



www.westmorelandheritagetrail.com

Meeting Minutes May 10, 2018 (Draft V4.0)

Italian American Club, Export, PA

1. Meeting Attendees:
 - a. Board: (18) Bob Burton, Gordon Conn, Rob Cronauer, Tom Dittman, Eileen Elicker, Rick Fisher, Noel Grimm, Ted Hayes, Kerry Jobe, Jack Maher, Dorothea Motto, Mary Grace Muster, Megan Nelson, Bill O'Hara, John Nagoda, Jeff Richards, Tom Ronksley, Stan Rudge, John Sopko, Malcolm Sias (Westmoreland Co. Parks)
 - b. Guests: (33) Betsy Aiken, Don Baker, Mark Begeman, Sally Burton, Cecil Carns, Mary Carns, Karen Rose Cercone, Bob Cupp, Wendy Davis, Barry Delissio, Jack Doran, Lori Doran, Chad Emahizer, Mary Grimm, Jeff Gross, Paul Haurilsko, Joe, Knapick, Matt Kundrat, Melanie Litz, Joseph Meier, Marcus Muster, Dee O'Hara, Stephen Opsitnick, Donna Pusani, Rick Pusani, Marty Pattyn, Lee Randall, Carol Richardson, Vicki Rudge, Dale Sechrist, Mike Witt, Helen Wolfe, Fran Zalewski
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. The board members thanked all visitors for their support and interest in the trail.
4. Public Input
 - a. Dr. Matthew Kundrat spoke on the exciting possibility of a trail connecting Trafford to the Great Allegheny Passage. He presented a short history of the Westinghouse Interworks RR, the most likely route of the trail. He is encouraged by the endorsements of such a rail-trail by Churchill, Monroeville and Wilkins Twp. in their recent comprehensive plan. The five boroughs of Braddock, East Pittsburgh, North Braddock, Rankin and Turtle Creek recently completed their own study focused entirely on active transportation, and are hoping for further cooperation from the county and state in funding future design and construction of a possible cycle-track lane along Braddock avenue as well as a multi-use "rail with trail" segment through the abandoned Westinghouse Floodgate and behind the Keystone Commons. While a comparable active transportation-specific study in the other five municipalities along the Westinghouse Interworks corridor (Wilmerding, North Versailles, Monroeville, Pitcairn and Trafford) has not been organized at this point, officials in Monroeville are already taking an active role in moving part of the proposed project forward.
 - b. Malcolm Sias commented he has retained a consulting group with close ties to Norfolk Southern RR in his continuing effort to acquire the land to complete the trail from B-Y Park to downtown Trafford. They have already approached the VP of Real Estate at the NS Atlanta HQ to arrange a visit to Trafford.

5. Approval of Minutes - A motion was made to approve the April minutes as published by Conn, 2nd Maher, Motion carried, minutes approved.
6. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Treasurer Maher, reported \$46,415.54 in total assets..
 - b. Treasurer Maher reported that the S&T Checking Account has \$25,113.48 as essentially "Cash on Hand".
 - c. A motion to approve the treasurer's report by Cronauer, 2nd Grimm, Motion carried, report approved.
7. RTC Report – No Report
8. TAT Report – No Report
9. Committee Reports
 - a. Real Estate and Acquisitions – No Report
 - b. Engineering and Construction – Jeff Richards
 - i. Design Plans for Phase IV are 95% complete
 1. After completion, they will be submitted to PA DOT for final approval.
 2. Assuming PA DOT approval, bidding is expected to begin in August 2018, The contract should be awarded in September 2018, with construction starting in March 2019.
 - ii. The bridge at The Sport Zone is now complete with decking and railings. Decking of the bridge at Marlee Acres Park is now ongoing. Work is planned to start this fall on the third and final bridge for WHT-Phase IV at Rivertowne Brewing.
 - c. Funding Raising
 - 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. Installation of the mile marker posts on the 5.9 mile section between Murrysville and B-Y Park is on the work list.
 - 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 netting \$1,206 as the WHT 50/50 share with the co-sponsor The Turtle Creek Watershed Association.
 - v. Rob Cronauer requested approval for a \$250 expenditure to secure Colton Hall in Claridge for the February 16th, 2019 Comedy Night. A motion to approve the expenditure by Maher, 2nd Sopko, Motion carried, expenditure approved.
 - d. Public Relations – Vicki Rudge

