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**Meeting Minutes May 9, 2019 (Draft V3)  
Italian American Club, Export, PA**

1. Meeting Attendees:
  - a. Board: (15) Gordon Conn, Tom Dittman, Eileen Elicker, Rick Fisher, Ted Hayes, Kerry Jobe, Jack Maher, Mary Grace Muster, Bill O'Hara, Rey Peduzzi, Jeff Richards, Tom Ronksley, Stan Rudge, Vicki Rudge, John Sopko
  - b. Westmoreland Co. WHT Board Counselor: Malcolm Sias, Director, Westmoreland Co. Parks and Recreation
  - c. Guests: Don Baker, Dan Barber, Matt Cmar, Doug and Ronner Ekeroth, Paul Haurlesko, Gillian Graber, Ed Gerstenhaber, Robert and Nancy Hays, Ginny Hayes, Stacy Jobe, Ann LeCuyer, Chris Leo, Chris Panichella, Ron Markos, Dee O'Hara, John Ruccio, Ann Wade, Fred Zalinski, 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. President Rudge announced the resignation of Delmont Borough representative Robert (Bob) Burton and thanked him for his 18 years of service. President Rudge circulated a Thank You Card and a Trail Memento Map for all to sign for Bob. President Rudge also read the Official Letter of Delmont Borough thanking Bob for his service.
  - b. Delmont Borough has replaced Bob with Anna Marie Stackiewicz as their new representative.
  - c. President Rudge gave a "Huge Shout Out of Thanks" to our Cyberspace administrators, WHT Website – Alyssa Harden and Facebook – Vicki Rudge.
  - d. The President's Trail Dog, "Queenie" reported no loose dog do-do on the trail this month. However, "blue bags" of "packaged do-do" are still being left along the trail. Queenie reminds all "Please carry out all refuse from the trail and place it in the proper trash receptacles."
4. Introductions – Karen Cercone introduced her nephew Tony, who is doing most of the work for the Trail Historical Marker Project.
5. Public Input – Attendee, Dan Barber spoke plaudits of the new Delmont Borough Representative, Anna Marie Stackiewicz, and affirmed she is the "right" person for the job. Vicki Rudge agreed and thanked her for the work she is doing to promote our upcoming Trail Town Festival.

6. Approval of Minutes - A motion was made to approve the April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes with one correction, The Great Oaks Energy Property appraisal is \$40,000, not \$25,000 as published, by Maher, 2<sup>nd</sup> by O'Hara, Motion carried, minutes approved.
7. Treasurer's Report – Jack Maher
  - a. Treasurer Maher, reported \$56,521.63 in total assets.
  - b. Treasurer Maher reported that the S&T Checking Account has \$37,146.89 as essentially “Cash on Hand”.
  - c. A motion to approve the treasurer's report by Hayes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dittman, Motion carried, report approved.
  - d. A motion by O'Hara to create a Capital Reserve Fund and “seed” it with \$10,000 and grow it with the Arts and Heritage parking concession monies yearly. The fund is primarily intended for construction of a maintenance facility, but will be used for any emergency capital expenses that might arise. After discussion, the motion was amended to raise the “seed” to \$20,000 (approximately 1/2 of our “cash on hand”) to better accumulate interest in a Money Market Fund. The amended motion was seconded by Peduzzi, Motion Passed, Capital reserve fund approved.
8. RTC Report – None
9. TAT Report – Eight communities that the TAT passes through have approved the trail map revisions and new Trail Maps should be available soon.
10. Committee Reports
  - a. Real Estate and Acquisitions – Malcolm Sias
    - i. Norfolk Southern Property
      1. A second proposal has been sent to Norfolk Southern RR to purchase the 7.2 acres (1500 feet of trail) that would allow the WHT to be extended into downtown Trafford after the first offer of \$25,000 was rejected.
    - ii. “The Middle Gap”; Four miles from Delmont to Export Trail Property Acquisition
      1. Great Oak Energy has accepted the appraisal value of \$40,000 for the offer for their property. The legal purchase agreement is now being drafted by the representing attorneys.
      2. Other parcels are “in the works”.
  - b. Engineering and Construction – Jeff Richards
    - i. Plum Construction is making good progress on Phase IV and completion is projected to be August 17<sup>th</sup>.
    - ii. There will be an eight foot high “privacy” chain link fence along the Cleveland Brothers side of the trail as it passes behind their property along Turtle Creek. Trail Dust Tan was the color selected for the fencing slats that are inserted between the links to provide isolation from Cleveland Brothers.
    - iii. The Art Venus Eagle Scout Project will be completed by May 10<sup>th</sup> with the planting of 14 trees along the trail, east of the Forbes Road Crossing.
    - iv. The Westmoreland Conservation District, with funding from PA DEP and PA DCNR has stabilized the stream bank along the Phase IV trail at six sites.

