

## ROC Meeting Minutes: April 2019

**In Attendance:** Dana Bradley, Jerry Stensland, Willie Lowe, Robin Schultze, Robin Worcester, Don Murphy, Marlene Murphy, Fred Matthews, Steve Crowley, Sara Crowley, Steve Collins, Larry Curtis, Ben Carswell

- The meeting was called to order at 5:41 pm.
  
- **ROC General**
  - ROC is in great financial health and has two years of funding to continue operating at its current capacity.
  - Jerry is co-chair of the Active Living Committee with Chris Burley. Jill of RHI Legacy is the executive director. They're spearheading two projects: 1) planning the grant opening of the Thermal Belt Rail Trail (June 22<sup>nd</sup>). They are also working to facilitate the creation of a GIS map that combines the Rail Trail with health data, and the planned bicycle and pedestrian plans.
  - ROC's AmeriCorps Robin Schultze is leaving at the end of April in order to pursue a full-time position with the planning department in Athens, Georgia. ROC is accepting applications for next year's AmeriCorps Trails Coordinator and one can find the application online through Conserving Carolina.
  - ROC is currently accepting shirt orders. There are many differing types and colors to choose from.
  
- **ROC Past Event Recap:**
  - 4/6: ROC Walk with Brother Wolf held at 10:30 am at the Brother Wolf Animal Shelter. Two puppies were adopted by participants.
  - 4/7: ROC held a litter clean-up on the Rail Trail as a part of the Keep Rutherford County Beautiful County-wide Clean-up.
  - 4/12: ROC tabled at the Trinity Fitness Fair
  - 4/13: ROC held a hike at the ICC Trail System.
  
- **Upcoming Events:**
  - Broad River Spring Sweep: **May 11th.**
  - ROC Trombatore Trail Hike: **May 19<sup>th</sup>**
  - ROC Walk With Brother Wolf: **May 25<sup>th</sup> at 10 am**
  
- **Outdoor Programs Director – Projects Update:**
  - Flyers were handed out for the walking club. Dana discussed that on May 1<sup>st</sup>, the times for the walking club will change in order to reflect the changing temperatures outside and the longer, hotter evenings.
  - On May 18<sup>th</sup>, Dana will be speaking on a panel at the No Man's Land film festival about women adventurers, where she will be presenting about ROC.

- The Continuing Education Hiking 101 Course: The course unfortunately did not reach the required minimum sign-ups, however Dana will be teaching the course in the Fall. The course will have two classroom days, and the rest of the time will be spent hiking.
  - ROC is still having a Spring Membership Push/Drive.
- **Trail Projects:**
    - Rail Trail: They are aiming for an official opening of the Rail Trail on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. They are attempting to plan an opening which will incorporate all parts of the trail. A fence will go up along the trail where the gravel and concrete were poured. Rules and Guidelines will be approved and publicized soon.
    - Broad River: The Broad River Spring Sweep will occur on May 11<sup>th</sup>. There will also be a work day on April 28<sup>th</sup>, in order to scout the river. There is also work being done to create an access point where the river crosses US 221; Dana will speak with Dave Odum in order to discuss how this access point can be built more sustainably.
    - Buffalo Creek Park/Weedpatch Mountain: The trails are in good shape.
    - Youngs Mountain: Trail design should be completed by the end of February for the 2-mile trail to the upper cliffs/almost summit of Youngs Mountain. Construction will begin mid-spring to early summer of 2019. Hoping to be completed by end of year.
    - Purple Martin Trail: The town manager of Rutherfordton has said that May will be a very active month for the Purple Martin Trail as they seek to expand the greenway. They have acquired two new easements, and they are planning to finish paving to Kiwanis park before the Purple Martin race later in the year.
    - Dittmer-Watts: No updates on Dittmer-Watts trail, however, there is still a good amount of treefall from the snowfall in December. Ed Dittmer is still deciding what will be done.
    - ICC Trails: ICC trails are looking good.
    - Rumbling Bald: Parking lot is in the process/planning of being expanded.
    - Chimney Rock State Park: They are working to create a Shumont Mountain Trail, and possibly extending it to Party Rock.
    - South Mountains State Park: Clear Creek access is open and there is a new loop around the lake.
  - **Race Series:**
    - The Miles for Messiah had a good turnout (similar to last year) -- with around 110 signing up, and 96 finishing the race.
    - The Lake Lure Classical Academy Raptor 5K will take place on April 27th, and they have altered the course a bit this year to make it more conducive for larger amounts of runners.
    - The Leader of the Pack 5K will take place on May 18<sup>th</sup> and is normally the largest race in the ROC Race Series.