



[www.westmorelandheritagetrail.com](http://www.westmorelandheritagetrail.com)

**Meeting Minutes January 10, 2019 (Draft V3)  
Italian – American Club, Export, PA**

1. Meeting Attendees:
  - a. Board: (17) Gordon Conn, Rob Cronauer, Tom Dittman, Rick Fisher, Noel Grimm, Ted Hayes, Kerry Jobe, Jack Maher, Monica Meehan, Mary Grace Muster, John Nagoda, Megan Nelson, Bill O'Hara, Reynold Peduzzi, Jeff Richards, Tom Ronksley, John Sopko – Malcolm Sias, Westmoreland Co. Parks and Recreation
  - b. Guests: Wendy Davis, Barry Delissio, Chad Emahizer, Alyssa Harden, Ginny Hayes, Ron Hoffman, Mary Grimm, Dee O'Hara, Ginny Hayes, Pat Norton, Chris Panchella, Tobin Ross, Mark Simpson, Pam Simpson, Anna Marie Stackiewicz, Bob Stackiewicz, Dave Thornhill, Gwen Thornhill and others
2. In the absence of President Stan Rudge, VP Rob Cronauer led the recitation of "The Pledge of Allegiance", and then called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.
3. President's Comments – None
4. Municipality of Monroeville Presentation
  - a. 2019 Monroeville Representative, Gordon Conn, spoke accolades and presented retiring Representative, Noel Grimm with a Commemorative Plaque.
  - b. There was much applause, Noel humbly thanked everyone but disappointingly, did not give an acceptance speech.
  - c. The Plaque was inscribed "The Municipality of Monroeville Presents the 20 Year Service Award to Mr. Noel Grimm (1998 – 2018) In Recognition as The Municipal Representative on the Board of the Westmoreland Heritage Trail."
5. Public Input - None.
6. Approval of Minutes - The December minutes had one correction, the spelling of Marlee Acres. A motion was made to approve the corrected minutes by Maher, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dittman, Motion carried, corrected minutes approved.
7. Treasurer's Report
  - a. Treasurer Maher, reported \$44,045.71 in total assets.
  - b. Accumulated depreciation for our capital assets is -\$7,749.90
  - c. Treasurer Maher reported that the S&T Bank Checking Account has \$24,670.97 as essentially "Cash on Hand".
8. RTC Report – Rob Cronauer The Annual RTC Retreat will be held at Christ Our Shepherd Center (formerly Bishop Connare Center) in Greensburg on Saturday, January 26, 2019. The Retreat is open to all Trail enthusiasts and is a day of Informative Trail Seminars, Breakfast and Lunch, and Meeting with other Trail users to exchange ideas. Info is on the RTC website. Be sure to note that the last day for registration is January 21. We are not able to take registrations at the door.
9. TAT Report – No Report

## 10. Committee Reports

- a. Real Estate and Acquisitions – Malcolm Sias reported he has received communication from Norfolk Southern RR requesting a formal proposal for the WHT acquisition of the RR spur land parcel from WHT Phase III (near B-Y Park) to downtown Trafford. Malcolm will prepare a response in the near future.
- b. Engineering and Construction – Jeff Richards
  - i. Culverts provided by Westmoreland County are being installed by Murrysville Public Works to provide drainage for Phase IV of the trail in three locations.
  - ii. Trail bridge sections are being fabricated at a Westmoreland County facility for installation in late January and decking in February-March prior to the start of Phase IV Construction.
  - iii. Plum Construction, the successful bidder for Phase IV has already started organizing. Survey layout and brush removal will begin as weather permits.
  - iv. Contracts for the previously funded stream bank stabilization will go out for bidding January 16<sup>th</sup>
  - v. The study for the 4 mile trail connecting Export Borough to Rangos will begin later this year.
- c. Funding Raising
  - i. March for Parks is slated for Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. This Year's Theme is "Export Bound, The Trail Continues".
    1. Mark your Calendars.
    2. Sign up for Team Participation, The WHT Trailers, captained by Chris Droste
    3. Used bicycle donations are being sought.
  - ii. Comedy Night February 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.
    1. Tickets are available for sale by Trail Individuals or at the Lamplighter and Ferri Pharmacy in Murrysville.
    2. Sponsors and baskets are being solicited.
    3. 340 attendees is the goal for this year.
    4. Volunteers are needed for the setup February 15<sup>th</sup> and the night of February 16<sup>th</sup>.
    5. Catering will be by Ski's and Nicks.
  - iii. Mark your calendars to help with parking at The Westmoreland County Arts and Heritage Festival around July 4<sup>th</sup>.
- d. Public Relations – Vicki Rudge absent, John Sopko presented.
  - i. 1154 Facebook followers were reported.
  - ii. Trail Town Tour
    1. RTC has confirmed that as a Chapter, we do not need an event permit for The Trail Towns Festival.
    2. June 1<sup>st</sup> has been officially selected by email board vote for the WHT Trail Towns Festival as that date is National Trail Day.
    3. An Update on Trail Towns Festival.
      1. Both ends of trail in Trafford and Slickville will be hosting our party atmosphere.....yes, live music and some beer is planned.

