



www.westmorelandheritagetrail.com

**Meeting Minutes August 13, 2020
Monroeville Community Park, Monroeville, PA**

Meeting Attendees:

- a. Board: (13) Rob Cronauer, Tom Dittman, Alyssa Harden, Ted Hayes, Jack Maher, Monica Meehan, Pat Norton, Bill O' Hara, Chris Panichella, Stan Rudge, Vicki Rudge, Anna Marie Stackiewicz, Ann Wade
- b. Guests: Jeff Richards, Malcolm Sias, John Ruccio, Matt Kundrit, Tom Kundrit, Joe Hlista, Alice Grasso, Noel & Mary Grimm, Tom Pike, Steve Ising, and others
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 – A big thanks goes out to everyone who has helped with the tree removals lately. The trail is looking good from all the hard work from our volunteers! Stan Rudge officially presented the trail's previous secretary and board member John Sopko with an award for his hard work over the past years for the trail. Sopko was not present at the meeting, so the trail wishes him a big virtual WHT THANK YOU!
3. Public Input/Introductions – No report.
4. Approval of Minutes
 - a. A motion was made to approve the July minutes by Maher, 2nd by O'Hara, motion carried, minutes approved.
5. Treasurer's Report – Jack Maher
 - a. For the month of July, WHT had \$91,000 in total assets. There is \$25,500 in the Capital Reserve account and \$35,000 in the Money Market account. The \$3,000 donated by Richard A. Sunder still needs added to the Capital Reserve account, which will bring the total up to \$28,500. The trail's net income is \$17,000 as of the end of July. Money has still been coming in from memberships, benches, mile posts, and donations, even with everything going on due to COVID-19.
 - b. A motion was made to approve July's treasurer's report by Wade, 2nd by Norton. Motion carried, treasurer's report approved.
6. RTC Report – Rob Cronauer
 - a. There is a meeting next week, and the approval of the revised Articles of Association will be addressed later in the meeting.
7. TAT Report – Stan Rudge

- a. There have been no meetings yet this year due to COVID-19, however a meeting is planned for September.
 - b. A sample of the revised TAT trail map was available for review at tonight's meeting. It will include a writeup for the WHT as well as list all trail access markers.
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.
- a. Real Estate and Acquisitions – Malcolm Sias
 - i. A few new parcels are in the works, and a permanent easement for another has been solidified for the Middle Gap section.
 - b. Engineering and Construction – Jeff Richards
 - i. The next Middle Gap Feasibility Study meeting will be held in September.
 - ii. A Skype workshop for the Middle Gap section was held with PennDOT to discuss the crossing of Route 66.
 - iii. The March for Parks sign near Cleveland Bros. will be moved to the fence at Roberts Parcel.
 - c. Fund Raising
 - i. Money is still coming in steadily from the mile post sponsorships with most people opting for the 10 year time frame rather than the yearly option. All of the existing plaques have been catalogued, and we are now starting to reach out to existing mile post plaque sponsors on the trail who are due for renewal through email.
 - ii. The Five Star Trail virtual Poker Run still has two more dates left to participate (August 15 and Sept. 19). Please register, donate your money to the WHT, and enjoy your local trails!
 - iii. Comedy Night is most likely postponed for 2021 due to COVID-19.
 - iv. Stan Rudge reported that 14 memorial benches were installed in the past month, and we have already received two more applications within the past few days. A big thanks to all the volunteers who helped out!
 - d. Public Relations – Vicki Rudge
 - i. The Facebook page is currently at 2,213 followers.
 - ii. Our Twitter account has 80 followers so far.
 - iii. The 3rd newsletter is finished and will be distributed by email as well as posted on the website.
 - iv. New videos by Doug Webster continue to be released on our YouTube page (Westmoreland Heritage Trail), social media pages, and uploaded to our website.
 - v. WHT merch is being sold at Lisa's Bike Shop in Trafford.
 - vi. PA Environmental Council never received our application for the \$500 September Trail Celebration Minigrant, so Vicki Rudge is working with them to try and submit another application.
 - vii. The scavenger hunt with the Level Green Women's Club is on for Oct. 10. It will be called the "Amazing Race" with registration online. Wendy Davis is chairing

the event for the WHT, and 4-5 volunteers are still needed for the day of to receive 50% of the profits from the event.

