

## ROC Meeting Minutes: February 2018

**In Attendance:** Jerry Stensland, Willie Lowe, Dana Bradley, Trevor Freeman, Bruce Byers, Bruce Rome, Lisa Rome, Steve Crowley, Sara Crowley, Sheila Dobbins, Burwell Byers, Jody Fletcher, Steve Collins, Kathy Coldren, Dennis Coldren, Joshua Harwood, Stuart Marsh, Ashley Lowery, Steve Gilbert, Fred Matthews, Rick Mullins

- The meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm.
- **ROC Past Event Recap:**
  - The Rail Trail Clean-up on January 20<sup>th</sup> was a success with Bay Scout Troop 129 and many volunteers from the community showing up to help.
  - There was a Buffalo Creek Park workday on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. We repaired some eroded areas along the trail.
- **Upcoming Events:**
  - ROC Walk with Brother Wolf: **March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10 am**
  - Gorges State Park Hike: **February 25<sup>th</sup> at 9 am**
  - Dittmer-Watts Workday: **February 27<sup>th</sup> at 9 am**
  - South Mountain State Park Hike: **March 17<sup>th</sup> at 8 am**
  - Bearfoot 5K: **March 24<sup>th</sup> at 8 am**
- **ROC New Board Update:**
  - Our new Board has been finalized and has met twice this month.
  - ROC Board of Directors:
    - Jerry Stensland – President
    - Willie Lowe – Vice President
    - Ashley Lowery – Secretary
    - Bruce Byers – Treasurer
    - Ron Huntsberger
    - Steve Collins
    - Bruce and Lisa Rome
- **Outdoor Programs Director – Projects Update:**
  - The new ROC Walking Club meets Tuesdays at the track at Summey Park in Forest City. On Thursdays, the group meets at the Purple Martin Greenway in Rutherfordton. The group walks together for 30 minutes.
  - Dana Bradley is currently working on a grant that would fund a new after-school program, the ROC Outdoor Adventure Club.
  - Dana continues to serve as lead educator with Muddy Sneakers for 4 schools in Rutherford County (Rutherfordton, Pinnacle, Sunshine, and Forrest Hunt Elementary).
  - She is working on the lesson plans and course descriptions for 2 brand new courses she is putting together to be offered at Isothermal Community College soon. She will contact several companies about being sponsors of the course.

- **Trail Projects:**

- Rail Trail: All rails and ties should be removed within 3 weeks. Bids for paving will open Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. The trail will be smoothed back out and will be open for pedestrian use only until the paving is completed in fall of this year.
- Broad River: We are waiting on the State to work on drainage near River Road before we work on improving access there.
- Buffalo Creek Park/Summits Trail: The town of Lake Lure has acquired a lot that will be used for additional public parking. The summits trail is closed to the public until work is completed but an opening date should be announced soon (April 2018?). A .25-mile spur trail will be added that will lead to the bottom of Eagle Rock through a cave area.
- Young's Mountain: 320 acres of land are being purchased by Conserving Carolina in November and this will include Ken's Rock. They are hoping to break ground on the new trail there soon. Future connection to Buffalo Creek Park is a possibility. This will be a hiking-only trail.
- Upper Hickory Nut Gorge: The Trombatore trail should eventually connect to Florence Nature Preserve. Little Bearwallow Mountail trail is the newest trail completed and is a great place for ice climbing. Wildcat Rock can be reached 2 miles into the trail.
- Purple Martin Trail: Phase 3 is graded and compacted. They are constructing a covered bridge along the new trail section. It is now open to the public. Phase IV will extend the trail to Kiwanis Park and should be completed in fall of 2018. The Purple Martin 7K will be held on the trail this in October.
- Whistlepig Trail Concept: This is the name that has been assigned to the trail that could potentially be installed between Rutherfordton and Lake Lure. This trail would make use of the sewer line easement.

- **Race Series:**

- The Bearfoot 5K is coming up on March 24th.