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Meeting Minutes April 12, 2018 (Draft V2)

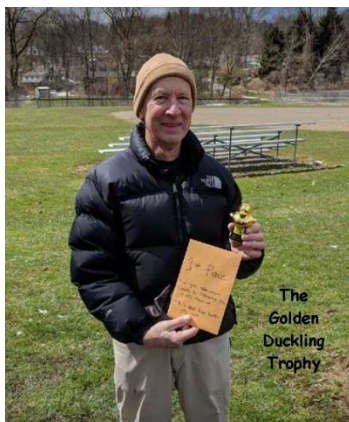
Lamplighter Restaurant, Delmont, PA

1. Meeting Attendees:
 - a. Board: (19) Bob Burton, Rob Cronauer, Tom Dittman, Eileen Elicker, Rick Fisher, Noel Grimm, Ted Hayes, Kerry Jobe, Jack Maher, Monica Meehan, Dorothea Motto, Mary Grace Muster, Megan Nelson, Bill O'Hara, Rey Peduzzi, Jeff Richards, Tom Ronksley, Stan Rudge, John Sopko, Malcolm Sias (Westmoreland Co. Parks)
 - b. Guests: (21) Sandy Asturi, Michael Bertonaschi, Karen Rose Cercone, Matt Cmar, Chris Corbran, Wendy Davis, Barbara DiVigilio, Donald Green, Mary Grimm, Alyssa Harden, Matt Kundrat, Dee O'Hara, Jim Putignano, Vicki Rudge, Anna Marie Stackiewicz, Bob Stackiewicz, Todd Tansimore, Crystal Szogi, Richard Warfsman, Doug Webster. Helen Wolfe
2. President Stan Rudge led the recitation of "The Pledge of Allegiance", and then called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.
3. President Rudge acknowledged the birthdays of three Board Members, Noel Grimm, Ted Hayes and ????. They received loud applause from the attendees.
4. The board members thanked all visitors for their support and interest in the trail.
5. Public Input – None
6. Approval of Minutes - A motion was made to approve the March minutes as published by Maher, 2nd Peduzzi, Motion carried, Minutes approved.
7. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Treasurer Maher, reported \$52,115.61 in total assets..
 - b. Treasurer Maher reported that the S&T Checking Account has \$28,855.92 as essentially "Cash on Hand".
 - c. A motion to approve the treasurer's report by Nelson, 2nd O'Hara, Motion carried, Report approved.
 - d. A motion to approve a payment of \$4,719.27 to The Five Star Trail for their share the Comedy Night Joint Event Sponsorship by Maher, 2nd Elicker, Motion carried, Disbursement approved.
 - e. A motion to approve a payment of \$5,097.50 to Eagle Scout McCain Varley from his project reserve account for reimbursement of the Braun/Carson Avenue Kiosk Cost by O'Hara, 2nd Muster, Motion carried, Disbursement approved. This payment closes the books on the project.

8. RTC Report – The March 21st snowfall cancelled the scheduled RTC meeting. Next meeting April 18th. No Report
9. TAT Report – The TAT is still working on a Uniform Signage policy that is acceptable to all the member trails. This endeavor should be complete in April. TAT delegate, Jack Maher expressed his wish to pass on the representation baton after five years of faithful service for the WHT. President Rudge reluctantly accepted the position until a volunteer steps forward. A **WHT Thank You** to Jack Maher for his 5 year commitment as the WHT representative.

10. Committee Reports

- a. Real Estate and Acquisitions – After almost four years of negotiations, the property acquisition for routing the trail behind Cleveland Brothers CAT has been formally completed.
- b. Engineering and Construction – Jeff Richards
 - i. The 3.30 miles of Phase IV construction from Robert’s Parcel, Murrysville to Lincoln Avenue in Export, is on track for bidding to begin in September 2108.
 - ii. Jeff Richards read a letter drafted by President Rudge supporting The Westmoreland County Parks request for Grant Monies of \$350,000 from the PA DCNR to study possible ways to complete the final four miles from Export to Delmont. (Letter Attached).
- c. Funding Raising – Rey Peduzzi
 - i. 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. Every hour of volunteer work contributes approximately \$15 to the WHT Treasury. Rey Peduzzi and Bill O’Hara are co-chairpersons.
 - ii. The August 18th Export Ethnic Food Festival will support our WHT Parking Volunteers as well.
 - iii. Rey Peduzzi queried when the mile marker posts would be installed as he has several sponsorships ready for display. Malcolm Sias informed Rey that the wood fencing about the bridges is available for signage.
 - iv. The First Annual Joint WHT / Turtle Creek Watershed Association April 7th Rubber Ducky Race at Bear Hollow Park, Forbes Trail Ck, Murrysville was a huge success earning \$2,300.



