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**Meeting Minutes April 11, 2019 (Draft V1)
Lamplighter Restaurant, Delmont, PA**

1. Meeting Attendees:
 - a. Board: (15) Gordon Conn, Rob Cronauer, Tom Dittman, Eileen Elicker, Rick Fisher, Ted Hayes, Kerry Jobe, Jack Maher, Megan Nelson, Bill O'Hara, Rey Peduzzi, Tom Ronksley, Stan Rudge, Vicki Rudge, John Sopko – Malcolm Sias, Westmoreland Co. Parks and Recreation
 - b. Guests: Don Baker, Donna and Charlie Beard, Michael Bertonaschi, Kevin Bohner, George Chilloti, Nick DeFelice, Donald Green, Noel and Mary Grimm, Alyssa Harden, David Kunkle, Chris Leo, David Nigro, Pat Norton, Jeanne Ocuierek, Dee O'Hara, Chris Panicholla, Patti and Mike Rectib, John Ruccio, Tom and Linda Wagner, and others
2. President 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
 - a. Trail looks good from Saltsburg to Trafford.
 - b. A WHT Thank You to Mike Bee, Trail Ambassador, for monitoring the trail.
 - c. A WHT Thank you to Ted Hayes and Eileen Elicker (Batman and Robin) for keeping all the kiosks up-to-date and decorated.
 - d. The President's dog Queenie was upset walking the trail and seeing piles of Dog Doo and discarded bags of same. Queenie reminds all pet walkers to "Please" police their pet droppings and take it to the nearest waste disposal can. Please do not leave it on the trail.
 - e. The duties of the Officers, Committee Chairpersons, and Board Members in general are ill-defined. We need to write descriptions of the duties of the stations.
4. Public Input – Bob Stackewitz, a member and trail user, thanked the maintenance volunteers for cutting off the trail bollards to a height below bicycle handle bars.
5. Approval of Minutes - A motion was made to approve the March 14th minutes as published by Cronauer, 2nd by Maher, Motion carried, minutes approved.
6. Treasurer's Report – Jack Maher
 - a. Treasurer Maher, reported \$63,738.50 in total assets.
 - b. Treasurer Maher reported that the S&T Checking Account has \$41,363.50 as essentially "Cash on Hand" with the Comedy Night expenses still outstanding.
 - c. A motion was made to disburse The Five Star Trail \$3,681.00, their share of Comedy Night, by Rudge, 2nd by Elicker, Motion carried, Payment approved.
 - d. A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's Report by Sopko, 2nd Dittman, Motion Carried, Report approved.

7. RTC Report – None
8. TAT Report – Next Meeting April 18th. Trail Maps are being updated. Phase IV of the trail will be on the new maps, even though it is not open yet. The maps are updated every two years and it was prudent that we publish now and not wait for the next edition.
9. Committee Reports
 - a. Real Estate and Acquisitions – Malcolm Sias
 - i. Norfolk Southern Railroad Property
 1. 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.
 2. The value of the property has been assessed at \$25,500.00. Norfolk Sothern has internally valued the property at \$400,000.00. Due to the wide difference in property value, talks are continuing.
 - ii. “The Middle Gap”; Four miles from Delmont to Export Trail Property Acquisition
 1. Great Oak Energy is considering our offer to buy about three quarters of a mile of property west of Route 66 to the trail. The property is assed at \$25,000.00.
 2. Negotiations on one half mile of original rail bed are ongoing with Export Tire Co.
 3. Other parcels are “in the works”.
 - iii. A grant application has been made to DCNR to fund one half the purchase price of the assessed value of both properties. Grass Roots fundraising will fund the remainder of the purchase price.
 - b. Engineering and Construction – Malcolm Sias for Jeff Richards
 - i. Progress meetings with Plum Construction for Phase IV have begun and will occur every two weeks.
 - ii. Plum Construction has laid the sub-base for the entire trail. Eager Trail users are mistaking this for a completed trail. “Trail Closed” signs are at all trail access points. No one is allowed on the trail. There is large equipment still grading the trail for the next layers, water runoff and ditching. Please do not use the trail during construction as your safety is most important. Also unauthorized use delays the trail construction progress.
 - iii. The Westmoreland Conservation District, with funding from PA DEP and PA DCNR has placed \$60,000.00 of large rocks to stabilize the stream bank close to the trail at six sites. The section near Forbes Road that had to be replaced twice due to flooding last year is being considered for future stabilization.
 - iv. The Trail behind Cleveland Brothers to the Murrysville Electronic Information Sign will be paved with asphalt to make trail use on this section straightforward.
 - v. The section of trail that currently goes through the tunnel under the PA Turnpike will be closed when the Turnpike constructs three lanes between Monroeville and Irwin. A re-route of the trail 200 yards downstream to where

