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**Meeting Minutes July 9, 2020  
Pedora Park Pavilion, White Valley, PA**

Meeting Attendees:

- a. Board: (13) Gordon Conn, Rob Cronauer, Rick Fisher, Alyssa Harden, Ted Hayes, Kerry Jobe, Brandon Lacina, Jack Maher, Pat Norton, Bill O' Hara, Chris Panichella, Stan Rudge, and Vicki Rudge
- b. Guests: Jeff Richards, Michael Bertonaschi, John Ruccio, Greg Imblum, Doug Webster, and Steve Ising
1. President Stan Rudge led the recitation of "The Pledge of Allegiance" and then called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
2. Presidents' Comments – Rudge thanked all the volunteers for working hard in the recent heat!
3. Public Input/Introductions – No report.
4. Approval of Minutes
  - a. A motion was made to approve the June minutes by Hayes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Norton, motion carried, minutes approved.
5. Treasurer's Report – Jack Maher
  - a. For the month of June, WHT had \$90,000 in total assets. There is \$40,000 in the Money Market account and \$37,000 in the checking account. The trail's net income is \$16,000 as of the end of June. \$13,000 is to be moved from the checking account into the Capital Reserve account for the storage building.
  - b. A motion was made to approve June's treasurer's report, by O'Hara, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cronauer. Motion carried, treasurer's report approved.
6. RTC Report – Rob Cronauer
  - a. The Articles of Association from RTC have been revised and were reviewed by the executive board at the executive meeting prior to tonight's board meeting. The articles will be sent to the officers for review and will be ready to approve and submit at the August monthly board meeting.
7. TAT Report – Stan Rudge
  - a. The updated map being developed has not been printed yet.
  - b. There hasn't been a meeting since late 2019 due to COVID-19.
8. Committee Reports – Committee chairmen are needed for the following new committees: Grants. Please consider volunteering if you are interested, as it is not required to be a board

member to be a committee chair. Ann Wade has stepped up to chair the WHT Trail History committee (from 2000-present day).

- a. Real Estate and Acquisitions – Jeff Richards
  - i. The bend near Athena Drive has a permanent easement proposed and in the works.
  - ii. The parcel west of Route 66 near Ringertown Road is under agreement and should be closing in August.
- b. Engineering and Construction – Jeff Richards
  - i. The next Middle Gap steering committee is to be held on July 15 at 8:15 a.m. at Pedora Park in White Valley. PA State Representative Bob Brooks (former Murrysville mayor) has offered to help with trail crossing signage. A committee will be formed to discuss and address any comments and concerns. If you have anything you would like addressed, please notify Jeff Richards and he will bring it to the committee's attention.
- c. Fund Raising – Rob Cronauer
  - i. Post plaque sponsorships are still going well, with most sponsors opting for the longer 10 year time frame.
  - ii. The WHT is sending an initial notification letter to each of the three county commissioners in regards to the CARES Act funds Westmoreland County will be distributing. The County has approx. \$31 million to distribute (\$10 million for non-profits/\$10 million for municipalities/\$10 million for the county). No guidelines have officially been released, but it is thought that the money will need to be used by Dec. 31, 2020 and the relevant project(s) completed. The ask must also be for COVID-19 related costs.
  - iii. Memorial benches are reaching their limit, as the trail now has 28 total on the Slickville to Saltsburg section and 34 total on the Export to Trafford section (with 10 more to be installed on Export to Trafford).
- d. Public Relations – Vicki Rudge
  - i. The Facebook page is currently at 2,161 followers.
  - ii. A Twitter account has been created (@TrailHeritage) and will be managed by Doug Webster. If anyone is interested in assisting with the social media page, please reach out to Vicki Rudge. We are currently at around 40 followers on Twitter.
  - iii. The 3<sup>rd</sup> newsletter should be ready to be sent out in another couple weeks.
  - iv. Lisa's Bike Shop in Trafford will be selling WHT merchandise. Purchases will be cash only and the trail will receive 100% of the profit.
  - v. The Level Green Women's Club scavenger hunt is tentatively (barring COVID-19 restrictions) scheduled for Oct. 10. Registration would be \$30 for a one-person team or \$50 for a two-person team. Cash prizes would be available for the scavenger hunt winners. Wendy Davis is the chairperson of this potential partnership. 4 or 5 volunteers are needed from the WHT to receive 50% of the profits from the event. Once we get closer to the event and it is confirmed to go forward, volunteers will be needed for the one-day event.