Approval has been received from the “Grantors” to use remaining budget monies to further stabilize the stream bank at the 2018 twice flooded creek curve near the brick works on Phase III.

c. Fund Raising

i. Arts and Heritage Festival Parking Concession

1. The Festival will be July 4, 5, 6, and 7, Volunteers are needed for three, three hour shifts daily.
2. Volunteers earn approximately \$15.00 an hour for the trail
3. Check your email for the sign-up sheets and please sign up early.

ii. Mile Post Advertising.

1. Book keeping accounting programs are in the works.
2. Two Requests for a “Group” milepost have been received along with donations.

d. Public Relations – Vicki Rudge

i. Facebook followers have peaked over 1400.

ii. Trail Towns Festival “in progress mode” and is moving along well.

1. Grand Prizes

1. Four Bicycle Tune-ups at Pro Bikes.
2. An overnight B&B stay in Saltsburg where the Trail begins.
3. A \$250 Murrysville Spa Salon Certificate

2. Trafford Borough is lifting the B-Y park canine ban and dogs will be allowed in the park for the Trail Town Festival. There will also be a Dog Trainer sponsoring a booth with dog training information and treats.

iii. The WHT Historical Marker project.

1. Karen Cercone presented a list of 26 Markers for consideration (attached) and asked for additional suggestions.
2. Karen and Nephew Tony presented a design for the physical marker to be 24” x 18” with before and present pictures and descriptive text.
3. Karen and Nephew Tony will be applying for a Grant to fund the markers and will report on costs and final design.
4. A motion to support Karen Cercone’s efforts was made by Peduzzi, seconded by Maher. Motion Passed, Support approved.

e. Membership – Gordon Conn.

i. Gordon reported that the 2019 membership drive is going well with currently 142 members, now tying last year’s subscriptions.

ii. Gordon has set an ambitious goal for over 200 members this year. Please encourage your family, friends, and associates to join.

f. Trail Ambassadors (Monitors) – Trail Ambassadors will be cycling the Trail during the Trail Town Festival to provide information, assistance and directions.

g. Trail Maintenance – Tom Dittman

- i. The Trail bollards were intentionally damaged at the Sportsman’s Road crossing in Slickville. A WHT Thank You to Bill O’Hara and his crew for the speedy repair.

- ii. The tow behind weed whacker now works very well now that the fencing gap to the ground has been raised.
- iii. April 17<sup>th</sup> was the biggest Trail use day to date with the “Counter” registering 780 users.
- iv. A HUGE WHT Thank You was extended to member Ann Wade for mowing the grass at Carson – Braun Parking Access. It was noted that at this location is the “shortest” grass on the trail due to Ann’s efforts.

11. Old Business - None

12. New Business

a. Volunteer Hour Tabulation

- i. It was noted that Grant Applications are greatly enhanced if “grass roots” participation is accurately documented and reported.
- ii. Secretary Sopko will establish an Email address for all board members to submit their volunteer hours and the volunteer hours of their “helpers”.
- iii. Reporting will be on a monthly basis.

b. Executive Committee Spending Limits

- i. A discussion ensued on the present need for the entire board to approve expected expenses for maintenance and sundry Trail supplies that are not budgeted and have been averaging approximately \$100.00.
- ii. A motion was made by Elicker to allow the Executive Committee to approve routine, expected and non-capital expenses not exceeding \$500.00. The motion was seconded by Muster. Motion Passed, Executive Committee \$500 spending limit authorization approved.
- iii. Dominion-Peoples Grant Fund
  - 1. Attendee Dan Barber reported that Dominion and Peoples Energy have Grant funds available for major capital projects such as Trail Bridges and other high-cost construction.
  - 2. Malcolm Sias commented that all Phase IV bridges are fully funded and that Peoples Energy did fund the bridge near Rivertowne Brewery.
  - 3. This will be kept in mind should the bridge from Valley Park, Aber Creek Road in Monroeville become a reality.
- iv. Doggie do-do.
  - 1. It was reported that the Youngwood Dog Club has donated and maintains “Doggie Trash Stations” along the Five Star Trail.
  - 2. Karen Cercone volunteered to check with The Westmoreland County Obedience Club in Delmont to see if they had any interest in sponsoring “Doggie Trash Stations along the WHT.

