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**Meeting Minutes August 8, 2019 (Draft V1)  
Slickville VFD Pavilion, Slickville, PA  
Volunteer Appreciation Night**

Volunteer Appreciation Night began with sumptuous buffet including chicken, kielbasa, pulled pork, a variety of salads, pizza and various desserts including a “Thank You Volunteers” sheet cake along with beverages. President Rudge Thanked all the Volunteers, present and absent, for all the hard work this past year. In addition to keeping the trail groomed, trees removed, washouts repaired, the Fund Raisers, Comedy Night (\$6,000), Trail Town Festival (\$6,000) and Festival Parking (\$5,500) all set records. President Rudge had the Festival Parking Volunteers form for a group photo, recognized them and awarded them, in appreciation, a miniature wooden automobile. All volunteers received a wooden Commemorative Coaster as a small token of appreciation. There were numerous Westmoreland County representatives present, who also echoed President Rudge’s appreciation and gratitude. Door Prizes were given away to many lucky volunteers.

1. Meeting Attendees:
  - a. Board: (13) Rob Cronauer, Eileen Elicker, Ted Hayes, Kerry Jobe, Jack Maher, John Nagoda, Megan Nelson, Bill O’Hara, Rey Peduzzi, Jeff Richards, Stan Rudge, Vicki Rudge, John Sopko
  - b. Westmoreland Co. WHT Board Counselor: Malcolm Sias, Director, Westmoreland Co. Parks and Recreation
  - c. RTC Manager Manager: Leslie Pierce and husband Ron.
  - d. Guests: Karen Rose Cercone, Wendy Davis, Chad Emahizer. Ginny Hayes, Stacy Jobe, Larry Josephs, Pat Norton Chris Panichella, Bib Peduzzi, Dee O’Hara, 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 – President Rudge was “Commented Out” due to the pre-meeting ceremonies, but Thanked Again all the volunteers.
4. Introductions – None
5. Public Input – None
6. Approval of Minutes
  - a. A motion was made to approve the June 13th meeting minutes as published, by Richards, 2<sup>nd</sup> by O’Hara, Motion carried, minutes approved.
  - b. There was not a board quorum in attendance in July, therefore there were no minutes to approve. The July Meeting Record was accepted as published.
7. Treasurer’s Report – Jack Maher
  - a. Treasurer Maher, reported \$61,994.27 in total assets.

- b. Treasurer Maher reported that the S&T Checking Account has \$42,619.53 as essentially “Cash on Hand”.
  - c. WHT Donations of \$250 were made to Trafford Borough and Slickville Borough for in appreciation for their outstanding assistance in making the Trail Towns Festival a huge success.
  - d. A motion to approve the treasurer’s report by Cronauer, 2nd by Rudge, Motion carried, report approved.
8. RTC Report – Rob Cronauer thanked Leslie Pierce for all her hard work and confirmed that RTC will be advertising our second Trail Towns Festival 6/6/20.
9. TAT Report – President Rudge reported the eight communities that the TAT passes through have approved the trail map revisions and new Trail Maps should be available soon. The Phase IV section of the WHT Trail will be included on the new maps.
10. Committee Reports
- a. Real Estate and Acquisitions – No Report
  - b. Engineering and Construction – Jeff Richards
    - i. The Phase IV section of trail is essentially done
    - ii. Post construction documentation is being completed.
    - iii. The Export Trail Head will be landscaped with 12 trees and 117 shrubs prior to the official opening ceremonies, 8/17/19.
    - iv. The big washouts between MSA and the Sewage Plant have been repaired, ditches cleared, drainage pipes cleaned and three new drainage pipes added by Eidemiller Construction.
    - v. The sand bar at the “Big Bend” has been removed to improve creek flow by Westmoreland Conservation District.
    - vi. The washout at “Big Bend” will be repaired soon using asphalt millings. The stone base has been repaired and when the millings arrive, the Urban Brothers will pack and roll the trail surface.
  - c. Funding Raising – Rey Peduzzi
    - i. Arts and Heritage Festival Parking Concession garnered \$5,500 for the WHT Treasury. The total amount has been added to the Capital Improvement Fund.
    - ii. A Parking Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet was circulated for The Export Arts and Ethnic Food Festival August 17, 2019. If you can help, Please sign up..
  - d. Public Relations – Vicki Rudge
    - i. Facebook followers now number 1678.
    - ii. The Trail Towns Festival has been approved for 6/6/20 and planning has begun.
    - iii. The WHT Historical Marker project.
      - 1. Karen Rose Cercone presented posters of 26 proposed Markers for consideration and asked for additional suggestions, additions, or corrections
      - 2. The Historical Markers are to be installed on 6x6 posts in conjunction with the new Phase IV mileposts.

