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Meeting Minutes November 12, 2020
The Lamplighter – Delmont, PA

Meeting Attendees:

- a. Board: (12) Stan Rudge, Vicki Rudge, Rick Fisher, Bill O'Hara, Jack Maher, Kerry Jobe, Chris Panichella, Pat Norton, Brandon Lacina, Ted Hayes, Tom Dittman, and Monica Meehan
 - b. Absent Board: (9) Rob Cronauer, Alyssa Harden, Gordon Conn, Eileen Elicker, Dorothea Motto, Mary Grace Muster, John Nagoda, AnnaMarie Stackiewicz and Ann Wade
 - c. Guests: Malcolm Sias, Jeff Richards, Tim Leriotis, and Rita Vitolo
1. President Stan Rudge led the recitation of "The Pledge of Allegiance" and then called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.
 2. Presidents' Comment – A big thank you to all the volunteers who continually help to make the trail a success. Refraining from other comments and moving forward with the agenda.
 3. Public Input/Introductions – Visitor Rita Vitolo introduced herself to the board
 4. Approval of Minutes – The October meeting did not have a quorum.
 - a. A motion was made to approve the September and October minutes by Meehan, 2nd by Norton, motion carried, minutes approved.
 5. Treasurer's Report – Jack Maher
 - a. For the month of October, \$63,491 is in the treasury savings account, \$28,000 of it is in capital reserve and \$35,000 in general use. Total assets are over \$100,000.00. We are doing well with an increase of \$33,000 from the previous year. The P&L Reports shows \$45,921 in income, \$19,807 for expenses and \$26,261 net. This is up \$5,500 from last year.
 - b. The RTC auditor's review brought to the Treasurer that we cannot house the \$650.00 for the Delmont Visionary since they are not part of this organization nor can they use the 501-3C for fundraising. A motion was made to return the \$650.00 to the Delmont Visionary Committee by Dittman and 2nd by Norton. Anna Marie Stackiewicz will be contacted regarding this matter.
 - c. A motion was made to approve the September and October treasurer report by Hayes, 2nd by O'Hara, motion carried, reports approved.
 6. RTC Report – Malcolm Sias on behalf of Rob Cronauer
 - a. The Articles of Association were accepted, signed and returned one copy to the RTC and keeping one.
 - b. The Five Star chapter is rebuilding and progressing with nine miles in Elizabeth Township placing new sewer lines.
 - c. Fundraising signs have been placed along the trail with a text to donate towards the trail. Every trail chapter received the signs and the money donations will come back directly from the chapter designated as the donations are text. All the signs will be interchangeable from trail to trail.
 7. TAT Report – Stan Rudge
 - a. A zoom meeting was held last month with progress being made for a new map scheduled for spring.
 8. Committee Reports -
 - a. Real Estate and Acquisitions – Malcolm Sias
 - i. Nothing new to report
 - b. Engineering and Construction – Jeff Richards
 - i. In Export a series of meetings chaired by Export have been held for the replica train station. Construction of the station is anticipated to start in February. The replica train station will house public restrooms, meeting space, historical displays, and resources.

