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Meeting Minutes January 11, 2018 (Draft V3)

Lamplighter Restaurant, Delmont, PA

1. Meeting Attendees:
 - a. Board: (17) Rob Cronauer, Gordon Conn, Tom Dittman, Eileen Elicker, Rick Fisher, Noel Grimm, Kerry Jobe, Jack Maher, Monica Meehan, Dorothea Motto, Mary Grace Muster, Megan Nelson, Bill O'Hara, Reynold Peduzzi, Jeff Richards, Tom Ronksley, John Sopko, Malcolm Sias (Westmoreland Co. Parks)
 - b. Guests: (16) Joe Austuri, Sandi Austuri, Michael Bertonaschi, Karen Cercone, Mary Grimm, Alyssa Harden, Ted Hayes, Paula Hartmann, Joe Knapick, Kristi Mitchell, David Nigro, Dee O'Hara, John Ruccio, Lacey Sturm, Crystal Szogi, Todd Tansimore, Ann Wade

2. President Noel Grimm led the recitation of "The Pledge of Allegiance", and then called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

President Grimm has chosen to retire from the presidency and this will be his final meeting as President. The Westmoreland Heritage Trail cannot sufficiently thank Noel for his years of leadership and dedication to the trail since its outset in 2001. His vision has guided the Westmoreland Heritage Trail into what it is today. The Westmoreland Heritage Trail looks forward to continue receiving his guidance and wisdom as he begins his new role as a board member representing the Municipality of Monroeville.

3. The board members and visitors introduced themselves. The WHT Board thanks all visitors for their support and interest in the trail.
4. Public Input - None
5. Approval of Minutes - A motion was made to approve the December 14th minutes as published by Maher, 2nd Dittman, Motion carried, Minutes approved.
6. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Treasurer, Jack Maher, reported \$43,006.48 in total assets.
 - b. Jack explained that the approximate doubling of assets was due to new accounting protocol. All assets, including capital assets, such as the recently acquired Ventrac Mower, Shipping Container Tool Shed and tools must be included in total assets. The capital items are then depreciated accordingly.
 - c. Jack reported that the S&T Savings Account has \$24,756.77 as essentially "Cash on Hand".
 - d. There has been some confusion understanding the newly revised Articles of Association with the RTC. When strictly interpreted, only WHT officers can sign

checks, not all board members. This restriction is a particular hardship for Treasurer Jack Maher in finding check signers. Rob Cronauer will approach the RTC to see if and how the Articles of Association can be amended.

- e. A motion to approve the treasurer's report by Sopko, 2nd Peduzzi, Motion carried, Report approved.
7. RTC Report – Rob Cronauer
 - a. No Report – The RTC Meeting is January 17th.
 - b. Rob encouraged all to attend the upcoming RTC/ATA Trail Retreat, January 27, 2018, Bishop Connare Center, Greensburg. Admission is free; Breakfast and lunch are available for \$12.50 and \$16.00 respectively. You must register before January 17th.
 8. TAT Report – Jack Maher
 - a. Uniform Signage for all trails associated with the TAT (Trans Allegheny Trails) will be available in the spring. The trail system stretches from Freeport, PA to Harrisburg, PA.
 - b. A motion was made to approve the \$633.00 annual TAT membership fee for Website Maintenance, Brochures and Signage by Maher, 2nd Meehan, Motion carried, Expenditure approved.
 - c. The TAT Blairsville Trail “Fly-Over Bridge” over Route 22 has been approved by PA DOT. This is significant as other PA counties have taken notice of the importance of a trail system. Allegheny County in particular, pleased with the recent WHT progress in Trafford, Penn Township, Monroeville, Murrysville and Export is being urged to undertake a feasibility study to extend the trail from Trafford to the GAP.
 9. Committee Reports
 - a. Real Estate and Acquisitions
 - i. Malcolm Sias reported that negotiations with the Norfolk Southern RR to acquire the approximately 1800 feet of property from B-Y Park to downtown Trafford are proceeding with optimism for a result before March.
 - ii. Karen Cercone, (Re-Imagining Trafford) reported a grant has been received from the National Park Service that would support extending the trail to downtown Trafford.
 - iii. Malcolm Sias reported that PA DOT and the DCNR have relaxed the original “hurdles” necessary for approval to divert the trail from the original TCIRR rail bed to a routing behind Cleveland Brothers along Turtle Creek. This new routing will allow trail users to avoid any conflicts with Caterpillar Equipments.
 - b. Engineering and Construction - Jeff Richards
 - i. A Public Forum is planned for February 8th, 2018, starting at 7:00 PM at the Italian-American Club, 5930 Kennedy Ave, Export, PA to inform all of the

