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**Meeting Minutes February 14, 2019 (Draft V2)
Lamplighter Restaurant, Delmont, PA**

1. Meeting Attendees:
 - a. Board: (14) Bob Burton, Gordon Conn, Rob Cronauer, Eileen Elicker, Rick Fisher, Ted Hayes, Jack Maher, Mary Grace Muster, John Nagoda, Bill O'Hara, Jeff Richards, Stan Rudge, John Sopko – Malcolm Sias, Westmoreland Co. Parks and Recreation
 - b. Guests: Betsy Aiken, Dan Barber, Cary Bohl, Kevin R. Bohner, Sally Burton, Dan Cesare, Bob Cole, Kerri Colo, Wendy Davis, Doug & Ronnie Ekeroth, Chad Emahizer, Barry Van Gemert, Mary Grimm, Noel Grimm, Ginny Hayes, Pat & Ron Hoffman, Larry Josephs, Jim & Nancy Komarinsk, Rudy Kobosky, Rob Malley, Pat Norton, Dee O'Hara, Ron Ouper, Chris Panichelle, Nick Pepelice, Carol Richardson, Anna Marie Stackiewicz, Bob Stackiewicz, Fran Zalewski, and others
2. President Stan Rudge led the recitation of "The Pledge of Allegiance", and then called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
3. President's Comments – President Rudge extended a Huge WHT Thank You to Membership Chair and Monroeville Representative, Gordon Conn for the Banner Membership Year of a record setting 141 members. Gordon is also the WHT representative on the Five Community Committee planning a Trail along the Westinghouse Valley connecting Trafford with the GAP.
4. Introductions – Cary Bohl was introduced as the County Parks Citizens Advisory Board, Chair of March for Parks, in Murrysville.
5. Public Input – A question from the floor asked how Phase IV would circumnavigate Cleveland Brothers Property. It was tabled until the Engineering and Construction Agenda Item.
6. Approval of Minutes - A motion was made to approve the January 10th minutes as published by Fisher, 2nd by Muster, Motion carried, minutes approved.
7. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Treasurer Maher, reported \$47,834.71 in total assets.
 - b. Treasurer Maher reported that the S&T Checking Account has \$28,454.71 as essentially "Cash on Hand".
 - c. A motion to approve the treasurer's report by Muster, 2nd by O'Hara, Motion carried, report approved.
8. RTC Report – Rob Cronauer
 - a. Pennsylvania Lt. Governor, John Fetterman, is a Huge Supporter of Trails. He walked the GAP daily when Mayor of Braddock and will support trails in Harrisburg.
 - b. RTC is trying to save the West Yough Bridge.
9. TAT Report – No Meeting, Trail Brochures are being updated.

10. Committee Reports

a. Real Estate and Acquisitions – Malcolm Sias

- i. A proposal has been sent to Norfolk Southern RR, with a land survey, to purchase the 7.2 acres (1500 feet of trail) that would allow the WHT to be extended into downtown Trafford.
- ii. Norfolk Southern would also vacate the Stewart Station Drive RR crossing and that would be a trail end point.

b. Engineering and Construction – Jeff Richards

- i. Progress meetings with Plum Construction for Phase IV have begun and will occur every two weeks.
- ii. Plum Construction has started cleaning and “grubbing” and have set centerline marker stakes. All work currently is “weather dependant”.
- iii. Circumnavigation of Cleveland Brothers.
 1. The Trail will be built on a 20 foot wide right of way behind Cleveland Brothers along the North Shore of Turtle Creek.
 2. The Trail will not use any part of Duff Park.
 3. Cleveland Brothers will be moving their existing structures, equipment and items that now occupy the 20’ right of way.
 4. After passing The SportZone and crossing School Road, the trail will turn left to Turtle Creek and then right following the North Shore of Turtle Creek past Cleveland Brothers and rejoining the RR bed behind the Murrysville Electronic Billboard at (approximately) the Tar Hollow Road “Jug Handle”.
- iv. The Bridge near the Rivertowne Brewery
 1. This is the last of three bridges to be completed for Phase IV.
 2. Frame work has been set and the first layer of decking is installed.
 3. Work parties to complete the decking will be February 16th at 10:00 am and again on Monday, February 18th, weather permitting.
 4. The bridge decking will set the level of grade for the trail construction in the spring.
- v. Eagle Scout candidate, Art Venus of New Kensington has submitted a Project Request to plant 14 trees near Trafford. Art will attend the March meeting and explain his plan.
- vi. The Cub Scouts of Harrison City have requested some Trail Improvement project suggestions for their Pack.