3. A motion for the WHT to match Karen's generous donation of \$150 to fund the sign posts was made by S. Rudge, 2<sup>nd</sup> Maher, Motion Passed, \$156 Expenditure approved.
  - iv. Trail etiquette rules have been printed and will be distributed on parked car windshields by trail monitors, hopefully to improve pet poop removal and bicycle riders warning walkers of their passing.
  - v. A request for female specific WHT Logo clothing has been considered. Upon advice from RTC, their female clothing has not sold well and is an inventory nuisance. The WHT Logo clothing will remain unisex.
  - vi. A motion to approve \$750 to restock the WHT Logo Clothing inventory was made by V. Rudge, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Maher, Motion passed, Expenditure approved.
  - vii. WHT specific Cycling Jerseys have also been requested. RTC advises their jerseys have sold well at \$85 each. Designs are being considered that might include many of Karen Rose Cercone's historical site depictions.
  - viii. The WHT website has removed the Notice of Trail Closed Signs on Phase IV.
  - ix. Vicki noted that the Board Community Representatives are now solely responsible for the planning and staffing of WHT Booths at their respective Community Festivals.
  - x. Volunteers are being sought to man the WHT Booth at Roberts Parcel 8/17/19, te day of the Grand Opening. If you can help, Please contact Vicki Rudge.
- e. Membership – Vicki Rudge.
- i. In Gordon's absence, Vicki reported that the 2019 membership goal of 200 members has been exceeded and the WHT now has a record 225 members. Thanks to all those who have joined in support of the trail.
  - ii. With a record number of new members to tabulate and thank, Megan Nelson has volunteered to help Gordon with this daunting task.
- f. Trail Ambassadors (Monitors) – President Rudge
- i. President Rudge reported 37 volunteer hours of trail service in July. Sadly, trail users are still not cleaning up after their pets. A windshield notice campaign is planned.
  - ii. Rey Peduzzi suggested we post "pictorial signs" emphasizing trail etiquette in place of "text" signs that no one seems to read.
  - iii. A training and recertification class date for Trail Monitors will be announced soon.
- g. Trail Maintenance – The trail was reported to be in excellent shape for the Grand Opening.

## 11. Old Business

- i. The three email votes passed in July are recorded herein:
  1. Use of the Trail by Slickville for a 5K fun Run/Walk during their Community Days.
  2. A \$200 Sandwich Board to advertise and promote membership at the Phase IV Grand Opening.

3. June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 was approved and reserved for the 2020 Trail Towns Festival.
  - ii. The Board Member Expectations list was discussed and was generally accepted. A vote of approval is proposed for September.
12. New Business
- a. Non-Profit Trail Use Events
    - i. A motion to approve the Conemaugh Valley September 14th event at Roberts Parcel was made by O'Hara, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Peduzzi, Motion Passed Trail Use Approved.
    - ii. A motion to approve the East Suburban Trail Blazers October 19th event at the Export Trail Head was made by Maher, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sopko, Motion Passed Trail Use Approved.
    - iii. President Rudge urged everyone to place any trail associated event on the Trail Calendar overseen by himself and published on Facebook and the WHT website.
  - b. Jack Maher issued a Team Challenge to WHT members to participate in the West Penn Trail Paddle, Ride, Run triathlon October 12<sup>th</sup>. Jeff Richards headed the WHT team last year and will hopefully do so again this year.
  - c. Nominations for the Tom Ronksly vacated At-Large Board position were accepted:
    - i. Pat Norton nominated by Maher and Hayes
    - ii. Ann Wade nominated by Richards and Nagota
    - iii. Alyssa Harden nominated by Cronauer and Sopko

On a motion by Cronauer, 2<sup>nd</sup> S. Rudge, the meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

The next meeting will be on September 12<sup>th</sup> at the Lamplighter Restaurant, Delmont, PA.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Sopko, 2019 Secretary

Attachments: