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Meeting Minutes September 10, 2020  
Slickville VFD Picnic Pavilion

Meeting Attendees:

- a. Board: (16) Rob Cronauer, Tom Dittman, Eileen Elicker, Rick Fisher, Ted Hayes, Kerry Jobe, Brandon Lacina, Jack Maher, Mary Grace Muster, Pat Norton, Bill O'Hara, Chris Panichella, Stan Rudge, Vicki Rudge, Ann Wade
- b. Guests: Ginny Hayes, Malcolm Sias, John Ruccio, Lois Weaver, Jeff Richards, Doug Webster, Chris Leo, Steve Ising, Andrew Schmidt, Tim Leriottis, Michael Bertonaschi
1. President Stan Rudge led the recitation of "The Pledge of Allegiance" and then called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.
2. Presidents' Comment – Thank you for attending and tonight we honor our volunteers. Enough cannot be said about all the work they do especially recently with all the fallen trees due to the weather. Everyone is kicking in and you should each give yourselves a pat on the back. Also a big thank you to those that worked parking cars at the Export Festival in August. We shared with the Export Historical Society \$1,830 (\$915 each). Token of appreciation of a small wooden car was presented to those working at the event, Tom Dittman, Jeff Richards, Lois Weaver and Ann Wade.
3. Public Input/Introductions – No Report
4. Approval of Minute –
  - a. A motion was made to approve the August minutes by Hayes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by O'Hara, motion carried, minutes approved.
5. Treasurer's Report – Jack Maher
  - a. For the month of August, there is \$92,846.09 in Total Assets of which \$19,499.79 is in Total Fixed Assets, and \$73,346.30 in Total Current Assets (cash) of which \$28,522.00 is reserved for the Building Fund and \$550 is reserved for the Delmont Visionary Fund. Money still continues coming in from memberships, benches, mileposts, and donations, even during these difficult times and challenges with COVID-19.
  - b. A motion was made to approve August's treasurer's report by O'Hara, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Norton, motion carried, treasurer's report approved.
6. RTC Report – Rob Cronauer
  - a. A chapter agreement was approved between RTC and WHT. RTC is working on a fundraising campaign to make universal for all the trails. They are looking into being able to text and donate while you are on the trail. RTC will manage the system. This could be a big money maker next year and will provide continued updates as received.
7. TAT Report – Stan Rudge
  - a. No new activity other than the Ghost Town Trail and WHT are looking for new brochures.
8. Committee Reports - President Rudge began circulating two cards for all to sign wishing Alyssa Harden and Matt Davis congratulations on their marriage this week and a get well card for Dee O'Hara after receiving a new hip. Should you know of someone that should be receiving a card on behalf of the WHT, please notify us.
  - a. Real Estate and Acquisitions – Malcolm Sias
    - i. Nothing new to report except Great Oak closing coming up

- b. Engineering and Construction – Jeff Richards
  - i. Middle Gap Steering Committee will meet September 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:15am
  - ii. Mackin Engineering will present their preliminary draft for plans for three locations: Downtown Export/Turtle Creek, West End of Athena Drive, and a conference call with Penn Dot showing the concept of a tunnel for Route 66.
  - iii. Stan Rudge also noted forwarding to Jeff information on a property provided by Brandon Lacina located in Trafford at the old Westinghouse Foundry site. Perhaps this property could become available in place of the Norfolk Southern Railroad to continue the trail into Trafford.
- c. Fundraising – Rob Cronauer
  - i. Corona Virus continues to affect Comedy Night for next year.
  - ii. Sponsors advertising on mile markers from Rangos Park to Saltsburg received notification for renewal. One company did respond with a check in the amount of \$1,000. The next six months may prove lucrative.
  - iii. Stan Rudge shared in the next 3-4 weeks three additional benches will be installed but at the old rate of \$750 not new rate of \$1,000.
  - iv. Chris Panichella shared September 19<sup>th</sup> is the last virtual Poker Run that will be held.
  - v. Jeff Richards was selling raffle tickets for a \$1,600 bike donated by Flat Tire in Greensburg at \$5.00 per ticket.
- d. Public Relations – Vicki Rudge
  - i. The Facebook page is currently at 2,244 followers.
  - ii. Our Twitter account now has 89 followers.
  - iii. The Amazing Race Scavenger Hunt (shared event with the Level Green Women’s Club) is on target with zoom meetings continuing. Signage now appears on the trail, kiosks, and social media with newspaper publicity planned. Registration forms and advertising is at The Creamery, Kick Stand Grille and Lisa’s Bike Shop. The Creamery has agreed to donate 10% of their sales on the 10<sup>th</sup> to the trail. The new owner is very excited about supporting the trail. There will be a food truck (Salsa Sam’s) at the B-Y Park also offering 10% of his sales to the event. Additional parking will be available at the Christian Life Church on Rt. 130 across from the B-Y parking lot. The agreement working with the Women’s Club is to provide volunteers to plan the event as well as work the event in order to split the profits 50/50 between the two organizations. Please consider signing up to help!
- e. Membership – Gordon Conn
  - i. Stan Rudge reported on behalf of Gordon we have an approximate total of 232 members
- f. Trail Ambassadors – Stan Rudge
  - i. 52 hours have been reported for the month of August.
  - ii. A horse apparently was seen on the trail near Saunders Station per Michael Bertonaschi.
- g. Trail Maintenance – Zone Leaders
  - i. All zones reported their sections were okay and in good shape
  - ii. Tom Dittman reported trees had to be removed between Trafford Road and Saunders Station Road near mile marker 18. Also the gutter drain at Roberts Parcel is now working perfectly since repairs were made. Eight boards on a bridge at Trafford Road are rotting out and will need replaced. There were lots of hours accumulated in volunteer hours. Spring frost has clearly helped to take care of the knotweed.
- h. Delmont Visionary Committee – Anna Marie Stackiewicz
  - i. No report
- i. Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation – Chris Panichella
  - i. No report
- j. Municipal Representatives
  - i. Murrysville Parks and Rec will be hosting a Halloween walk again this year on the trail starting at Carson Braun to Roberts Trailhead from 1pm-3pm on October 31<sup>st</sup>.

