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**Meeting Minutes August 09, 2018 (Draft V2)
Italian American Club, Export, PA**

1. Meeting Attendees:
 - a. Board: (18) Gordon Conn, Rob Cronauer, Tom Dittman, Eileen Elicker, Rick Fisher, Noel Grimm, Ted Hayes, Kerry Jobe, Jack Maher, Monica Meehan, John Nagoda, Meghan Nelson, Bill O'Hara, Reynold Peduzzi, Jeff Richards, Tom Ronksley, Stan Rudge, John Sopko – Malcolm Sias, Westmoreland Co. Parks and Recreation
 - b. Guests: Walt Cummins, Mary Grimm, Alyssa Harden, Stephanie Kennedy, Chris Leo, Bill McHugh, Dee O'Hara, Carol Richardson, Vicki Rudge, Greg Venderber, Doug Webster and others
2. President Stan Rudge led the recitation of "The Pledge of Allegiance", and then called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.
3. Public Input
 - a. Carol Richardson reported that a ten place bicycle rack, donated by the Trafford Economic and Community Development Corporation, has been installed at B-Y Park. Carol thanked Rey Peduzzi, Dave Nigro, Bill O'Hara, Doug Webster, and John Russo for helping with the installation.
 - b. Jeff Richards thanked Doug Webster for writing an excellent article for the Murrysville Trail News on WHT Trail Maintenance.
4. Approval of Minutes - A motion was made to approve the July minutes as published by Cronauer, 2nd by Dittman, Motion carried, minutes approved.
5. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Treasurer Maher, reported \$45,623.07 in total assets.
 - b. Treasurer Maher reported that the S&T Checking Account has \$22,373.38 as essentially "Cash on Hand", and \$1,947.00 in a reserve fund for the Sarah Steele Kiosk.
 - c. The Westmoreland Arts and Heritage Festival Parking Concession earned \$3797.15 which was \$23.40 for each volunteer hour. Again, this year, the WHT Volunteers outnumbered each of the other four participating trails to set a new income record. A HUGE WHT Thank You to our Chairmen, Tom Dittman and Bill O'Hara, all the Shift Captains and Field Parkers and all other volunteers for their great effort.
 - d. A motion to approve the treasurer's report by O'Hara, 2nd by Grimm, Motion carried, report approved.
6. RTC Report – No Report
7. TAT Report – No Report
8. Committee Reports

- a. Real Estate and Acquisitions – Malcolm Sias, Rey Peduzzi, Ashley Stack (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 98.8% 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 August 28th.
 - 2. There will be a five week bidding period and bidding will close September 27th.
 - ii. Six much needed drainage culverts were installed between MSA Murrysville and the FTMSA on July 10th. The WHT 40% share of the invoice from the contractor was \$3,114.52, an amount lower than the original estimated \$5,472.00 previously approved and set aside for the work. A HUGE WHT Thank You to the Westmoreland Co. Parks and Recreation for paying \$4,680.00 or 60% of the total bill.
- c. Funding Raising
 - i. The August 18th 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) if you can help with the booth in any way. Please contact Rey Peduzzi (724-757-9207) if you can help with the parking concession.
 - ii. 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. The locations have all been cleared by Pennsylvania One Call. The posts will be painted August 26th by a volunteer church group. A "Post Planting" work party is scheduled for August 28th. Please contact Tom Dittman if you can help.
 - 2. President Rudge displayed a decaled aluminum panel that will display the mile post mileage and municipality. Stan asked for volunteers to apply the decals to the remaining panels and Meagan Nelson and Doug Webster volunteered.
 - 3. The first of 28 mile posts, "Mile 16", has already been installed at the appropriate location near Roberts Parcel parking access in Murrysville.
- 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). Everyone is encouraged to contribute. There are

now 985 Facebook followers. Vicky has posted that a Prize of a Trail Tee-Shirt will be given to the 1,000th Facebook follower. At meeting time, no one had received the prize.

- ii. Festival Booth Volunteers
 1. The Slickville Festival Booth is fully staffed, Thank You.
 2. The Export Ethnic Food and Music Festival is in need of one more Volunteer.
- iii. Volunteers are also needed for the Penn Twp. Festival September 21, 22, & 23 and the Delmont Apple n' Arts Festival October 6, 7. Sign-up sheets were circulated.
- iv. Treasurer Jack Maher approved a \$25.00 "Free Will Donation" for our booth at the Penn Twp. Festival.
- v. A Bicycle Repair Day is tentatively slated for May 18, 19, 2019
- vi. Trail Town Tour.
 1. After completion of Phase IV Export to Murrysville Trail in 2019, it was suggested the WHT host a "Trail Town Tour".
 2. Booths would be at all municipalities parking access areas to highlight community trail amenities and recruit membership and commitment to the Trail.
 3. Megan Nelson reported that a Trafford resident was planning a similar event and would coordinate with Vicki Rudge to combine resources.
 4. A motion to support the Trail Town Tour was made by Sopko, 2nd Elicker, Motion Carried, The WHT will support and fund the project as plans develop.
- vii. The WHT google.my.maps
 1. This program 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.
 2. Karen presented the second phase of the program. Historical markers will be installed along the trail describing a particular "heritage". The cost of the markers is estimated to be \$650.00, and Karen will seek corporate sponsorship as many of the markers describe the industry that once was along the trail. Karen circulated a marker that features the Linde Air Products Company near B-Y Park.
 3. Karen requested leads on any historical information you may know about.
 4. A motion to continue WHT support for Karen was made by Peduzzi, 2nd Elicker, Motion Carried.
 5. A HUGE "WHT THANK YOU" to Karen for her effort. Please contact Karen at (westmoreland.heritage.trail@gmail.com) to submit any ideas to improve the experience.

e. Membership – Gordon Conn.

