

ROC Meeting Minutes: July 2018

In Attendance: Jerry Stensland, Willie Lowe, Dana Bradley, Trevor Freeman, Bruce Byers, Tim Will, Burwell Byers, Fred Matthews, Penny Miles, Jody Fletcher, Cindy Dotson, Stuart H. Marsh, Ashley Lowery, Ray Gaj, Kay Dittmer, Bruce Rome, Lisa Rome, Robin Worcester, Neil Fruhwirth

- The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

- **ROC Past Event Recap:**
 - 6/23: ROC Little Bradley Falls Hike
 - 7/7: ROC Walk with Brother Wolf
 - 7/10: ICC Trails Workday
 - 7/15: ROC Float of Sections 11 & 12 of the Broad River

- **Upcoming Events:**
 - ROC River Float and Campout, **July 21st at 10 am until July 22nd at 12 pm**
 - ROCO (ROC Team) Pick It Up at Union & Coxe Road, **August 4th**
 - ROC River Float: Sections 2 & 3 at River Creek Campground, **August 5th at 11 am**
 - ROC Bearwallow Sunset Hike, **August 17th at 6 pm**
 - ROC Walk with Brother Wolf, **August 25th at 10 am**

- **Outdoor Programs Director – Projects Update:**
 - Walking Club: The walking club will meet at 6:30 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and on Wednesdays at 8:30 am.
 - Hiking 101: The course Dana will be teaching at Isothermal Community College will occur in either Fall of 2018 or Spring 2019. It will be a 5 week course that meets two days a week. The curriculum is complete, the only thing remaining is confirmation from the speakers scheduled to attend.
 - The Eaton Grant is due July 31st
 - The Wal-Mart Grant: Dana spoke with Joan (the assistant manager); grants under \$1,000 require a written description of asking on letterhead, grants near \$1,000 require the website application. Dana is currently compiling the list of needed items and their associated costs. He items will include trail tools, work gloves, weed killer, push mower, shuffle hoe, etc.
 - Dana is exploring guided group hikes with businesses and corporate partners.
 - The Couch to 5K program will likely occur in the fall.

- **Trail Projects:**
 - Rail Trail: They will begin paving on Monday, September 23rd. They will start in Ruth and head south. Benches will be put back.
 - Broad River: River Road improvements have started.

- Buffalo Creek Park/Weedpatch Mountain: Trails are open; gravel has been brought up to repair an area where a spring had popped up. The Gator caused some damage and we are working to repair it.
- 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: There is a chance the next phase could be complete by the end of the month.
- ICC Trails: The workday completed on July 10th worked to clear briars. The college has also installed a Greenhouse and would like for the section of Blue Trail that skirts it to be rerouted.
- 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**:
 - Meet me at the Fountain 5K is coming up on July 28th
 - Kay Dittmer spoke about the Olympiad, and showed designs for the long-sleeved shirts.