2. In between these locations, various communities have shown interest to participate.
  3. PR Committee also seeking help from our members to assist working on this event. Volunteers are needed; please contact Vicki Rudge to sign up. [whtr2017@gmail.com](mailto:whtr2017@gmail.com) 412-225-2284
- iii. The WHT “google.my.maps” program
1. This program, developed by Karen Rose Cercone, identifying Points of Interest along the trail is now active.
  2. The WHT website has all the pertinent information and QR Codes for internet access and the codes are also posted at all the trail kiosks.
  3. The Program is being continued by Karen and a RR Buff Nephew and will present the cost for planned markers at the historical sites in the near future.
- e. Membership – Gordon Conn.
- i. Gordon reported that we now have 144 active members for 2018 exceeding last year’s membership of 107 members..
  - ii. The WHT now has 40 Lifetime members, 23 Ten Year Members and 81 Annual members
  - iii. There will be a Membership Drive in January.
  - iv. Late Membership sign-ups in November and December of 2018 have been afforded full 2019 Membership status. Adding to that, the Lifetime and Ten Year members, we’re off to a great 2019 start with 72 members.
- f. Trail Ambassadors (Monitors) - No Report
- g. Trail Maintenance – Tom Dittman
- i. The Trail has been divided into five zones for basic maintenance, mowing and trimming, each with its own crew
    1. Zone 1 – Saltsburg to Rt. 819 in Slickville (Team Leaders Bill O’Hara and Ted Hayes)
    2. Zone 2 – Rt. 819 to the Rangos Parking Area (Team Leaders Stan Rudge and Rick Fisher)
    3. Zone 3 – Maintenance not needed at this time. Rangos Trail Access to Lincoln Ave., Export
    4. Zone 4 – Lincoln Ave. in Export to the Tracy Stack Memorial Bridge (Team Leaders Pat Norton and Tom Dittman)
    5. Zone 5 – The Tracy Stack Bridge to the Trail end in Trafford (Team Leaders Rey Peduzzi and John Russo).
  - ii. Non-routine maintenance, fallen trees, washouts, etc. will be handled when needed by all volunteers.
  - iii. If you are interested in volunteering, please let Tom Dittman know and he will pass along your contact information to the Leaders of the Team or Teams you would like to join. Tom Dittman 724-733-3661 [whtrvolunteers@gmail](mailto:whtrvolunteers@gmail.com)
  - iv. Limestone Dust Trailer

1. A discussion ensued on the Pros and Cons of an off road utility trailer to transport Limestone dust to small washouts on the trail.
2. After the discussion, A Motion was made by Nagoda, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Richards to approve up to \$400.00 for the Trailer. The vote was (15) Yea, (2) Nay (O'Hara, Hayes), Motion Carried, Funding allocated.

11. Old Business – None

12. New Business –

a. Election of 2019 Officers and At-Large Board members.

- i. No new nominations were made.
- ii. A motion was made by Peduzzi, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Richards to re-elect the current Board Officers (all running unopposed) to a one year term, Motion Carried, Congratulations to;
  1. Stan Rudge – President
  2. Rob Cronauer – VP
  3. Jack Maher – Treasurer
  4. John Sopko – Secretary
- iii. Vicki Rudge was previously nominated by Sopko for the vacant “At-Large” Position.
- iv. A motion was made by Nagoda, 2<sup>nd</sup> Nelson to re-elect board member Monica Meehan (unopposed) to another three year term and elect Vicki Rudge (unopposed) to a new three year term. Motion Carried, Congratulations to;
  1. Monica Meehan – At-Large Board Member
  2. Vicki Rudge – At-Large Board Member.

The 50/50 drawing \$27 was won by meeting attendee Barry Delissio who donated the winnings to the Trail Treasury. Thank You, Mr. Delissio.

On a motion by Nelson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Richards, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

The next meeting will be on February 14th at The Lamplighter Restaurant in Delmont, PA starting at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Sopko, 2019 Secretary