- i. An email address for trail users to submit photos, trail observations, and comments for the Facebook page has been established: whptr2017@gmail.com . Everyone is encouraged to contribute. There are now 906 Facebook followers.
 - ii. The PR Committee has secured booth space at the Saltsburg Canal Days Festival, June 1-3rd. Volunteers are needed to man the booth. Please contact Vicki Rudge at the above email address if you can help.
 - iii. Treasurer Jack Maher authorized maximum \$100.00 expenditures for the PR Committee to purchase a Canopy, Tables and Chairs to be used for the community festival booth.
 - iv. The “Sweep Cleanup” of Turtle Creek is hosted each year by The Turtle Creek Watershed Association. This year’s date is June 16th at Saunders Station Parking Access. We are having two of our PR people volunteer passing out literature during cleanup. One will be at a Saunders Station Rd. and the other at Forbes Rd.
 - v. The WHT Web site is now on-line www.westmorelandheritagetrail.com Please check-in often for up-to-date trail information.
 - vi. A Bicycle Repair Day remains being considered for 2019 timing.
 - vii. Karen Cercone has prepared a Google MY Maps App allowing users to view a general map of the trail and discover the Historical Heritage along the Trail as they travel. Additionally, she is planning Natural History along the trail to accompany the App as well. Due to time constraints, Karen was asked to postpone her presentation until the June meeting.
- e. Membership – Gordon Conn.
- i. There are currently 81 active members for 2018 compared to 107 members in 2017. (30 are Lifetime members, 21 are Ten Year Members and 30 are Annual members)
 - ii. Gordon is planning a second membership drive to hopefully equal or exceed last year’s membership.
- f. Trail Ambassadors (Monitors) – Chairman Stan Rudge reported a second Trail Ambassador class graduated in 6 new Ambassadors bringing the WHT Ambassador count to 14. Congratulations to the new Graduates, Welcome Aboard.
- g. Trail Maintenance – Tom Dittman
- i. Work Party Series
 - 1. Tom Dittman is continuing the bi-weekly 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.
 - ii. Tom reported the trail traffic counter installed near the Trafford road crossing is counting an average of 250 trail users daily.
 - iii. Turtle Creek Flood Damage Remediation - Tom Dittman and Rob Cronauer will tour and inspect the trail to identify areas of erosion needing remediation.

10. Old Business

- a. Helen Wolfe of the Murrysville Garden Club reported that The Blue Star Memorial Marker program honoring all branches of the military has been approved by all community parties. The Municipality of Murrysville has agreed to fund the trail side installation at Robert's Parcel Parking Access. A motion last for the WHT to complete the installation and fund materials not to exceed \$200.00 was recinded and new motion was put forward by Maher to donate the \$200 to the Murrysville Garden Club for this effort. The motion was 2nd by Nelson, Motion Passed, Donation approved.
- b. The Sarah Steele Kiosk and the Slickville Maintenance Building discussions were tabled until June. Kerry Jobe will check with the Slickville VFD and present details at the June Meeting.
- c. Stan Rudge displayed examples of WHT logo hats, Tees, and Polos. The logo items are available for purchase, Hats \$15, Tees \$15 and Polos \$35.
- d. The cost of acquiring an aluminum flat bed trailer for transportation of the Ventrac Mower and various trail tools is \$3200.00 based on a vendor estimate. Tom Dittman has applied for two grants to cover the purchase and at meeting time there was no information that either grant had been approved or rejected. 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.
- e. The 5K running event proposed for the trail is still being discussed among Megan Nelson, Rey Peduzzi and the young Trafford couple.

11. New Business

- a. The Export VFD has asked for the WHT to support their grant efforts to acquire a "Side by Side" for emergency use on the trail after Phase IV completion in late 2019. The Board agreed and a letter will be prepared indicating the WHT support for the VFD acquisition.
- b. President Rudge proposed that the June 14th meeting be a Volunteer Appreciation Meeting and held picnic style at the Slickville VFD Fairgrounds Pavilion. Treasurer Maher proposed the meeting be preceded with a bicycle Fun Ride. Both ideas were enthusiastically accepted and a motion by Elicker to spend \$350 on event catering was brought forward, 2nd Nelson, Motion passed, expenditure approved. The meeting and festivities will be open to all trail enthusiasts.

On a motion by Muster, 2nd Cronauer, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

The next meeting will be Thursday June 14th following the 6:00 p.m. Volunteer Appreciation Festivities and beginning at 7:00 p.m. At the Slickville VFD Fairgrounds.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Sopko, 2018 Secretary