On a motion by O’Hara, 2<sup>nd</sup> Richards, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

The next meeting will be on June 13<sup>th</sup>. Location to be determined.

Respectfully Submitted, John Sopko, 2019 Secretary

Attachments:



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May 2, 2019

Westmoreland Heritage Trail

Please accept this letter as validation of Anna Marie Stackiewicz approval by Delmont Council members on April 9, 2019 at the Delmont Borough Council Meeting, to replace Mr. Robert Burton as Delmont Borough Representative for the Westmoreland Heritage Trail. We all appreciated Mr. Burton's time and devotion to the project. Council Approved unanimously the Appointment of Ms. Stackiewicz and his replacement.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kellie E. Miele".

Kellie E. Miele  
Delmont Borough Secretary/Treasurer

## **Appendix 1: Potential Sites for Historical Plaques along the Westmoreland Heritage Trail**

### Trafford to Level Green (trail open)

- George Westinghouse and the Turtle Creek Valley Railroad
- Westinghouse Foundry and Micarta Plant
- Linde Air Plant
- Trafford Brick Works
- Saunders Railroad Station

### Level Green to Murrysville (trail open)

- Lyons Run Railroad Siding
- Mine Safety Appliance Company
- Murrysville Tree Sign
- Haymaker Gas Well
- George Washington's Camp along Forbes Trail

### Murrysville to Export (trail opening summer 2019)

- Export Coal Mines

### Delmont to Slickville (trail open)

- Trees Mills Coal Patch
- Early Stagecoach Lines in Delmont
- The Beaver Run Reservoir
- Slickville Coal Company Store

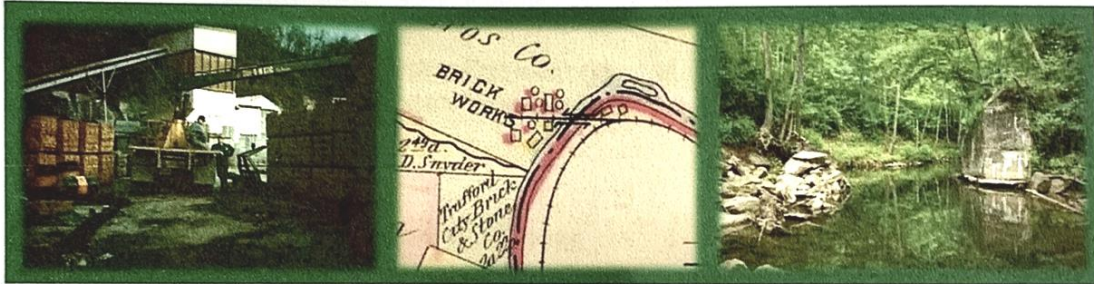
### Slickville to Saltsburg (trail open)

- Irwin Gas Coal Fields
- Loyalhanna Reservoir
- Conemaugh Salt Works
- Pennsylvania Mainline Canal
- Rebecca Haddon Stone House Museum

## Appendix 2: Sample Design for Historical Plaques along the Westmoreland Heritage Trail



# THE TRAFFORD BRICK WORKS



E. J. Sweeney purchased 30 acres of property containing a stone quarry for the purpose of building a brickyard. A few years later, Mr. Sweeney sold his business; by 1910 the new owners had renamed it the "Wynn & Starr Company." By the 1920s, the Wynn & Starr brickworks was employing 32 employees to produce their 'Trafford Reds'.

The brick yard was regularly serviced by a spur line of the Turtle Creek Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad. Sometime in the 1960's, the brickyard was destroyed in a fire and never rebuilt. Along with a few standing buildings, remnants of the bridge leading over Turtle Creek into the old brickyard can still be seen today.

Use this QR code to obtain more information about the history of this site and to learn more about the Westmoreland Heritage Trail, a Chapter of the Regional Trail Corporation.

