for funding by the Rutherford County Endowment grant but Dana is finishing up a grant that could provide funding for the purchase of several kayaks/canoes that we are in need of for our group river outings and clean-ups and will send it in soon.
 - Dana continues to shadow with the Muddy Sneakers program. Becoming a part-time lead instructor with Muddy Sneakers would be a great partnership and would help supplement funding for her position with ROC, as well as help with outreach to local schools.
 - Friends of Chimney Rock State Park: Dana will speak to Ryan Lubbers about becoming a board member on the Friends of Chimney Rock State Park committee. This will allow ROC to be more involved with future projects at the park.
- **Trail Projects:**
 - Rail Trail: A public survey is available and everyone is encouraged to fill it out and give their opinion on the current trail and the new, 5-mile section that will run from Spindale to Forest Hunt Elementary.
 - Buffalo Creek Park/Summits Trail: On April 11th, ROC members armed with leaf blowers removed leaves from the entire trail. The Eagle Rock Trail is nearly complete with less than a mile to go. This new trail is closed to the public until work is completed but a potential opening date of August 18th is being discussed.

- Young's Mountain: Peter Barr should be able to begin the installation Phase I on the trail soon.
- Rutherfordton Trails: Crews are still working on construction on Phase II of the Purple Martin Trail. This new section will add close to a mile to this beautiful trail and could be completed as early as May.
- ICC Trails: New trail markers and trail maps will be installed soon. Hallie Zeedik has planned a workday for May 5th to install the new maps and trail.
- Chimney Rock: The Skyline Trail extension is almost complete. We will have group hike on this trail once it opens.
- Broad River: The Broad River Spring Sweep is planned for May 27th at 10 am. ROC members and volunteers are planning to clean sections 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of the Broad River in Rutherford County. A float to scout section 6 is planned for May 2nd.
- Upper Hickory Nut Gorge: Plans are being made for the Trombotore Trail to be extended back to 74A and the trail should eventually connect to the Florence Nature Preserve.
- Green Line Trail Idea: There is potential for a new trail to be installed along the sewer easement that runs from Spindale to Lake Lure. Most of the route would be along the side of Hwy. 64. This trail would increase bicycle safety and add a 20 –mile, 10 foot wide trail to our County. The plans are still in the concept stage but we will report if plans move forward.
- **Race Series**:
 - The LLCA Raptor 5K is coming up on April 29th and the Leader of the Pack 5K will be held on May 20th. More information can be found at <http://www.rutherfordoutdoor.org/running-race-series-overview>.