

ROC Meeting Minutes: May 2018

In Attendance: Jerry Stensland, Willie Lowe, Dana Bradley, Trevor Freeman, Burwell Byers, Jody Fletcher, Robin Worcester, Jason Smoak, Braden Smoak, Kathy Coldren, Steve Ogg, Judy Ogg, Tim Will, Ray Gaj, Dave Smith, Josh Harwood, Cathy Kanz

- The meeting was called to order at 5:34 pm.

- **Membership Drive:**
 - “Auto-renew” is a new option on the ROC website. This should help with renewal issues in the future. Members can opt-out at any time but this will prevent them from having to create a new account each year. Splash will be sending a one-time email to everyone with expired memberships telling them how they can become a member again.

- **ROC Past Event Recap:**
 - 4/17: ROC Pink Beds Hike
 - 4/26: ROC Walk with Brother Wolf
 - 4/29: ROC Full Moon Hike
 - 5/12: ROC Broad River Spring Sweep

- **Upcoming Events:**
 - Leader of the Pack 5K: **May 19th at 8 am**
 - ROC Crabtree Falls Hike: **May 27th at 10 am**
 - BCP Invasive Species Workday: **May 29th at 9 am**
 - ROC Walk with Brother Wolf: **June 2nd at 10 am**
 - ROC River Float/Camping Trip: **June 9th at 10 am until June 10th at 12 pm**
 - ROC Little Bradley Falls Hike: **June 23rd at 9 am**

- **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. The group meets at 5:30 pm each day.
 - Dana Bradley completed the Eaton grant application and we should know if we have been chosen for funding by July. The grant 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:** The trail has been smoothed back out and is open for pedestrian use only until the paving is completed in fall of this year. The trail may be uneven or rough in spots, so use caution. A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the paving of the trail will be held on May 25th at 9:30 am. The event will be held on the trail section located across from the Spindale House.
- **Broad River:** The Broad River Spring Sweep was a success and many bags of trash were removed from the 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/Weedpatch Mountain:** The Weedpatch Mountain Trail is now open to the public. A grand opening ceremony was held on May 4th at 10 am. Jason Smoak led a group bike ride on the trails and had a good turnout.
- **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 3A is now paved and 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 Leader of the Pack 5K is coming up on May 19th.