

Clinch Valley Trail Alliance

August 2, 2018

7p

The Other One Deli

Meeting called by: Brad Spears, President.

Type of meeting: Monthly Membership meeting

Attendees: 26-30 members in attendance, sign in sheet not collected

Minutes

Agenda item: Board of Director Reports

Presenter: Brad, Jeff, Larry, Cassie

Discussion:

President Report: We are currently at 69 members, with 6 new memberships since the last meeting. CVTA is officially registered as a non-profit with the state of Tennessee, and although officially a SORBA chapter, we will be publicly recognized by IMBA/SORBA at the annual Summit in November.

Treasurer Report: Accounts received – Donations, memberships dues and Friends of Haw Ridge dissolution/transfer funds in addition to Expenditures this month T-shirts (~\$1000), Trail Crew/Maintenance costs (\$300) leaves a balance of around \$9000. Anticipated future activity include sweatshirt sales (selling basically at cost) and an additional generous repeat donation from UCORE for 2019.

Secretary Report- minutes approved.

Trail Committee Report:

- 1.) Discussion on trying to streamline trail reporting. Currently we have Facebook (CVTA TRAIL CREW (formerly Haw Trail Crew) and Clinch Valley Trail Alliance FB page, CVTA website email and FB messenger to post picture and location of damage/maintenance need. First part of the discussion was identifying individuals interested in reporting on trail conditions on a regular basis. Larry, Tiffany, Jeff, Aaron, Jeremy and Brad all volunteered to take a specific area. Second part of the discussion was identifying apps that could “pin” or mark exact location of need (tree down, wash out, etc). Steve M. suggested iphone users could use open GPX (<https://itunes.apple.com/.../app/open-gpx-tracker/id984503772...>) that will allow you to place a pin and label it before sending. As an Andriod user, Larry uses Backcountry GPS (no link available). This would make for quicker access to specific location rather than guessing an approximate. If no GPS available, something that could also be considered helpful, Aaron mentioned a MTBproject screen shot of location along with taking a picture of damage for posting.
- 2.) Committee met to work on updating map of the park with appropriate names of trails. It was mentioned that we would like to identify the currently anonymous sign poster of the park (many thanks) so that we can all be on the same page with trail names and how they are reflected on the map. Once completed, the map will be used in the kiosk at the entrance to the park.
- 3.) Moving forward we would like to categorize trail difficulty and share a few “suggested” loops for beginner or those new to the park.
- 4.) Work Day Report: A great turn out of volunteers showed up to help. Having vehicle access to the park was a game changer and allowed for more work to be accomplished once logistics were sorted out. The main objective was to cut back the overgrowth, and that was achieved in 20-30% of the park. Larry and Doug had been out earlier in the week to clear over 30 down trees that had been reported/found in scouting. There’s still a lot of cleanup and cut back that needs to be done. Mini work days for those interested (to be announced on FB), plus the possibility of requesting the city to help with mowing as has been done previously. Last-- but not least big thanks to Bob’s Trails, Trees and Gardens (<https://www.facebook.com/BobsTrails/>) for providing lunch, and YeeHaw Brewery for providing the beverages! (also noted as an afterthought was needing more loppers for volunteer use, and volunteer sign-in. See discussion later in the minutes)
- 5.) September work day: Giving Haw Ridge a Hand Up continues. This go-round, Hand Up gloves has generously agreed to donate sets of gloves to be distributed as we see fit (raffle, drawings, etc... HOW COOL IS THAT?!) Learning from the last work day, it’s suggested to meet sometime the week before to create a plan for work distribution. A request for a lunch organizer was requested.

- 6.) East Fork Popular Creek Trail is approved and awaiting a plan of attack. The trail is to be about 1.8 miles and run approximately from the intersection of Illinois Ave to The Firehouse on the West End of Town. Details need to be discussed and finalized, but the approval is there to move forward on it. Brad believes that creating a kid friendly trail is a great representation of our mission to support and grow future generations of active kids/family, and to foster a love for the outdoors. With Robertsville Middle School being near the trail, the possibility of involvement with volunteer hours and afterschool programs and fundraising was visited. So much opportunity...

