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**Meeting Minutes September 13, 2018  
Lamplighter Restaurant, Delmont, PA**

1. Meeting Attendees:
  - a. Board: (15) Bob Burton, Rob Cronauer, John Nagoda, Gordon Conn, Tom Dittman, Eileen Elicker, Rick Fisher, Noel Grimm, Jack Maher, Monica Meehan, Mary Grace Muster, Megan Nelson, Bill O'Hara, Reynold Peduzzi, Jeff Richards, Tom Ronksley
  - b. Guests: Kate Glodek, Chad Emahizer, Wendy Davis, Doug Ekeroth, Marcus Muster, Christian Panichella, Ron Trozzo, Paul Havailesto, Dee O' Hara, Dan Sigg, Mike Magnes, Rick Dowd, Ron Hoffman, Chris Leo, Barry Delissio, Richard Balik Jr., Don Baker, Fran Zalewski, Malcolm Sias, Michelle Nagoda, Alyssa Harden (Acting Secretary)
2. Vice-President Rob Cronauer led the recitation of "The Pledge of Allegiance" and then called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.
3. Public Input – None
4. Approval of Minutes – A motion was made to approve the August minutes as published by Maher, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dittman, Motion carried, minutes approved.
5. Treasurer's Report
  - a. Treasurer Maher reported \$26, 365 in total assets and \$32, 603 in total income.
  - b. Treasurer Maher reported \$1,947 in reserve fund for the Sara Steele Kiosk replacement.
  - c. Treasurer Maher reported most of the financial income categories have gone up along with some expenses. The expenses increase was because of the larger Comedy Night this past year, and the larger income associated with this balances out.
  - d. A motion to approve the treasurer's report by Peduzzi, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Elicker, motion carried report approved.
6. RTC Report – Cronauer reported that there was no meeting last month. There is a liaison meeting on Sept. 19 at 12 p.m. in West Newton. Cronauer cannot attend, and Burton agreed to go in Cronauer's place.

7. TAT Report – Maher reported discussions on the Blairsville connector bridge. There is money allocated, and match is being requested.
8. Committee Reports
  - a. Real Estate and Acquisitions – Malcolm Sias
    - i. Norfolk Southern has said they do not want to sell the Trafford section to the trail, as they use 4<sup>th</sup> Street for equipment access. An alternate proposal is being worked on to get rid of the street crossing and build a new spot with asphalt for loading equipment. There is no set date for the alternate proposal.
    - ii. Peduzzi brought up concern for the slide located on the Trafford parcel saying it was getting worse. It was discussed that ultimately it will be the landowners' responsibility to prevent future material from sliding onto the tracks. However, as the trail does not own the parcel at this time, there is nothing that can be done at the present time.
  - b. Engineering and Construction – Jeff Richards
    - i. Richards reported the expected timeline for the Phase IV design plans and construction:
      1. Advertising: Sept. 20
      2. Award contract: Oct. 18
      3. Winter shutdown: Jan. 14
      4. Groundbreaking: Mar. 4, 2019
      5. Landscaping: July 31, 2019
      6. Erosion & Sediment Controls removal: Aug. 16, 2019
    - ii. Construction will be done before the Export Ethnic Food & Music Festival next August.
  - c. Fundraising – Ray Peduzzi
    - i. The August 18<sup>th</sup> Export Ethnic Food and Music Festival was a success, with a HUGE WHT Thank You to Malcolm Sias and Jeff Richards who came out to pick up some volunteer shifts. The parking brought in \$1,245 and the trail received \$600 for their efforts.
    - ii. A \$350 donation was made by Dan Rutledge
    - iii. Peduzzi received \$72 from recycling old equipment from Export.
    - iv. Peduzzi suggested to advertise the mile marker plaques in local newspapers for a price of \$193.50. This includes three issues worth of advertising. A motion to spend \$193.50 to advertise the mile markers was made by Maher, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nelson, motion carried.
      1. Michelle Nagoda said she can post the WHT meeting minutes and mile post information on the Export FB page.
    - v. Mile Marker Installation Day
      1. On August 28, 2018, numerous volunteers came together to install 25 mile posts with markers on the Murrysville to Trafford

section of the trail. Markers were installed every ¼ mile. Peduzzi and O'Hara led the charge. A BIG WHT Thank You goes out to everyone who helped that day!