Phase IV WHT Trail plans and to suggest integration with the Export Park and RR Caboose.

- ii. Current 70% Design Plans for the WHT Phase IV prepared by Mackin Engineering will be presented and discussed. Malcolm and Jeff will answer any questions and/or note any questions that should be forwarded to Mackin Engineering.
- iii. After the Public Forum is adjourned, The WHT Board meeting will begin.

c. Funding Raising – Rey Peduzzi

i. Comedy Night

1. Colton Hall in Claridge has been selected for the Fifth Annual Comedy Night Fund Raiser held jointly with the 5 Star Trail, taking place on February 10th, 2018.
2. 350 - 360 seats are available for tickets to this year's event.
3. Volunteers are needed to solicit raffle baskets and sponsorships.
4. The new location should provide for new sponsorships.
5. Eileen Elicker is championing the sponsorship effort. Please contact her if you can help.
6. Dinner is included and will be catered by "Ski's and Nick's".

ii. Mile Marker Face Advertisement.

1. 25 Mileage posts (6' x6") are needed and 19 posts are on hand. They will be installed after the spring thaw.
2. Updated Face Ad Forms are available on our new website.

iii. The Westmoreland Co. Arts and Heritage Festival at Twin Lakes Park will be July 5, 6, 7 & 8 this year. Please reserve the dates to volunteer for the WHT Parking Fund Raiser.

iv. The March for Parks Fund Raiser will be held at The Murrysville Community Center March 24 this year. This location provides easier access to the WHT trail for the "Marchers and Bikers". Please plan to attend.

d. Public Relations – Vicki Rudge

- i. Kristi Mitchell "subbed" for Vicki Rudge and proposed a jointly sponsored Westmoreland County Parks / WHT / Westmoreland Land Trust Amateur Photo Contest, 4/1 through 10/31. No money was requested for WHT participation, but perhaps a Trail membership for the winners. A motion to approve WHT participation by Elicker, 2nd Maher, Motion carried, Participation approved. (See Attachment for Additional Details)
- ii. A "Trail Calendar" using the photo winners was also suggested, details to follow.
- iii. Eileen Elicker suggested a "Bike Repair Day" to promote the Trail. The idea was favorably received and details will follow.
- iv. An email address for trail users to submit photos, trail observations, work parties and comments for the FaceBook page has been established: whtpr2017@gmail.com Everyone is encouraged to contribute.
- v. The WHT Web site is now on-line www.westmorelandheritagetrail.com

