

ROC Meeting Minutes: January 2018

In Attendance: Jerry Stensland, Willie Lowe, Dana Bradley, Trevor Freeman, Fred Matthews, Steve Collins, Jennifer Collins, Ray Churchill, Bruce Byers, Stuart Marsh, Ashley Lowery, Steve Gilbert, Larry Curtis

- The meeting was called to order at 5:32 pm.
- **ROC Past Event Recap:**
 - We had a great time on our Caesars Head Hike on December 9th.
 - We had 7 people show up for our ROC Walk with Brother Wolf on December 16th. The dogs and volunteers all had a great time.
 - We had a great turnout for our ROC Holiday Party on December 19th. Robin Worcester was named Volunteer of the Year. Way to go, Robin!
 - There was a Buffalo Creek Park workday on January 9th. We removed fallen trees and repaired some eroded areas.
 - The ROC Brother Wolf Walk on January 13th went well with 9 people volunteering to walk the shelter dogs with us.
- **Upcoming Events:**
 - Rail Trail Clean-up: **January 20th at 11 am**
 - Buffalo Creek Park Workday: **January 23rd at 9 am**
 - Chestnut Ridge hike: **January 27th at 8 am**
 - ROC Ice Hike: **February 4th at 8 am**
 - ROC Walk with Brother Wolf: **February 17th at 10 am**
- **ROC Board Recruitment and Bylaws Update:**
 - ROC has recently updated our bylaws and will be recruiting 4 new Board of Director members. If you are interested in serving on our Board, email Dana Bradley at dana@rutherfordoutdoor.org.
- **Outdoor Programs Director – Projects Update:**
 - Dana Bradley is planning the next Couch to 5K program.
 - 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: Removal of the rails has begun and the trail is temporarily closed. 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.
 - 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 should be open to the public soon. Phase IV will extend the trail to Kiwanis Park and should be completed in fall of 2018.
 - 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 schedule for the 2018 Race Series is complete and the 1st race in the series is the Box Creek 10K on February 24th.