A **Huge Thank You** to Chairperson Alyssa Harden and her helper “ducklings” for organizing the event. A **Hugh Thank You** to everyone who attended and supported the Fundraiser. Everyone that came out to watch the ducks race had a blast! We couldn’t have done it without the support of everyone involved, including our many sponsors, donors, and volunteers. First Place went to our own Tom Dittman, who sponsored the fastest duck to the finish line and

took home the coveted “Golden Duckling” trophy.

d. Public Relations – Vicki Rudge

- i. 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 . Everyone is encouraged to contribute. There are now 855 followers.
- ii. The WHT Web site is now on-line www.westmorelandheritagetrail.com Please check-in often for up-to-date trail information. There have been 4000 visits to date. A motion to approve a payment of \$718.00 for website development expenses incurred by the Westmoreland Conservation District by Cronauer, 2nd Maher, Motion carried, Disbursement approved. **A WHT Thank You** to Alyssa Harden who has solely designed and completed the website.
- iii. The Photo Contest is moving forward and should be announced soon.
- iv. A Bicycle Repair Day is being considered for around September 30th timing.
- v. Vicki Rudge has requested information on local Community Day events from the various board member community representatives so that the WHT may plan to participate with a “booth”.
- vi. Karen Cercone introduced Google MY Maps allowing users to view a general map of the trail as they travel. There will be another presentation at the next meeting in May as well. A motion to accept Karen’s kind offer and authorize her work was made by Peduzzi, 2nd Elicker, Motion Passed. There is no cost involved and Karen Cercone from the PR committee is going to maintain it. This is an alternative for the idea of a “Trail Points of Interest” App for Android and IOS devices that Mr. Peduzzi's son introduced months ago but was tabled for the projected development costs

e. Membership – Gordon Conn.

- i. Michael Bertonachi, reporting for Chairman Gordon Conn thanks all who have joined the trail as members and supporters.
- ii. There are currently 74 active members for 2018.
- iii. It was suggested that the WHT draft a “Set of Policies” for PR and Membership. The discussion was tabled pending further review.

f. Trail Ambassadors (Monitors) – Chairman Stan Rudge reported a second Trail Ambassador class will be Wednesday May 09, 2018, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Kiski School Ross Athletic Center 1888 Brett Lane, Saltsburg, PA. Anyone interested in becoming a trail ambassador should contact Stan. (Flyer Attached)

g. Trail Maintenance – Tom Dittman

- i. Work Party Series
 1. Tom Dittman is initiating a Work Party Program, Thursdays and Saturdays of each week beginning at specific locations where work is needed.
 2. The work parties will meet at 9:00 a.m. weather permitting.

3. Tom will email interested volunteers a day in advance of the event.
 4. The next work party will be at 9:00 a.m. April 14th, meeting at Saunders Station to remove debris from the culverts from Saunders Station to MSA.
- ii. Turtle Creek Flood Damage Remediation
 1. **A WHT Thank You!** To Penn Township Maintenance for repairing the “washed out dust” and compacting the trail back to its original pre-flood condition.
 2. Thank you letters to Penn Township Maintenance and the Urban Brothers for their trail repair activity after the flood were commissioned.
 - iii. Tom Dittman reported a Cub Scout Den will be doing litter pick-up and removal from the B-Y Park to Saunders Station section of trail.

11. Old Business

- a. The Sarah Steele Kiosk and the Slickville Maintenance Building continued to be discussed without resolution as many alternate solutions were submitted. The discussion was tabled pending the receipt of cost estimates for the various solutions.
- b. Cameron Miller Scenic Overlook Eagle Scout project has been extended to a fall 2018 completion date as Cameron focuses on fund raising at this time.
- c. Stan Rudge displayed examples of WHT logo hats, Tees, and Polos. Favorable comments were received on the designs and fabric. A motion to reimburse Stan for the \$567.60 cost of the order by Maher, 2nd Nelson, Motion passed, disbursement authorized.