1. A motion for approval of a budget of \$600 for expenses for the event was made by Vicki Rudge, 2nd by Hayes. Motion carried, budget approved.
 - e. Membership – Gordon Conn
 - i. Stan Rudge reported that the trail has approx. 230 members.
 - f. Trail Ambassadors – Stan Rudge
 - i. 54 hours have been reported for July.
 - ii. An incident with a trail user's dog and another trail user was reported.
 - iii. For any bear sightings along the trail, please tell those who saw it to report to the PA Game Commission. The WHT cannot do anything about these sightings themselves.
 - g. Trail Maintenance – Zone Leaders
 - i. All zones reported that their sections were okay. Lots of trees were down lately, but other than that, the trail is in good shape.
 - ii. Stan Rudge reported that he delivered four dozen donuts to the Monroeville Publics Works Department as thanks for their help on the trail lately.
 - h. Delmont Visionary Committee – Anna Marie Stackiewicz
 - i. Stackiewicz brought \$100 to deposit into their account.
 - ii. They have had a donation jar out at their local farmers market.
 - iii. If anyone is interested in joining, please reach out.
 - i. Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation – Chris Panichella
 - i. Another reminder to participate in the Five Star Trail's Poker Run!
 - j. Municipal Representatives
 - i. Monica Meehan – Volunteers are still needed for parking at the Export Festival.
9. Old Business
- a. Stan Rudge wanted to bring to everyone's attention that Noel and Mary Grimm were in attendance. Noel was the WHT's past president, and we were glad to see the two of them!
 - b. Ann Wade, the trail's new trail history chairman, has been interviewing longtime members/volunteers of the trail to gather our verbal history. If anyone is interested in being interested/sharing any historical resources please forward them to Ann Wade at whthistory2020@gmail.com.
 - c. The revised RTC Articles of Association for the WHT were shared with the board prior to the meeting via email for final review.
 - i. A motion to approve the new Articles of Association was made by Cronauer, 2nd by Stan Rudge. Motion carried, Articles of Association approved.
 - d. An application for the Westmoreland CARES Nonprofit Support Grant Program was submitted to recoup a portion of the profits lost this year due to COVID-19.
 - e. We are still looking for a grants chairman. If you are interested, please let Stan Rudge know.
 - f. The Excel catalogue of all trail accesses and notable landmarks has been reviewed and will be presented to all emergency services in the area.

10. New Business

- a. A motion to spend up to \$300 for the purchase of a new channel drain to be installed at Roberts Parcel was made by Wade, 2nd by Cronauer. Motion carried, budget approved.
 - i. Murrysville will be helping direct traffic during the day of installation and posting alternate parking signs. The WHT volunteers will be doing the actual installation.
 - b. Dittman registered the WHT to participate in the United Way Day of Caring. The event is during the week of Oct. 5-10, and the actual day of the trail's event during that week is TBD. Possible ideas for volunteer work include staining the fences and kiosks along the trail.
 - i. A motion to spend up to \$500 to buy lunch and materials for the volunteers that day was made by Stan Rudge, 2nd by Hayes. Motion carried, budget approved.
 - c. As mentioned earlier in the meeting, two additional memorial bench applications were already received after installing 14 benches in the past month. The trail is becoming saturated with them. It was decided that we will start to encourage people more towards the mile post sponsorships instead. A few ideas of a fundraiser to replace the benches in the future were discussed, but nothing was decided on at that time.
 - i. A motion to raise the price of the memorial benches from \$750 to \$1,000 was made by Stan Rudge, 2nd by O'Hara. Motion carried, price increase approved.
 - d. A Boy Scout reached out via the website to see if we had an Eagle Scout project for him. Ideas included a new kiosk near Sara Steele or staining some of the fencing along the trail.
 - e. The hearing for the trail vandalism in Export along the trail took place two weeks ago. The guilty party did not show up to trial and has therefore been arrested. A new hearing date has been scheduled for August 31. The trail reported a total of \$2,550 in damages that we are trying to claim for restitution.
 - f. Someone dumped their garbage near Athena Drive, including their mail with their name and address on it. Someone from the trail will be reaching out to them to request that they clean up, and if they do not, they will be reported to the police.
 - g. Stan Rudge reported that he will be bringing forward a "WHT Vision 2025" proposal soon to create a plan for the trail covering the next five years. It will covers items such as the construction of a maintenance building/clubhouse, purchase of maintenance equipment, and a mainframe/computers for the treasurer/secretary/membership chairs.
11. The next meeting will be on September 10, 2020 at the Slickville VFD Pavilion in Slickville at 7 pm. This will be our yearly Volunteer Recognition Night.

On a motion by Norton, 2nd Cronauer, the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alyssa Harden, Secretary