1. A motion to officially partner with the Women's Club and help with the event was made by Stan Rudge, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Maher. Motion carried, event involvement approved.
  - vi. Vicki Rudge is working on the grant application for the \$500 available if WHT were to hold an event in September of this year. Discussion resulted in agreement that she should apply for a membership drive event.
    1. A motion to apply for the grant to hold a membership drive of some sort in September was made by Jobe, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lacina. Motion carried, grant application approved.
  - vii. Doug Webster has been hard at work on videography for the trail. A new video about WHT's "Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure" has been released and is on all resources online. Other videos and ideas are in the works, including a bike safety PSA. Webster will be working with Karen Cercone to possibly create some videos fleshing out the historical plaques located along the trail.
    1. Any questions from Webster were determined to first be directed to Vicki Rudge, and then to the executive committee if further explanation is needed.
  - e. Membership – Gordon Conn
    - i. Memberships are still trickling in, and the trail is currently at 216 members. Another email blast is scheduled for the fall.
    - ii. Research will be done by Harden to add an additional PayPal button to the website for additional donations.
  - f. Trail Ambassadors – Stan Rudge
    - i. 52 hours were reported by Stan Rudge. The trail has been in good shape, just dry and dusty.
  - g. Trail Maintenance – Zone Leaders
    - i. O' Hara reported that the waterfall issue and water issue near the 819 tunnel were both fixed in Zone 1.
    - ii. Fisher reported that Zone 2 is good.
    - iii. Cronauer reported that Zone 3 is good.
    - iv. Norton reported that Zone 4 is good. The Toro now fits in the trailer as the police are not using the other side.
    - v. Ruccio reported that Zone 5 is good. They are just trying to keep up with the fallen trees.
    - vi. Maintenance safety issues for trail users and maintenance volunteers as well as road crossing safety will be discussed further in the near future.
  - h. Delmont Visionary Committee – Anna Marie Stackiewicz
    - i. Maher reported the \$50 was sent to him to be deposited.
  - i. Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation – No report.
  - j. Municipal Representatives- No report.
9. Old Business
- a. Richards reminded everyone of the Virtual Poker Run coming up (July 18, August 15, and September 19). Register, walk/ride, and be in the running for door prizes. Remember to designate your money to the WHT, and get out and enjoy any of your local trails!

- i. Flat Tire Co. Bike Shop in Greensburg donated a \$1,600 bike to be included in the prize raffles.
  - b. Megan Nelson's event on the trail that was approved at a previous meeting has been converted to a virtual event.
  - c. Stan Rudge is to attend court to get restitution from the vandalism damage along the trail recently. This should include approx. \$1,000 of estimated damage as well as the port-o-john damage costs.
  - d. No update on the Historical Plaques grant application.
- 10. New Business
  - a. Conn brought up a note to make sure bikers on the trail are aware of notifying other trail users when passing.
  - b. Stan Rudge reported that a mile post catalogue for Slickville to Saltsburg and Export to Trafford will be emailed to the officers and chairmen for review. This is to be a comprehensive list of all gates, trail access points, benches, historical markers, etc. at each mile post. Once approved, these lists will be sent to Police, Fire, Ambulance, 911, State Police and Townships/Boroughs.
  - c. The trail counter is still being fixed.
- 11. The next meeting will be on August 13, 2020 at Pavilion #4 at Monroeville Community Park at 7 pm.

On a motion by Hayes, 2<sup>nd</sup> O'Hara, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Alyssa Harden, Secretary