12. New Business

- a. Megan Nelson reported that the “Adaptive Bikes Make Riding Possible” Organization has offered to provide three adaptive tricycles for use at the Robert’s Parcel Parking Access in Murrysville. The Municipality of Murrysville has approved the idea. Implementation has been delayed until a suitable solution for access, storage and security can be established.
- b. Barbara DiVirgilio of Pine Hollow Winery described the winery and requested permission to name a vintage for the WHT. The wine would be a “dry red” “Noriet” varietal grown on the shores of Lake Erie. A portion of the wine sales would be donated to the WHT similar to the donations received from Rivertowne Brewery for their Trail Pale Ale. The request was approved and several WHT Board members volunteered to be on the WHT Wine Tasting committee.
- c. President Rudge reported that two mud slides have made the single track Norfolk Southern property route from B-Y Park to Trafford impassable. This may be incentive for NS to consider sale of the property to complete the trail into Trafford.
- d. Helen Wolfe of the Murrysville Garden Club gave a short presentation on the club’s community service and beautiful gardening spots in Murrysville. She also described The Blue Star Memorial Marker program honoring all branches of the military. Since the program began in 1944, more than 3,000 Blue Star markers have been

dedicated across the country. Ms. Wolfe is seeking permission and funding to install a Blue Star Memorial Marker between the permanent buildings at the Robert's Parcel Trail Access lot in Murrysville. The Murrysville Garden Club would fund the marker and support pole, the WHT is requested to support the cost of installation. The PA DOT has approved the trail side installation. A motion for the WHT to complete the installation and fund materials not to exceed \$200.00 by Nelson, 2nd O'Hara, Motion Passed, Installation will be dependent upon approval of the location by the Murrysville Council. It was also noted the Murrysville Garden will be holding The Annual Spring Plant Sale May 10th and 11th.

- e. The cost of acquiring an aluminum flat bed trailer for transportation of the Ventrac Mower and various trail tool is \$3200.00 based on a vendor estimate. Tom Dittman has applied for two grants to cover the purchase. A motion to fund the trailer with the WHT treasury for a not to exceed \$1600.00 in the event both grants are not received by Hayes, 2nd Burton, Motion Passed. Trailer acquisition is delayed pending grant status notification.
- f. Board Member Noel Grimm attended Western PA Rails to Trails Bicycle Club Luncheon Meeting at the Lamplighter Restaurant March 17th. Noel presented a history of the WHT and answered trail questions from the attendees. Noel's talk was very well received and the bicycle club purchased a Memorial Bench. A **WHT Thank You** to Noel for this effort. If you would like info on the club or would like to join, contact Mike Kramer Organizer: mikentesskramer@hotmail.com
- g. Board Member Rey Peduzzi advised that a "Young Couple" from Trafford had contacted him seeking permission to stage a 5K running event on the trail. Discussion ensued that this has been done before and all arrangements must be made through the RTC and a protocol exists. As the dialogue continued, it became apparent the young couple wanted to do the 5K as a fundraiser for the WHT. A committee of Megan Nelson, Jack Maher and Rey Peduzzi volunteered to meet with the young couple and set a date that did not coincide with other 5K races in the area. The board was pleased with this prospect as it would revive our past Heritage Hustle 5K race.

On a motion by Maher, 2nd Cronauer, the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

The next meeting will be Thursday April 12th beginning at 7:00 p.m.
Location to be announced.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Sopko, 2018 Secretary

Attachments;



PRESIDENT
Stan Rudge

VICE-PRESIDENT
Rob Cronauer

SECRETARY
John Sopko

TREASURER
Jack Maher

BOARD
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Richard Fisher
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Monica Meehan
Dorothea Motto
Mary Grace Muster
John Nagoda
Megan Nelson
Bill O'Hara
Rey Peduzzi
Jeff Richards
Tom Ronksley

construction planning was attended by over 105 community residents without one indiscriminate comment.

Our volunteer group has also transformed into a group of enthusiastic men and women, willing to support and improve the trail. Our group was very busy during the past year with several projects noted in "Major 2017 Accomplishments" (see attachment). We are also currently sponsoring two Eagle Scout Trail enhancement projects, and have had three scouts attain the Eagle rank for their past projects.