Turtle Creek currently passed under the Turnpike and 200 yards back is in the planning stages. The Turnpike Commission has been on-board for three years now, but no plans will be available until the actual construction begins in about three more years.

c. Funding Raising

- i. The Third largest fund raiser is the Westmoreland Arts and Heritage Festival Parking Concession. The dates this year are July 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th. Please register to help. Every volunteer hour is worth approximately \$15.00 to the trail. Rey Peduzzi, Bill O'Hara, and Ted Hays will be chairing the event.
- ii. Parking volunteers are also needed for The Export Ethnic Food and Music Festival August 17th.
- iii. Rey Peduzzi reminds all Commercial Advertising on Mile Posts is available.
- iv. Rey Peduzzi was charged with determining the cost of a Ten-Year Milepost Marker considering maintenance and possible vandalism.

d. Public Relations –Vicki Rudge

- i. Facebook followers have peaked over 1353.
- ii. The PR Committee is in need for a Volunteer Quartermaster to inventory Trail Logo Clothing articles in Plastic Bins, replenish sold items, record sales dollars, and deliver the bins to our event booths.
- iii. Trail Towns Festival for June 1st is “in progress mode”.
 1. There will be a meeting for all communities to attend in moving forward with this June 1st Event.
 2. Festivities begin in B-Y Park form 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and finish at the Slickville Fireman’s Pavilion 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
 3. There will be live music, food and raffles at the celebrations.
 4. A registration fee of \$10 will be charged and all who sign up receive a membership to the trail and a back pack with which to gather complimentary souvenirs at each parking access lot.
 5. Volunteers are needed to staff our booth at the Parking Access Lots.
 6. Commercial booths are available for \$25.00 and nonprofit booths are free if an auction item is donated.
 7. A motion to “advance” the Trail Town committee \$1,000.00 for expenses was made by Rudge, 2nd Sopko, Motion Carried, Expenditure Approved.

e. Membership – Gordon Conn.

- i. A follow up membership drive will be initiated April 1st to June 1st.
- ii. Gordon reported that the 2019 membership drive is going well with over 129 members to date with sadly, 35, 2018 members not yet renewing.
- iii. Gordon has set an ambitious goal for over 200 members this year. Please encourage your family, friends, and associates.

f. Trail Ambassadors (Monitors) – Please be advised the 2019 Trout Fishing Season starts Saturday April 13th, Turtle Creek has been stocked and parking for Trail use will be at a premium.

g. Trail Maintenance – Tom Dittman

- i. The Trail is in good shape thanks to over 100 hours of volunteer work this past month. All volunteer hours are now being logged.
- ii. The Slickville garage has been cleaned out and our remaining tools and supplies organized.
- iii. A "Tool Inventory" and audit of equipment has been started.

10. Old Business

- a. The topic of Personal Memorial Gardens was discussed. The Landscaper request will be approved pending his commitment to maintain the Garden without any volunteer Trail assistance
- b. The topic of Memorial Trees was discussed and trees were thought to be a huge maintenance responsibility. The idea was dismissed.

11. New Business

a. March for Parks Update

- i. A HUGE Westmoreland County Parks Thank You to the 50 plus volunteers that made "The Murrysville March" a Huge Success.
- ii. Overall (at both locations) here were 900 Marchers, 54 teams, and 60 plus Business Sponsors that helped raise over \$94,000.00
- iii. \$20,000.00 of the funds will go toward Trail Projects.
- iv. Since the March for Parks inception in 2007, over One Million dollars has been raised.

b. Trail Maintenance Building Fund.

- i. Initiating a Treasury line item to fund the building was discussed.
- ii. Topics of discussion
 1. Funding of \$5,000.00 in seed money
 2. A percentage (25%) of yearly proceeds from Treasury income to be added.
 3. A "stand-alone" purposed fund raiser to be held.
- iii. Discussion tabled pending sidebar meeting of Board members to iron out details.

c. Volunteer Hours Compilation and Tabulation.

- i. To enhance Grant Applications, all volunteer hours should be recorded to demonstrate Grass Roots involvement.
- ii. Alyssa Harden will submit a spreadsheet format for possible record keeping.
- iii. Google Docs was suggested for record keeping.
- iv. All Board Members are requested to submit their hours at the monthly meeting for tabulation.
- v. A volunteer "accountant" is needed to maintain the record.

On a motion by O'Hara, 2nd Nelson, the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 9th. Beginning 7:00 p.m. at the Italian-American Club, Export PA.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Sopko, 2019 Secretary