c. Funding Raising

- i. Comedy Night.
 1. 340 tickets have been sold.
 2. Volunteers are desperately needed for set-up Friday and to man ticket and basket stations and kitchen help on Saturday.
 3. Please consider volunteering if at all possible.
- ii. March for Parks

1. A Pop-Up Used Bike Shop will again sell refurbished bikes and equipment as a fund raiser. Please drop off any bikes you may have at Monroeville ProBike + Run, 4030 William Penn Hwy from Mon-Fri 10am—8pm, Sat. 10am—6pm, and Sun noon-5pm
 2. Murrysville MFP Chairperson Cary Bohl described a Historical Program for MFP that would have folk dressed in period costumes and represent famous figures as Jeremiah Murry, Michael and Obediah Haymaker, George Westinghouse, etc. The characters would hold “Who am I” signs and recount their figures history. MFP attendees would guess their identities. Volunteers were sought to be the historical figures.
 3. Malcolm Sias stressed the need for Volunteers to make MFP successful. It’s only a month away!
- d. Public Relations – Stan Rudge for Vicki Rudge
- i. The Facebook Page has a record 1242 followers
 - ii. The County Parks / WHT Photo Contest Grand Prize went to Dawn Park. The winning photo is posted on Facebook.
 - iii. The WHT Town Festival is on track for June 1st, National Trail Day with music food and celebrations along the trail.
 - iv. The WHT google.my.maps Historical Marker discussion was tabled as Karen Cercone and Rey Peduzzi were absent. It was noted that a resolution to support Historical Markers was passed by the Board in August of 2018. Formation of a Committee was suggested to develop the design and fabrication of the historical markers.
- e. Membership – Gordon Conn.
- i. Gordon reported that the 2019 membership drive is going well with over 100 members to date.
 - ii. Sign-ups on the website account for 1/3rd of new members. A thank You to Alyssa Harden for designing and maintaining the site
- f. Trail Ambassadors (Monitors) – No Report
- g. Trail Maintenance – Stan Rudge
- i. A WHT Thank You to Bill O’Hara and Ted Hays for quickly clearing a fallen tree reported by a Trail User.
 - ii. The Trail Use Monitor statistics were reported by Ted Hayes
 1. There have been 2,323 users to date in 2019 with a peak day of 466 users January 6th.
 2. Peak Use is usually on Saturdays with an average of 300 Users.
 3. Since installation in April of 2018, July was the Peak Use Month with one day of over 2500 users.

11. Old Business – None Discussed

12. New Business

- a. The Montour Trail Summit is April 6th, 2019. It will be at the Settlers Ridge Park and The WHT is invited to set up an information table and sell merchandise. A discussion to attend was tabled until the March Meeting.
- b. A discussion on Lifetime Mile Post Markers was tabled until the March Meeting.
- c. A request to allow a Private Family to develop and sustain a Personal Memorial Garden along the trail was tabled until the March Meeting.
- d. A discussion on Memorial Trees was tabled until the March Meeting.
- e. It was reported by Monroeville Representative, Gordon Conn, that a foot bridge, 91 feet long across Turtle Creek connecting Valley Park on Aber Creek Road to the WHT is being considered by the municipality. This would provide additional access parking to the trail.

On a motion by Elicker, 2nd Hayes, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

John Sopko, 2019 Secretary