- vi. A motion to participate in the Industrial Heritage Trail Works Website for \$10.00 by Maher, 2nd Sopko, Motion carried, Expenditure approved.
- vii. It was suggested a complete schedule of 2018 fund raisers be compiled for the WHT website and FaceBook page.
- viii. Eileen Elicker has requested that “someone of tall build” volunteer to help her keep the trail kiosks “up-to-date” as she is “stature challenged” and cannot reach the uppermost positions of the new kiosks at Murrysville and Saunders Station.
- e. Membership – Gordon Conn reported The WHT is beginning 2018 with 102 members. The WHT Thanks all who are supporting the trail and for the record setting membership numbers.
- f. Trail Ambassadors (Monitors) – Stan Rudge reported “in absentia” by email that 92 hours of Trail Monitoring were completed in December with no major items to report. Trash on the trail continues to be a problem. (Report Attached)
- g. Trail Maintenance – Tom Dittman
 - i. The Sara Steele Parking Access Kiosk was significantly damaged by an errant automobile off road excursion. The Driver’s family has accepted responsibility and the Insurance Company contacted. A replacement Kiosk is valued at \$2000 and will be submitted to the Insurance Company before purchase. If the Insurance Company does not pay, the trail will have to re-address the cost of a new kiosk.
 - ii. Tom Dittman submitted a proposed \$3,000.00 budget for 2018 trail Maintenance. A motion to fund the budget report by Peduzzi, 2nd Elicker, Motion carried, Budget funding approved.
 - iii. Snow removal at the Rangos Trail Access Parking Lot was discussed. Other lots are plowed by their local respective municipality. Delmont has no inclination to participate. The Rangos Lot is, as are all the lots, plowed or not, “Use at own risk”.

10. Old Business

- a. Rey Peduzzi again proposed the computer coding of a Smartphone app that would highlight trail sites of historical importance and afford trail users an insight to “times gone by” along the trail. No details of who would code the app, who would provide the historical articles or who might collate all the articles chronologically. The discussion was tabled pending additional information.
- b. 2018 Board Officer and Member Elections
 - i. Michael Bertonaschi declined the nomination for “At Large” Board Member.
 - ii. Ted Hayes was nominated for “At Large” Board Member by Bill O’Hara.
 - iii. Three candidates vied for the “At Large” position, Dorothea Motto, Ralph Resnick, and Ted Hayes
 - iv. Three Officer Positions were unopposed, Stan Rudge, President – Jack Maher, Treasurer – John Sopko, Secretary. Two candidates vied for Vice President, Rob Cronauer and Megan Nelson
 - v. The Results are;
 - 1. At Large – Dorothea Motto, Ted Hayes
 - 2. President – Stan Rudge

3. Vice President – Rob Cronauer
 4. Treasurer – Jack Maher
 5. Secretary – John Sopko
- vi. Congratulations to the 2018 electorate. The Inaugural Ball will be held during the regular Board Meeting at the Export Italian American Club, February 8th.

c. New Business

i. Medical Defibrillator

1. ???? from the Trafford Non-profit ???? offered to donate a medical defibrillator for trail use.
2. The trail defers all emergencies to First Responders and cannot accept the offer.
3. Tom Dittman will check with Murrysville First Responders who store their Trail ATV in our maintenance shed for any interest.

ii. Food Bank Solicitation

1. Crystal Szogi of the Westmoreland Co. Food Bank detailed their upcoming Empty Bowl event and asked the WHT to participate with a donation.
2. The WHT would receive recognition and promotion on their FaceBook page.
3. A motion to donate a Trail Family Membership, a Trail Tee, and a Trail Ball cap to the Food Bank by Sopko, 2nd Maher, Motion carried, Donation approved.

On a motion by Maher, 2nd Muster, the meeting was adjourned at 8:44 PM.

The next meeting will be at the Italian-American Club, 5930 Kennedy Avenue, Export, PA in Export Thursday February 8th beginning at 7:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

John Sopko, 2018 Secretary

Attachments;

Trail Ambassador Report

5 Trail Ambassadors reported the Month of December

92 hours of trail monitoring took place

84 of the hours from Saunders Station to Trafford.

No majors items reported, mostly

Pick-up Trash and liter

Talked to 11 people

1 motorized Trail Bike was seen.

