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**Meeting Minutes July 12, 2018 (Draft V3)  
Lamplighter Restaurant, Delmont, PA**

1. Meeting Attendees:
  - a. Board: (18) Bob Burton, Gordon Conn, Rob Cronauer, Tom Dittman, Eileen Elicker, Rick Fisher, Noel Grimm, Jack Maher, Monica Meehan, Dorothea Motto, Mary Grace Muster, Meghan Nelson, Bill O'Hara, Reynold Peduzzi, Jeff Richards, Tom Ronksley, Stan Rudge, John Sopko
  - b. Guests: Donald Baker, Sally Burton, Wendy Davis, Doug Ekeroth, Chad Emahizer, Mary Grimm, Jeff Gross, Alyssa Harden, Chris Leo, Pat Norton, Christian Panichella, Carol Richardson, Vicki Rudge, Dale Sechrist, Ron Trozzo, Ann Wade, Doug Webster, Francis Zaleswski
2. President Stan Rudge led the recitation of "The Pledge of Allegiance", and then called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.
3. Public Input - None
4. Approval of Minutes - A motion was made to approve the June minutes as published by Cronauer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Elicker, Motion carried, minutes approved.
5. Treasurer's Report
  - a. Treasurer Maher, reported \$46,700.76 in total assets.
  - b. Treasurer Maher reported that the S&T Checking Account has \$23,451.07 as essentially "Cash on Hand", and \$1,947.00 in a reserve fund for the Sarah Steele Kiosk.
  - c. A motion to approve the treasurer's report by Peduzzi, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sopko, Motion carried, report approved.
6. RTC Report – Rob Cronauer reported that WHT Members, Board Members and Officers are covered by a blanket RTC Insurance Policy.
7. TAT Report – No Report
8. Committee Reports
  - a. Real Estate and Acquisitions – Malcolm Sias, Rey Peduzzi, Ashley Stock (Trafford Representative) and a ranking Norfolk Southern RR Official walked and inspected 1800 feet of property owned by Norfolk Southern that, if acquired, would allow the WHT to be extended into downtown Trafford. The N/S official will present the findings to the N/S Real Estate Committee along with our intent to purchase next week in Harrisburg, PA. We should hear back within a few weeks.
  - b. Engineering and Construction – Jeff Richards
    - i. Design Plans for Phase IV are 98% complete

1. After completion, they will be uploaded to PA DOT's ECMS for bidding by pre-approved contractors. The process is on schedule for bidding to begin in August.
  2. A Construction Inspection Firm to oversee the construction of Phase IV will soon be selected.
  3. Associated with Phase IV construction, Rip-Rap will be placed to stabilize the Turtle Creek banks near Export using a \$60,000 Grant from the Pennsylvania DEP. (Grant Application to PA DEP is pending)
- ii. Six much needed drainage culverts were installed between MSA Murrysville and the FTMSA on July 10<sup>th</sup>. The trail was closed during the construction, but that did not deter trail users from using the trail. The invoice from the contractor will be submitted next month. \$5,472.00 has previously been approved for the work.
- c. Funding Raising
- i. Parking at the Westmoreland Co. Arts and Heritage Festival at Twin Lakes Park was a huge success setting a record \$24,000 earned for the four days. Also, a one day record of \$8,400 was set on Saturday. A huge "WHT THANK YOU" to our chairpersons Rey Peduzzi and Bill O'Hara and all the volunteers. Our share of the proceeds will be forthcoming next month.
  - ii. The August 18<sup>th</sup> Export Ethnic Food and Music Festival will support our WHT Parking Volunteers as well as our WHT Booth Representatives. Please contact Vicki Rudge ([whopr2017@gmail.com](mailto:whopr2017@gmail.com)) if you can help in any way.
  - iii. Mile Marker Posts
    1. Installation on the 5.9 mile section between Murrysville and B-Y Park is on the work list. Stan Rudge and Tom Dittman have identified the locations and are anxious to get started. Please contact either of them to volunteer.
    2. Rob Cronauer and Rey Peduzzi will jointly develop an accounting program to track all the Mile Post Advertising and keep advertisers up-to date.
- 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. ([whopr2017@gmail.com](mailto:whopr2017@gmail.com)). Everyone is encouraged to contribute. There are now 963 Facebook followers.
  - ii. Logo Clothing sales have topped \$500.00 and our first Website order for a T-shirt has been received.
  - iii. The WHT google.my.maps developed by Karen Rose Cercone identifying Points of Interest along the trail is now active. The WHT website has all the pertinent information and QR Codes to access it are posted at all the trail kiosks. A HUGE "WHT THANK YOU" to Karen for her effort. Please contact Karen at ([westmoreland.heritage.trail@gmail.com](mailto:westmoreland.heritage.trail@gmail.com)) to submit any ideas to improve the experience.