- d. Public Relations – Kristi Mitchell (representing committee)
  - i. The WHT Facebook page now has 1,050 followers, and a t-shirt was awarded to the 1,000 follower.
  - ii. Festival Booth Volunteers
    - 1. Volunteers are needed for the Delmont Apple n' Arts Festival Oct. 6 & 7 and the Penn Township Festival Sept. 21-23.
    - 2. \$50 was requested from the Public Relations committee for petty cash to sell merchandise at event booths. This was OK'd by Maher.
  - iii. Tentative future events include a trail festival in May 2019 and a trail workshop this November.
  - iv. Harden reported that the website is functioning properly and views are steady.
    - 1. The website's domain renewal is coming up on Oct. 1, and Harden requested a reimbursement for the \$99 cost to her personal card on the account. This was OK'd by Maher.
- e. Membership – Gordon Conn
  - i. Conn reported that we now have 130 total active members for 2018.
  - ii. The WHT received 1 new family lifetime member, 2 new lifetime individual members, 6 yearly family members, and 4 new yearly individual members this past month.
  - iii. Eileen Elicker has agreed to put up posters in the trail kiosks to support the trail by purchasing a membership.
- f. Trail Ambassadors (Monitors) – no report.
- g. Trail Maintenance – Tom Dittman
  - i. Flooding damage update
    - 1. The section of trail from Saunders Station Road to Forbes Road is closed until the trail surface can be repaired.
    - 2. Stan Rudge thanks everyone who fixed the washout.
    - 3. The only serious damage was on the big curve near Trafford where 1,500 feet of surface and some base was washed out with holes about 2 feet deep in places. These holes have been mostly filled in, however the trail surface is soft from all of the fines/dust being washed away in the flooding.
      - a. The on-going problem sycamore laying across Turtle Creek has been pushed to the side from the flood waters.
      - b. About 6 trees were taken out by a work party consisting of Dittman, Peduzzi, Russo, and Webster.

- c. Penn Township will replace the trail surface that was washed away.
- 4. Conn asked about paving the problem area of the curve. Malcolm Sias and Rob Cronauer explained that paving would not be a good idea as approx. 100 trucks of fill material would be needed to raise the trail a few feet and any asphalt put down would be rolled right up by future flood waters.
- 5. All of the new cross pipes installed this summer to improve trail drainage on the Murrysville to FTMSA section held up in the flooding.
- 6. The memorial bench at the Saunders Station trailhead that was smashed in half from a fallen tree needs replaced.
- 7. The bridge at Simpsons Run was all clear after the flooding.
- ii. Spraying is needed on the Slickville to Saltsburg trail section to control encroaching knotweed. Fisher will seek out spray certification for 2019.
- iii. A request was put into PennDOT to clear the brush from Forbes Rd as there are trail users who use this road to bike to the trail.

#### 9. Old Business

- a. It was reported that roof panels have been acquired for the new Sara Steele Kiosk.
- b. The Slickville Maintenance Building discussion remained tabled.
- c. The Cameron Miller Scenic Overlook Eagle Scout Project will not be taking place, as the scout is no longer interested.
- d. Dittman reported that there are 10 volunteers expected for the Day of Caring. Next Tuesday volunteers will be shortening bollards and painting them yellow.

#### 10. New Business

- a. Dittman reported that he is putting together a \$1,200 grant request to the Trail Volunteer Fund for the string trimmer attachment for the Ventrac to assist in maintenance efforts. Peduzzi asked if the rail timbers used in the original bridge structures had any resale value. It was determined they do not and should be kept for future use.
- b. Richards reported that three trail board members (Nelson, Richards, and Ronksley) will be participating in the Conemaugh Valley Conservancy 5<sup>th</sup> Annual West Penn Trail Triathlon. A sponsorship from the trail to cover the entrance cost (\$110 before Oct. 6/ \$120 after Oct. 6) was requested by Richards. A motion to sponsor the racers was made by Conn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dittman, motion carried.
- c. Conn reported that a representative from Allegheny County is planning a feasibility study for the next section of trail from Trafford to Rankin in Allegheny County. Conn also reported there will be fracking taking place on the other side of Turtle Creek near the trail. The entrance will be located near Saunders Station Road, and Monroeville asked if there was any way to request for the trucks to

enter from the Penn Twp. side to prevent trucks crossing the trail crossing at Saunders Station. It was determined that there was nothing WHT could do, however a suggestion to ask the fracking company (Huntley & Huntley) for a donation to the trail since it will be impacting it was made.

- d. Malcom Sias reported that the Blue Star Memorial dedication at the Roberts Trail Access will take place on Sunday, Oct. 21 at 2 p.m.

On a motion by Maher, 2<sup>nd</sup> Richards, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

The next meeting will be on Oct. 11 at The Lamplighter Restaurant in Delmont starting at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alyssa Harden, Acting Secretary