

ROC Meeting Minutes: April 2017

In Attendance: Jerry Stensland, Willie Lowe, Dana Bradley, Hallie Zeedik, Bobby Berry, Burwell Byers, Robin Worcester, Bill and Betsy Ford, Noah Youngblood, Gayle Youngblood, Dean Youngblood, Steve Crowley, Bruce Rome, Steve and Jennifer Collins, Tim Will, Matt Rees, Tom Roberson

- 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 are getting just a few each month.
- Hallie Zeedik went over a recap of last month's outings and events including the Earth day table on 4/22, Bearwallow hike on 4/29, Rail Trail Clean-up on 4/30, and Mayfest on 5/6.
- Upcoming Events: Hallie said the ICC work day planned for **May 5th** has been moved to **June 23rd at 9 am**. The Catawba Falls hike was scheduled for May 21st but has been rescheduled for **June 4th** due to rain. The Broad River Spring Sweep was scheduled for May 27th but has been moved to **June 24th** due to high water levels.
- **Outdoor Programs Director – Projects Update:**
 - Dana Bradley said this is the last week of the 1st Couch to 5K program. She said 10 people from the program have signed up to participate in the Leader of the Pack 5K on May 20th. A second Couch to 5K program is planned for the summer and will begin on June 26th. Those that complete the program will receive \$5 off registration to the Skirt Chaser 5K on September 23rd if they wish to participate.
 - Grants: We are still waiting to hear back from 2 grants we applied for. Dana will begin the process of applying for a grant from Eaton soon.
 - Dana is done shadowing the Muddy Sneakers program and will hear back soon about becoming a part-time lead instructor with them. This 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 is now officially 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: Preliminary results are in and so far, 67% of would prefer for the compacted gravel section from 64 in Ruth to Gilkey Lumber be paved. This would also make the trail more attractive to visitors since we would be able to offer 13 miles of paved trail once the new, 5-mile section is installed. The new trail section could be installed as soon as next year.
 - Buffalo Creek Park/Summits 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 an opening

date should be announced soon. A spur trail will be added that will lead to the bottom of Eagle Rock through a cave area.

- Young's Mountain: Peter Barr should be able to begin the installation Phase I on the trail soon.
 - Rutherfordton Trails: Phase II of the Purple Martin Trail is being paved this week and a grand opening ceremony is planned for June 7th at 5:30 pm. This new section will add close to a mile to this beautiful trail.
 - ICC Trails: New trail markers and trail maps will be installed soon. Hallie Zeedik has planned a workday for June 23rd at 9 am to install the new maps and trail. Turner Construction will be volunteering their time to help us on this day.
 - Chimney Rock: The Skyline Trail extension has been delayed and an opening date should be announced soon. We will have group hike on this trail once it opens.
 - Broad River: The Broad River Spring Sweep has been moved to June 24th 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.
 - 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 Leader of the Pack 5K is coming up on May 20th and the Meet Me at the Fountain 5K will be held on July 29th. More information can be found at <http://www.rutherfordoutdoor.org/running-race-series-overview>.