- i. Gordon reported that we now have 116 active members for 2018 exceeding last year's membership of 107 members.
 - ii. There still remain over 17 2017 members who have not renewed their membership. If you were a previous member, please consider renewing.
 - iii. The WHT now has 35 Lifetime members, 21 Ten Year Members and 61 Annual members
 - iv. Membership brochures at "The Creamery" need to be restocked bi-weekly.
 - f. Trail Ambassadors (Monitors)
 - i. The entire trail is nicely groomed thanks to the efforts of Tom Dittman, Bill O'Hara, and Rick Fisher. A HUGE WHT Thank You for their and all the volunteers efforts.
 - ii. Trail users have been reporting unleashed dogs to the trail ambassadors. We all are reminded not to be confrontational, but to politely remind the offenders that trail rules are posted at all entrances with bollards and they could be fined for a violation if caught by local police who patrol the trail.
 - 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. September 18th has been set for a work party to lower all the trail entrance bollards to a uniform height of 36 inches. Please contact Tom Dittman if you can help.
- 9. Old Business
 - a. The Sarah Steele Parking Access Kiosk has a reserve fund of \$1947.00 for replacement. A design plan has been selected and volunteer Doug Webster already has the uprights in place. Treasurer Jack Maher will approach TMR Roofing, a long time trail sponsor, to donate roofing shingles for the project.
 - b. The Cameron Miller Scenic Overlook Eagle Scout Project remains tabled.
 - c. The Slickville Maintenance Building discussion remained tabled.
 - d. 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.
 - ii. Trail officers met with Jeff Richards at the site to ascertain if the property will have enough square footage to accommodate Stan's proposal.
 - iii. The location was deemed too narrow from road to trail to be ideal. Other sites continue to be pursued.
 - e. Long Reach Hedge Trimmer

- i. Rey Peduzzi and Rob Cronauer have recommended a multi-head trimmer to be used to keep Japanese Knotweed at bay along the trail.
 - ii. A Motion to purchase an interchangeable head (trimmer, scythe, and cutter) and the motor from Fletcher Equipment (the low bidder) for a not to exceed \$725.00 was made by Peduzzi, 2nd Meehan, Motion carried, equipment will be purchased.
 - iii. Rey will contact a Trafford Trail Patron to request a donation to defray part of the cost
- f. Mile Post Lumber Expenditure
 - i. A motion to approve an expenditure of \$280.00 to purchase lumber for the Trail mile posts was made by President Rudge, 2nd by Sopko. Due to the urgency of acquiring the lumber, the motion was sent to the board as an email vote. The motion passed receiving 15 Yea votes. (11 Yea voted required for passage)
 - ii. Results of the voting are attached.
- g. Westinghouse Valley Trail
 - i. Gordon Conn presented the proceedings of recent community meetings that have been discussing the “Reality” of a trail from Trafford to the Great Allegheny Passage.
 - ii. Five Boroughs are involved, Rankin, East Pittsburgh, Braddock, Turtle Creek and Pitcairn. Allegheny Co. is also supporting the plan.
 - iii. A “Steering Committee” has been established to propose a route for the 6.1 mile Trail along Turtle Creek.
 - iv. Additional trail names being considered are:
 - 1. The Westinghouse Interworks Trail
 - 2. The Westmoreland Heritage Trail Connector.

On a motion by Elicker, 2nd Grimm, the meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

The next meeting will be on September 13th at The Lamplighter Restaurant in Delmont starting at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Sopko, 2018 Secretary

Attachments:

Voting on Mile Marker Posts Expense not to exceed \$280 7/27/18					
	Board Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	No Vote
1	Bob Burton				X
2	Rob Cronauer	Yea			
3	Gordon Conn	Yea			
4	Tom Dittman	Yea			
5	Eileen Elicker	Yea			
6	Rick Fisher				X
7	Noel Grimm				X
8	Ted Hayes	Yea			
9	Kerry Jobe	Yea			
10	Jack Maher	Yea			
11	Monica Meehan				X
12	Dorothea Motto				X
13	Mary Grace Muster	Yea			
14	John Nagoda	Yea			
15	Megan Nelson	Yea			
16	Bill O'Hara	Yea			
17	Reynold Peduzzi	Yea			
18	Jeff Richards				X
19	Tom Ronksley	Yea			
20	Stan Rudge	Yea			
21	John Sopko	Yea			
		15	0	0	6
(11 Yeas needed to pass.)					