Conclusions:

So much to be excited about! There's a lot in the wings, and the need for trail stewards is evident. Let's run with the momentum we have, stay motivated and grow the CVTA into what we want it to be.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Updating map/ trail names for kiosk	Larry & Trail committee	Ongoing
✓ September Workday Plan (and preplan)	Larry & Trail Committee	September 11 (to be posted)
✓ Lunch Coordination for Sept workday	TBD	Sept 14 th
✓ East Fork Poplar Creek Trail	TBD	Soon. Contact Brad if interested.

Agenda item: Marketing, Merchandising and Social Media

Discussion:

Natalie has done a great job with designs. Our T-shirts will soon be available, and our sweatshirts will be a preorder to start.

Website is currently under Brad's design and management, but in not so many words he stated he's more than happy to hand it over to someone who can take it and run with it.

Conclusions:

We are lucky to have Natalie making us look good. Thanks (pretend that's in fancy font).

Management and updating of the CVTA website is available for someone website saavy and patient.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Pre Order your CVTA sweatshirt!	Everyone!	August 10th

Agenda item: New Business-a little bit of everything

Discussion:

1.) The Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association Conference will be held in Knoxville in October. Larry has agreed to attend on behalf of the CVTA. A program of speakers was referenced in terms of what could be beneficial to attend.

2.) T-shirts orders (as mentioned earlier) should be available for purchase as supplies last in about 2 weeks.

3.) Hill of Truth Race is in it's 20th (!) and final year. Course is to be released soon. CVTA will be taking over the event after this year (so it won't cease to exist), with hopes of keeping the essence of what it has become.

- 4.) Standing Group Rides- Steve M. is hosting a Men's no-drop ride on Mondays. Location TBD based on weather. A Facebook group has been started that will identify weekly rides with time to plan in advance. (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/266501150776757/>). Any sort of Group run/ride will be supported. Feel free to post on the site as needed.
- 5.) Trailer wrap- discussion of wrap ideas, ad space to be sold for specific windows of time. Price, location, style all brought up. Decided that a draft of what would be sold is the best way to present to potential donators to be able to see exactly what they are getting.
- 6.) First Aid Kit for the trailer. For work days it is a good idea to have something more than light bandages for volunteers in need. A member (soon to be member?) offered to help creating a list of what to have on hand, how to store it, and possible costs associated with acquisition. There is a possibility that some of the material could be gotten/donated by another member/source. Seemed like conversation started after the meeting to arrange for a meeting in the middle. (I'm sorry I don't know your names. I'm horrible at introductions but will try to better in the future!! #supershy)
- 7.) Open discussion on feedback for the group. How are we doing? What can we do better? We want to grow and be the organization that has staying power, not just a flash in the pan- gone in 2 years- sort of thing. A suggestion was made that we Facebook Live meetings so that those that can't attend can still see what's happening and possibly be part of the discussion.
- 8.) Trail Day revisit- Sign in for volunteers. There are many programs/companies that require/offer reward for volunteer hours. We should create a document that can be offered to those who chose CVTA as their volunteer organization. Someone suggested (great idea!!) of a volunteer tally sheet to recognize all the volunteer hours of each individual. At the end of the year, have a Volunteer of the Year! (prize TBD). Trail day turn out was larger than expected- revisit tool needs and get more loppers for days like this.
- 9.) Eagle Scout Project: We were approached by an Eagle Scout to identify something that the park could benefit from. He would raise the money and provide the supplies. Two things suggested were a Kiosk on the East end of the Park or a Bog Bridge over the chronic wet sections of the East Edge entrance. It was not specified which project would be pursued.
- 10.) Safety First TN is an event being held at Y-12 that, among other things, will be offering a chainsaw safety class for free. Pre Registration is required, as there are limited spots. <https://safetyfesttn.org/register/>

Conclusions:

You are showing up. We want to give you what we've promised. Thanks for letting us know how we keep this momentum going. We're all new to this, and we want to succeed 😊

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ First Aid Kit	I'm sorry I don't know your name	Next Trail Day
✓ Trail Wrap proposal	I need to be better about identifying volunteers	