- e. Membership – Gordon Conn.
    - i. Gordon reported that we now have 108 active members for 2018 exceeding last year's membership of 107 members.
    - ii. There still remain over forty 2017 members who have not renewed their membership. If you were a previous member, please consider renewing.
    - iii. The WHT now has 34 Lifetime members, 21 Ten Year Members and 53 Annual members
  
  - f. Trail Ambassadors (Monitors) – Chairman Stan Rudge has established an email address to facilitate reporting from the Trail Ambassadors. A Thank You to all the ambassadors for helping to make the trail safer.
  
  - 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. Board Member Rick Fisher volunteered to lead work parties on the Saltsburg – Delmont section of the trail to help Tom. Township representatives will contact their respective township supervisors to request trail mowing.
    - iii. The United Way Day of caring August 26<sup>th</sup> has suffered a set-back. We have been informed that PPG most likely won't donate the paint for the planned bridge painting. The \$600 previously approved for the Day is now insufficient and another \$660 will be required. The Day of Caring Committee will convene and discuss alternative work for the volunteers possibly requiring less funding. Their results will be discussed at the August Meeting.
9. Old Business
- a. A grant of \$1483.50 was received from The Pittsburgh Foundation funding half the cost of an aluminum flat bed trailer for transportation of the Ventrac Mower and various trail tools between East and West trail segments. The trailer has been purchased and has already been used to transport the mower three times to date.
  - b. The Sarah Steele Parking Access Kiosk has a reserve fund of \$1947.00 for replacement. Several design plans are still being reviewed and the discussion has been tabled until August.
  - c. The Cameron Miller Scenic Overlook Eagle Scout Project has been tabled until Cameron returns from summer vacation.
  - d. The Slickville Maintenance Building discussion remained tabled.
10. New Business
- a. Alternative to Slickville Maintenance Building.
    - i. President Rudge suggested an alternate plan to construct a Maintenance Shed, a pavilion, restrooms and a picnic area at the proposed Park-and-Ride on Old William Penn Highway near Meier's Hardware. (Plan Attached)

- ii. Jeff Richards advised that the ownership of that property is in question and there may not be enough square footage to accommodate Stan's proposal.
- iii. Rain fell on Stan's parade and the discussion was tabled.
- b. Trafford Community Council
  - i. Council sought permission to install a ten bike capacity bicycle rack on the trail abutting B-Y Park. On a motion by Rudge, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sopko, motion approved, permission granted.
  - ii. Council also reported they are seeking a grant to improve the B-Y Park restrooms. If completed, the Port-a-John at Forbes Road will no longer be needed.
- c. Long Reach Hedge Trimmer
  - i. Rey Peduzzi requested \$450.00 to purchase a multi-angle head hedge trimmer to control knotweed along the trail.
  - ii. Rob Cronauer suggested he and Rey meet to evaluate a model he uses and to be sure the Rey Peduzzi model was up to the job, commenting that some knotweed requires a chain saw.
- d. DR Tow Behind trimmer.
  - i. Tom Dittman requested permission to submit a grant request to The Pittsburgh Foundation for \$1,199 to purchase a tow behind trimmer.
  - ii. The trimmer would eliminate the current time consuming manual weed whacking by volunteers.
  - iii. Tom was advised that the Pittsburgh Foundation only accepts grant requests two times a year and the next submission window is in September.
  - iv. A motion to approve Tom submitting a grant request by Richards, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Maher, motion passed, grant submission approved.
- e. The 5 Star Trail Poker Run is Saturday July 21<sup>st</sup>. The WHT customarily sends volunteers to help and man a booth. The ride starts at Lynch Field in Greensburg. Volunteers are needed.
- f. The Rough Diamond Loop Century is Sunday August 19<sup>th</sup>. There is a rest stop planned at The Creamery and at Canoe and Kayak in Saltsburg. All are invited to participate, even just riding a section of our trail with the participants. If one wants to do the ride, he/she may register here ; <https://form.jotformpro.com/81844181848971> .

On a motion by Nelson, 2<sup>nd</sup> O'Hara, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

The next meeting will be Thursday August 9<sup>th</sup> at a location to be determined starting at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Sopko, 2018 Secretary

Attachment:

## Proposed Maintenance Building and Pavilion