WHT

2018 Projects and Maintenance

Bench installation

12 benches sold

24 80lb bags Quikrete \$108.00

50 4.5" galvanized bolts and nuts 45.00

\$ 153.00

Mileage posts

25 to install 19 on hand

6 6"x6" posts \$132.00

25 80lb bags Quikrete 113.00

Auger rental for 2 days 200.00

\$445.00

Trail mowing and cleaning (15 mi each time)

Mowing 4 times, blower 2 times

Gasoline per use 25 gallons \$2.70/gal. \$405.00

Painting benches and fencing

Stain 6 gallons Canyon Clay \$240.00

Paint for bollards 2 gallons 104.00

Paint brushes 20 20.00

\$364.00

Herbicide application

30 mi. x 2 ft. =8 acres x 5 gal./acre

40 gal @ \$20.00/gal. \$800.00

Gasoline 25 gallons \$2.70/gallon 67.50

\$867.60

Chainsaw and trimmer fuel and supplies \$200.00

Mower maintenance -0-

Total estimated

\$2,434.50

Westmoreland County 2018 Outdoor Amateur Instagram Photo Contest Rules and Guidelines

Sponsored by:

Westmoreland County Parks,
the Westmoreland Heritage Trail Chapter,
and the Westmoreland Land Trust

1. Photo contest is open to all *Amateur Photographers* (meaning someone who does not engage in photography as their sole profession) in the following categories:

People and Pets
Wildlife and Nature
Scenic Beauty

2. Photographs must be taken in a Westmoreland County Park or Trail, or a Westmoreland Land Trust Nature Preserve.

Twin Lakes, Cedar Creek, Mammoth, Northmoreland, Bridgeport Dam, Chestnut Ridge, Otto and Magdalene Ackermann Nature Preserve, Ann Rudd Saxman Nature Park, Historic Hanna's Town, Loyalhanna Gorge Recreation Area, Sewickley Creek Wetlands, Coal and Coke Trail, Five Star Trail, Little Crabtree Creek Trail, Westmoreland Section of Great Allegheny Passage, or Westmoreland Heritage Trail

Photographs taken in other local or state parks are not eligible for this contest.

3. Photographs can be taken in any season. Please refrain from submitting collages and composite images. Image manipulation shall be limited to cropping and minor color and contrast adjustments. Use of watermarks is prohibited.

4. All photos must be submitted through Instagram via the hashtags:

Use #WCPC18peoplepets for People and Pets

Use #WCPC18nature for Wildlife and Nature

Use #WCPC18scenic for Scenic Beauty.

5. You may submit a maximum of three (3) images at any time before the final deadline for submissions of October 31, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.. Photographs will be judged based on Impact/Wow Factor, Creativity, Image Quality, and Composition. Semi-finalists will be picked and notified each month. One (1) Grand Prize winner of the Photo Contest will be selected by a 3-judge panel to receive a \$ _____ gift card to _____ (a local fine-dining restaurant)

7. Westmoreland County Parks, Westmoreland County Trail Groups, and the Westmoreland Land Trust will not use images for monetary gain and the Applicant still retains the rights to their photos. By participating in this contest, the Applicant agrees to share those rights with us and let us share your photos royalty-free (we will try to credit the photographer whenever reasonably possible). By submitting this application and image, the Applicant also acknowledges that any persons appearing in submitted photograph(s) have given the Applicant and Westmoreland County consent for reproduction and promotional use.

Additional Notes for the WHT -PR Committee's Consideration

- Contest runs from April 1 to October 31
 - Final winner (and possibly runner-up placements) will be announced in January 2019. There will be one Grand Prize overall (a restaurant gift card and/or Comedy Night tickets in 2019.) Whether we announce runners-up will depend on our success in getting other non-monetary prizes, such as photo calendars.
 - Instagram hashtags will be used to find submissions each month:
 - #WCPC18peoplepets
 - #WCPC18scenic
 - #WCPC18nature
 - Committee will choose photos each month to be put into consideration for the end-of-year Grand Prize., and those photos earmarked for possible future use.
 - We may also do a Viewer's Choice Award by category: People/Pets, Wildlife/Nature, Scenic Beauty
 - Co-hosted by: Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation, Westmoreland Heritage Trail, Westmoreland Land Trust
 - We will use Form Center on County website to collect data from monthly selections (committee will send link for contestants to fill out contact info)
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- Lauren will set up Instagram account, rules page (will host on County website)