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## Meeting Minutes February 08, 2018 (Draft V2)

### Italian-American Club, Export, PA

#### 1. Meeting Attendees:

- a. Board: (17) Bob Burton, Rob Cronauer, Gordon Conn, Eileen Elicker, Rick Fisher, Noel Grimm, Ted Hayes, Jack Maher, Monica Meehan, Dorothea Motto, John Nagoda, Megan Nelson, Bill O'Hara, Jeff Richards, Tom Ronksley, Stan Rudge, John Sopko, Malcolm Sias (Westmoreland Co. Parks)
- b. Guests: (26) Betsy Aiken, Sandi Austuri, Matt Bracken, Sally Burton, Chris Corbran, Tony DeCesare, Erika Elias, Mary Grimm, Alyssa Harden, Jayne Hoy, Susan Kargs, Chris Leo, Joe Lundy, Vicki McDonory, Kristi Mitchell, David Nigro, Dee O'Hara, David Puskarich, Tobin Ross, Bronwyn Sodrosky, Vince Sodrosky, Crystal Szogi, Ron Truzzo, Ann Wade, Buzz Wichmann, Joshua Zakovitch

*Prior to the Board Meeting, Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation's Director Malcolm Sias and Jeff Richards held a Public Forum informing all on the status of Phase IV (Murrysville to Export) WHT Trail Project. A Video production, mechanical drawings and aerial photos of the trail plans were presented. To recap; Plans are 70% finished. PA DOT is expected to request construction bids September 2018. Construction is expected to start March 2019. The Trail is expected to open mid-summer 2019*

2. President Stan Rudge led the recitation of "The Pledge of Allegiance", and then called the meeting to order at 8:03 p.m.
3. The board members thanked all visitors for their support and interest in the trail.
4. Public Input – None
5. Treasurer Jack Maher then asked outgoing President Noel Grim to come forward. Noel was then presented with the **WHT Distinguished Service Award**. The Award honors Noel's contributions as Founding Father and President for 17 years. Noel has brought the Trail from an overgrown abandoned rail bed in 2001 to the 20+ miles of beautiful Greenway it is today. Thankfully, Noel remains a Board Member representing the Municipality of Monroeville providing direction, knowledge and wisdom into the future. **Congratulations Noel..!**
6. Approval of Minutes - A motion was made to approve the January 10th minutes as published by Nelson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Maher, Motion carried, Minutes approved.
7. Treasurer's Report
  - a. Treasurer, Jack Maher, reported \$39,588.30 in total assets..
  - b. Jack reported that the S&T Checking Account has \$21,338.61 as essentially "Cash on Hand".

- c. A motion to approve the treasurer's report by O'Hara, 2<sup>nd</sup> Meehan, Motion carried, Report approved.
8. RTC Report – Rob Cronauer
- a. The RTC has been advised of the Sara Steele Kiosk accident and is following up with the Insurance Company. The Trail is seeking \$2000 to replace the Kiosk.
  - b. Rob proudly reported that the other trails comprising the RTC are particularly envious of our new website.
9. TAT Report – Jack Maher – No Report
10. Committee Reports
- a. Real Estate and Acquisitions – No Report
  - b. Engineering and Construction - Jeff Richards – No Report (see Public Forum Comments)
  - c. Funding Raising – Rob Cronauer
    - i. Comedy Night
      - 1. The Fifth Annual Comedy Night Fund Raiser held jointly with the 5 Star Trail, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 is sold out, with 300 tickets sold.
      - 2. Sponsorship monies are at \$2,600
      - 3. Several raffle baskets have been donated.
      - 4. Several members signed up to staff “pay stations” and serve meals.
    - ii. 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.
    - iii. The March for Parks Fund Raiser will be held at The Murrysville Community Center March 24<sup>th</sup> this year. This location provides easier access to the WHT trail for the “Marchers and Bikers”. Please plan to attend.
    - iv. John Nagoda, Export Representative, requested “Parking Help” for the Export Ethnic Food Festival August 18<sup>th</sup>. All agreed to participate and staff a WHT Booth.
    - v. Jack Maher put forth a motion to spend \$2,100 to replenish our supply of Logo Hats, Polos, and Tees for fund raising events. The Official Colors would be Dusty Trail Tan and Forest Green. Motion Seconded by Sopko, Motion Carried, Expenditure Approved.
  - d. Public Relations – Vicki Rudge
    - i. Kristi Mitchell “subbed” for Vicki Rudge and reported 803 FaceBook followers
    - ii. An email address for trail users to submit photos, trail observations, work parties and comments for the FaceBook page has been established: [whmpr2017@gmail.com](mailto:whmpr2017@gmail.com) Everyone is encouraged to contribute.
    - iii. The WHT Web site is now on-line [www.westmorelandheritagetrail.com](http://www.westmorelandheritagetrail.com) and has had 1500 visits and 500 followers. Also, it has garnered three on-lined Pay Pal paid memberships.

- e. Membership – Gordon Conn
    - i. The WHT is beginning the 2018 Membership year with 105 members, 41 of whom are Lifetime Members. The WHT Thanks all who are supporting the trail and for the record setting membership numbers.
    - ii. Patrons Mary Shaw and Roy Weil were recognized for their generous contribution to the trail. Both were conferred with Lifetime Memberships.
  - f. Trail Ambassadors (Monitors) – Stan Rudge - No Report
  - g. Trail Maintenance – Tom Dittman – No Report
11. Old Business – No Old Business.
- a. New Business
    - i. FreeWheeling Easy Publication
      - 1. Member Roy Weil introduced all to the FreeWheeling Easy Publication going to the printers March 15<sup>th</sup>.
      - 2. FreeWheeling Easy is a guidebook for all Western Pennsylvania Trail users.
      - 3. Roy asked interested parties to review the draft at FreeWheelingEasy.com and suggest any edits for the WHT.
    - ii. Spring Get Together
      - 1. The Western Pennsylvania Rails-to Trails Bicycle Club Spring Get-together will be held at the Lamplighter Restaurant, March 17<sup>th</sup> at noon
      - 2. Noel Grimm agreed to attend and represent the WHT.
    - iii. Maintenance Building
      - 1. President Rudge began a discussion to find a new location for a maintenance site for the Saltsburg – Delmont section of the trail.
      - 2. Our current garage is difficult to access and costs \$50 a month.
      - 3. Suggested alternatives are a Shipping Container (ala Murrysville) or a similar in cost Amish Building at \$2,000.
      - 4. The Slickville VFD access lot would be the preferred location.
      - 5. Discussion was tabled without a motion until the next meeting.

On a motion by Nelson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Maher, the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

The next meeting will be at the Lamplighter Restaurant, PA in Delmont Thursday March 8th beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Sopko, 2018 Secretary