- k. Historical and Turtle Creek Railroad – Ann Wade
  - i. This newly formed committee began interviewing Noel and Mary Grimm, Malcolm Sias, Jeff Richards, Jack Maher, John Sopko, and Rey Peduzzi in order to collect information from past years. Thank you Eileen Elicker for providing all the various newspaper clippings and thank you Doug Webster for the video photography. Anyone wanting to share historical information please contact Ann at [whthistory2020@gmail.com](mailto:whthistory2020@gmail.com).
- 9. Old Business
  - i. None
- 10. New Business
  - a. Matt Imhof, from GCXC Racing Corporation, would like to hold two events on the WHT. First event will be on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 7am to 11am partnering with Murrysville Parks and Rec a running race with time trials starting at the Community Center to School Road South. The Community Center will be used as their parking area and registration location. The second event will be similar on November 21<sup>st</sup> sharing the Duff Park Funk Bike Way and the WHT starting at the Murrysville Community Center at 7am ending by noon. Malcolm Sias and Michael Bertonaschi both expressed concerns of the number of entries that could be crowding the trail along with our regular users. We need to determine how many individuals they plan to expect and will there be social distancing between the runners and is there a staggering start. Also noted these events should be advertised in advance on the trail so regular users are aware of the possible congestion on these dates. A motion was made by Hayes and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dittman and Stan Rudge will follow up with Matt to determine the number of attendees to be limited to 50. This topic will then be re-discussed with the Board Members via email.
  - b. Murrysville Parks and Rec requested using the trail for a Halloween Walk in the afternoon with no interference between these two events on October 31<sup>st</sup>. A motion was made by Jobe, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wade, motion carried.
  - c. Stan Rudge shared the requests of two Boy Scout projects. The first one from Irwin is asking to build two picnic tables in a grassy area between the parking lot and the kiosk at Saunders Station. Stan Rudge suggested to the scout a kiosk in Trafford is needed. The decision of where to place these tables would need to be determined and agreed upon by WHT and Monroeville Boro. Paul Estok will be contacted to discuss. The future plans for this area also included two libraries. Rob Cronauer suggested a google map would be helpful to show the area for these tables. The second scout is from Murrysville and interested in building a kiosk to be located the WHT trailhead at Meier's Hardware similar to the one built at Sara Steele.
  - d. Tom Dittman reported the United Day of Caring will be held on Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 9am with a rain date of October 7<sup>th</sup> meeting at The Creamery. WHT volunteers are needed to help with this event. The project will consist of staining and preserving wood up to Saunders Station, fencing at Forbes Road, railings at the bridge crossing the creek in Penn Township, and the kiosk at the Turtle Creek Watershed. WHT will purchase the stain and provide lunch made by the Kick Stand Grill along with bottled water and chips. Rob Cronauer will assist, Ted Hayes will provide UTV transportation and Tom Dittman will organize the group. Our cost should be approximately \$500.
  - e. Jeff Richards advised the 2020 Laurel Highlands Conservation Landscape Meeting will be held virtually on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Topics to include challenges the trails are confronted with.
  - f. Stan Rudge has been informed the individual that caused all the damage to the trail will be held accountable in paying back to the WHT.
  - g. Jack Maher reports the bridge over the Conamaugh should be inspected regarding some of the structure concerns. We need to figure out accessibility and bring in a specialist.
  - h. Stan Rudge asked for anyone to share their thoughts regarding their Vision for 2025 for the WHT. A poster board was provided along with markers and post-its to share your thoughts.
- 11. The next meeting will be on October 8, 2020, 7pm at the Lamplighter.
  - On a motion by Cronauer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Maher, the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm with cake, bottled water, and adult beverages served.

Respectfully submitted,  
Vicki Rudge