We trust that you will consider this request for the Construction of Phase IV of the Westmoreland Heritage Trail. If approved, this would be a great addition to fulfill the dream of a vital link to reaching our goal of 22 unbroken miles from Saltsburg, PA to Trafford, PA.

Sincerely,
The Westmoreland Heritage Governing Board

Stan Rudge, Chapter President
Rob Cronauer, Vice President
Jack Maher, Treasurer
John Sopko, Secretary



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April 5, 2018

Mr. Jeffrey Richards, Parks Planning Coordinator
Westmoreland County Bureau of Parks and Recreation
194 Donohoe Road,
Greensburg, PA 15601

Re: Grant Application to the PA DCNR for funding
Construction of Phase IV of the Westmoreland Heritage
Trail
Grant Web Application ID 2000364

Dear Mr. Richards:

The Westmoreland Heritage Trail Board wishes to express our on-going support for Westmoreland County's application for funding to construct Phase IV of the Heritage Trail under the Community Conservation and Partnership Program of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. We are thrilled the WHT will soon be extended eastward into Export.

The community support and enthusiasm for the trail has become overwhelming. Our membership has increased in the past nine months almost 50%, to over 110 members including 20 Lifetime members. Our new Facebook page started in June 2017 and has grown to 851 contributors and followers. Our website (<https://westmorelandheritagetrail.com/>), brought online in January 2018 has had over 1,500 viewers to date. Our monthly membership meetings, once sparsely attended, have developed into a multitude of interested attendees. The "grass roots" information kickoff meeting of Phase IV



April 05, 2018

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Mr. Jeffrey Richards, Parks Planning Coordinator
Westmoreland County Bureau of Parks and Recreation
194 Donohoe Road,
Greensburg, PA 15601

Re: Grant Application to the PA DCNR for funding a Feasibility Study for closing the WHT Gap between Export and Delmont;
Grant Web Application ID 2000372

Dear Mr. Richards:

The Westmoreland Heritage Trail Board wishes to express our dedicated and enthusiastic support for Westmoreland County's application for funding a 'Gap Feasibility Study' of the Westmoreland Heritage Trail under the Community Conservation and Partnership Program of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. We look forward to participating in this planning initiative, to identify the best way to construct a trail that fills the four mile gap to connect the eastern nine miles of the WHT with the western nine miles of the WHT.

Since the completion of Phase III, the community support and enthusiasm for the trail has become overwhelming. Our membership has increased almost 50% in the past nine months to over 110 members, including 20 Lifetime members. Our new Facebook page started in June 2017 and has grown to 851 contributors and followers.

Our website: (<https://westmorelandheritagetrail.com/>), has had over 1,500 viewers since being brought online in January 2018.

Our monthly membership meetings, once sparsely attended, have developed into a multitude of interested attendees. The "grass roots" information kickoff meeting of Phase IV construction planning was attended by over 105 residents from the various communities that the WHT traverses. All participant comments were positive and supportive.



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Our volunteers have transformed into a group of enthusiastic men and women, extremely willing to support and improve the trail. The volunteers were very busy during the past year completing several projects noted in "Major 2017 Accomplishments" (see attachment).

The WHT also currently sponsors two Eagle Scout Trail enhancement projects, and have had four scouts attain the Eagle rank for their past improvement projects.

We trust that you will consider this request for the Gap Feasibility Study Grant in order to have a Westmoreland Heritage Trail wholly connecting Saltsburg, PA to Trafford, PA. If approved, it would be a great beginning to fulfill the dream of a Trail Spur connecting The Trans-Allegheny Trail to Harrisburg, PA to the Great Allegheny Passage Trail to Washington, D.C.

Sincerely,
The Westmoreland Heritage Trail Governing Board

President, Stanley Rudge,
Vice President, Rob Cronauer,
Treasurer, Jack Maher
Secretary, John Sopko



Westmoreland Heritage Trail

is conducting a

TRAIL AMBASSADOR TRAINING SESSION

on

Wednesday, May 9th, 2018

6:00 pm

at

The Kiski School

1888 Brett Lane, Saltsburg, PA 15681

Ross Athletic Center

The Ross Athletic Center is the first building on the right
after you enter the gates next to the track.

Must be member of an RTC Trail Alliance (Trail Chapter) to receive certification

Reservation required

RSVP - Name, Email, Phone, and Trail member to . . . Stan Rudge

Star15644@verizon.net or 724-312-2200

