

**BY-LAWS:
APPALACHIAN TRAIL MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**

I. Purpose of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Partnership Committee (MARPC):

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Partnership Committee is established by action of the Board of Managers of the Appalachian Trail Conference [Conservancy] (ATC). The purpose of the MARPC is to advise the ATC Regional Director, the region's Trail maintaining clubs, and the region's agencies, and to provide direct, two-way communication between the ATC regional office and the constituent clubs and agencies. The MARPC provides a formal structure for regularly scheduled meetings to facilitate collaborative planning, share experiences, and discuss common concerns among clubs, agencies and ATC staff. In addition, the MARPC will provide discussion forums for issues of Trailwide significance and provide input to the Stewardship Council, ATC committees, and the Board of Directors on those issues. As an advisory body the RPC will have no authority to set Conference policies or to control Trail maintaining club activities, but will be fully self-governing within the general guidelines for structure and function established by the Board. The RPC must nominate at least two persons to serve on the Stewardship Council. (Adapted from a policy position endorsed by the ATC Board of Managers on 8 May 2004.)

II. Membership of the MARPC:

As mandated by the ATC Board, the membership of the MARPC consists of representatives of each of the Trail Maintaining Clubs in the Mid-Atlantic Region. Each club shall select one Representative and one Alternate to participate in the RPC. Each club Representative or Alternate must be a member of the ATC and of the represented club. Each club will determine its own procedure for selection of its Representative and Alternate. Representatives and Alternates will be appointed for a term to be determined by each club. They may serve multiple consecutive terms at the option of their clubs.

III. Offices of the MARPC:

The MARPC shall select members to fill the following offices for terms of three years. The Chair shall appoint a nominating committee to develop a ballot for these positions. In the event an officer position becomes vacant, the Chair will appoint a replacement with the approval of the MARPC. The replacement will serve the remainder of the term. The committee may remove an individual from office by vote of 2/3 of the member clubs

Chair: The Chair will plan meetings in consultation with the ATC Regional Director and will preside at MARPC meetings. A person may serve as Chair for no more than two consecutive terms.

Vice-Chair: The Vice-Chair will assist the Chair in communicating with the MARPC members and Clubs. The Vice-Chair will preside at meetings in the absence of the Chair, and will assume the office of the Chair in the event that the position becomes vacant.

Secretary: The Secretary shall provide written Minutes of each meeting. The draft of the minutes should normally be circulated to the MARPC members four weeks after each meeting.

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Representatives to the Stewardship Council: As mandated by the ATC, the MARPC will nominate representatives to the Stewardship Council. These representatives must be chosen from the Club Representatives or Alternates to the MARPC. They must be members of the Appalachian Trail Conference.

IV. Meetings of the MARPC:

Two regular meetings of the MARPC will be scheduled each year. The presence (in person or by teleconference) of the Representative or Alternate of at least 2/3 of the member clubs of the MARPC will constitute a quorum.

If urgent matters require MARPC attention between regular meetings, the Chair may call a special meeting or use electronic mail or teleconference to facilitate discussion. When a matter is decided by electronic mail in lieu of a meeting, the Chair must set a deadline for responses. Responses from 2/3 of Representatives, or the Alternate if a Representative is not able to respond, of the member clubs by the deadline will satisfy the requirement for a quorum.

The MARPC will formalize its recommendations or (within its scope) decisions by a majority vote of the member Clubs participating in the meeting. Each member club shall have one vote, cast by the Club Representative, if present, or Alternate. A tie vote will count as rejection. The presiding Chair may cast the vote for his or her club, if he or she is the only MARPC member present from that club.

Meetings of the MARPC will be open to all interested parties, including agencies and other stakeholders, but only the Clubs through their Representatives or Alternates will have a vote.

The member Clubs, agencies or others are strongly advised to submit matters for discussion to the Chair at least four weeks in advance of the regular meetings.

V. Amendment of these MARPC By-Laws:

The by-laws of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Partnership Committee may be amended by a vote of the member clubs at a regularly-scheduled meeting of the RPC. Amendments must be consistent with the RPC charter established by the ATC Board. Proposed amendments must be circulated in writing to the club Representatives at least four weeks prior to the meeting. At least three-quarters of the member clubs present and voting must, through their Representatives or Alternates, approve any proposed change.