- ii. Kerry Jobe reported on behalf of Salem Township that a meeting with Mackin Engineering was held to look at expanding the trail and parking by Rangos. A possible new parking lot is being reviewed at the corner of Athena Drive and Lauffer Mine Road. A grant has been applied for by Salem Township Supervisors in order to improve Lauffer Mine Road and relocate and replace a big culvert for the flow of water. Also on the West side of Lauffer Mine Road, another grant to DCNR will be applied for next March, 2021 to extend the WHT and expand parking.
- iii. The ongoing Franklin Township Sanitary Authority (FTMSA) sewer project dates will be forthcoming for the four locations along the WHT in Murrysville and the west end of Export. The construction company is currently doing camera work, mobilizing, and then pulling replacement pipes through the existing pipes. The four areas affected are near Tarr Hollow Road, the stretch between Sports Zone Bridge to Haymaker Farm Road, Haymaker Farm Road to Toona Supply, and to both sides of Van Buren Road. Will provide dates for social media as received.
- iv. Just recently a hike was conducted through the Durabond plant area for looking at one of the five options identified thus far for the WHT route in Export. A comparison of the five or six options for the trail's future growth, with pro's and con's discussed in looking for the best route. Next step will be Mackin Engineering completing a comparisons report for review by Durabond owners and Export Borough leadership.
- v. The White Valley Social Club is very interested in working cooperatively with the trail. They are open to us looking at their land to place our maintenance building.
- c. Fundraising – Stan Rudge on behalf of Rob Cronauer
 - i. Corona Virus has cancelled Comedy Night for next year.
 - ii. Rob has inherited the sponsors advertising on mile markers and has put all information into a program keeping all data organized. The mile markers continue to be lucrative. Income up to \$7,000 has been received for 2020.
- d. Public Relations – Vicki Rudge
 - Facebook has grown to 2,333 followers.
 - Twitter account now 93 followers.
 - i. The Penn Trafford Rec Board donated last year for the Trail Towns Festival and was asked to support the trail again this year since fundraising has been a challenged. A check in the amount of \$250 was received.
 - ii. The Amazing Race Scavenger Hunt (shared event with the Levelgreen Women's Club) had 28 teams participating on October 10th. The Women's Club split the profit after expense with the trail. Total profit was \$1,824.00 minus expenses; both organizations shared \$1,064.50 - \$532.25 for each organization. Great publicity and support also from Pro Bikes (\$100 basket) and the Creamery (donating 10% of their sales). Also the first place winners were awarded \$300 cash, however, they returned their winnings. Our Executive Board approved a one year trail membership to the winners Darlene Simpson and her daughter Jessica Fordyce from North Huntingdon. The attendees all enjoyed the event and hope that it will return. Thank you to the committee members and our volunteers that worked the event. And huge thanks to the Women's Club for all of their work and support of the trail.
 - iii. Thank you to Ann Wade and Tom Dittman for setting up a WHT table and distributing candy for Halloween on the trail October 31st. Event held by Murrysville Parks and Recreation Department.
 - iv. Thank you to Monica Meehan for responding to a HELP request on Face book to empty the garbage can at Carson Braun on a regular basis.
 - v. PR continues to send sympathy and get well cards to members as information is provided.
 - vi. Volume 4 of the WHT Newsletter was recently submitted. If you have articles, announcements for the newsletter please send to whtpr2017@gmail.com.
- e. Membership – Stan Rudge on behalf of Gordon Conn
 - i. There are a total of 255 members, down 31 from last year. The Trail Towns Festival brought a lot of new members but renewing membership has not continued. As you talk to

individuals on the trail, please remind them to become members or renew their memberships.

- f. Trail Ambassadors – Stan Rudge
 - i. 34 hours have been reported for the month of October.
 - ii. Remember to turn in all volunteer hours.
 - g. Trail Maintenance – Zone Leaders
 - i. Any liquids stored in both sheds will be moved to Northmoreland Park for winter storage.
 - ii. Zone 1 - A new volunteer brought his own leaf blower which was most helpful. Also four trees had fallen in the area.
 - iii. Zone 2 - still has leaves to blow out and looking at solar panels and chargers for Slickville.
 - iv. Zone 3 - forthcoming
 - v. Zone 4 - Mother Nature helped with her high winds to clear most of the leaves. It was reported a rut at Carson Braun will need to be asphalted by Westmoreland County Parks. Also the Sports Zone is looking to open an ice cream stand and was referred to Westmoreland County Parks.
 - vi. Zone 5 – All in good shape
 - g. Delmont Visionary Committee – Anna Marie Stackiewicz
 - i. No report
 - h. Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation – Chris Panichella
 - i. Trail of the Year application letters are being organized.
 - i. Municipal Representatives
 - i. Trafford - Brandon Lacina reported upcoming holiday festivities on Saturday, December 5th on Cavitt Avenue. Also he presented art work promoting Trafford as well as the trail which is free of charge if anyone is interested in a copy.
 - k. Historical and Turtle Creek Railroad – Ann Wade
 - i. No report
9. Old Business
- i. Continue moving forward with trail grant
10. New Business
- a. CARES – The trail was successful in receiving a grant in the amount of \$25,000. However, we are not just handed a check for this money. We must show losses from Covid and expenses that would not have occurred during Corona. The money must also be used by December 31st or it is returned. President Rudge compiled a list of how the money can be used. Purchasing software and equipment so the trail has its own computer system and mainframe is much needed in order to keep all trail information at one location. Also looking into tools that can be used on the trail and other loss of monies incurred during Covid.
 - b. Board of Directors terms expiring are Monica Meehan and Dorthea Motto. Both agreed to continue in their positions. December meeting will allow others to be nominated. Rob Cronauer’s position will not be offered since the Westmoreland County Conservation District added it to our articles of association as a representative (this is not his VP position).
 - c. November 21st the WHT will be used again for a 5K race event.
 - d. Seven bench applications have been received and will not be installed until spring. The MAWC has given permission to install two benches along Beaver Run. Once we mark the location of these, they still must approve the locations. One of those benches has already been purchased.
 - e. December meeting nominations for WHT Officers will be accepted and make note that we will need a Treasurer “in training.”
 - f. With covid there are plans to conduct monthly meetings via zoom which may include December.
11. The next meeting will be on December 10th, 2020.
On a motion by Lacina, 2nd by Maher, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Vicki Rudge

