



www.westmorelandheritagetrail.com

Meeting Minutes January 12, 2023

Lamplighter Restaurant, Delmont

Meeting Attendees:

- Board: (15) Karen Rose Cercone, Rob Cronauer, Alyssa Davis, Wendy Davis, Chad Emahizer, Elizabeth Ferri, Rick Fisher, Geri Lombardo, Jack Maher, Pat Norton, Bill O'Hara, Chris Panichella, Malcolm Sias, AnnaMarie Stackiewicz, and Ann Wade
- Absent Board: (6) Paul Estok, Kerry Jobe, Brandon Lacina, Monica Meehan, Stan Rudge, and Vicki Rudge
- Guests: Megan Pilkington, Darren Miller, Christina Donahoe, Dan Sigg, Mike Banda, Chris Leo, Dee O'Hara, Brian Matson

1. Vice President Rob Cronauer led the recitation of "The Pledge of Allegiance" and then called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.
2. Presidents' Comment – No report.
3. Public Input/Introductions – No report.
4. Approval of Minutes –
 - a. A motion was made to approve the December minutes by Norton, 2nd by Wade, motion carried, minutes approved.
5. Treasurer's Report –Chris Panichella
 - a. To date, we have \$53,811.01 in the Money Market account, \$55,371.42 in the checking account, and \$60,000.00 invested for a total of \$169,182.43 in current assets. We have \$18,971.02 in fixed assets making our total assets \$188,153.45.
 - b. Our total revenue for 2022 is \$75,286.52. Total expenses were \$34,686.17 for a net operating revenue of \$40,600.35.
 - c. Membership, Donation and Post advertising dollars were down from last year, but total revenue was up because of a successful Trail Towns and Comedy Night. With those successful events, our Total Bank Accounts grew to \$109,182 from \$78,386 at the end of 2021.
 - d. A motion was made to approve the December treasurer's report by Maher, 2nd by Norton, motion carried, report approved.
6. Items for Action and/or Information
 - a. Nominations & Election for Open Board member & Officer positions for 2023
 - There are three At-Large positions up for re-election, with two incumbents (Pat Norton & Ann Wade) and one open position. No additional nominations were made and nominations were closed. Voting was made anonymously and Secretary Davis totaled the votes.
 - A motion to make a unanimous vote to elect the current slate of Officers as previously nominated on the voting ballot was made by Sias, 2nd by Maher, motion carried, Officers elected.
 - Votes were cast by all present board members on anonymous ballots for the three open At-Large board member positions. After tallying the votes, the three nominees with the most votes were Pat Norton, Ann Wade, and Dale Hollabaugh, making them the official elected At-Large board members for the current open/incumbent positions.

b. Trail Events

- No new events have been requested or scheduled at this time.

7. Old Business

a. Discussion of Neighborhood Mural under Route 22 and partnership opportunities & creation of WHT committee

- Christina Donahoe presented on her project to complete a neighborhood mural to cover up the heavily-graffitied area underneath Route 22. After the Tribune Review and the news shared the story, she has been approached by a number of businesses and individuals that would like to donate money to help fund the mural. The WHT would be glad to accept and manage all of the donations and sponsorships for the project.
- Her idea for the design would be postcard-esque art that would highlight all of the local highlights of the area, and the columns would be utilized for sponsorship recognition. She wanted to approach the WHT and make sure that we approve of the project. We let her know the WHT gives FULL SUPPORT for this wonderful work and we are so excited for this to come to fruition! The WHT has offered any help that Christina may need.

b. Review of Google Cloud information – Chad Emahizer

- Emahizer says that the process of utilizing Google Cloud for storage and back up of files is underway. All the board members will be added to have access to pertinent historical and recent files. Each board member will need to create/provide a Google account to have access. A free account starts off with 15 GB, which is what we will start with.

c. Update status of Export VFD Safety Utility Vehicle request – Liz Ferri

- A letter was provided to Export VFD asking if they would put forth fundraising efforts towards the funding of acquisition of the vehicle. No response has been received as of yet.

d. Update status on Export kiosk plans – Liz Ferri

- The grant to help fund the construction of the kiosk was submitted by Melanie Litz of the Export Historical Society, and grant announcements should be sometime in the spring. Updates/discussion of this will be tabled until grant announcements are made.

e. Regional Trail Corporation (RTC) Annual Retreat

- This year's retreat will take place at the Westmoreland Conservation District in Greensburg on Saturday, January 28, 2023 from 9a-2p. Trail volunteers are encourage to attend if interested!

8. New Business

a. Review grant for the WHT Utility Vehicle – Rick Fisher

- Fisher pulled together a number of quotes for some options on utility vehicle options. The grant is for \$10,000 to put towards the purchase. This vehicle would be utilized on Zone 5 and most likely stored at the newest storage container in this section. Discussions between maintenance volunteers and executive committee members will continue and once a decision has been made, and update will be provided.

b. Donation to Export Historical Society

- Wade proposed the WHT make a donation to the Export Historical Society in honor of board member Monica Meehan's mother who passed away.
- A motion to provide a donation in Helen Meehan's name to the Export Historical Society on behalf of the WHT was made by Maher, 2nd by Stackiewicz, motion carried, donation approved.

9. Standing Committee Reports –

a. Real Estate/Acquisitions & Engineering and Construction – Jeff Richards

- The 750 ft Export extension has been essentially completed.
- White Valley Athletic and Social Club has been working with Richards to continue discussions on the shared driveway. There are some hold-ups in regards to the Dollar General site that has been proposed near the area as well.

b. Public Relations – Vicki Rudge

- FB followers at 3,245, Twitter at 161.
- There is an upcoming PR meeting to start discussions on this year's Trail Towns Festival.

c. Membership – Wendy Davis

- 694 total members; 345 active members. 126 members expired at the end of 2022.
- There will be an upcoming membership drive in February. A raffle with a few prizes for those who join/renew their membership will be hosted by the PR committee, with more information to come.

d. Maintenance – Rick Fisher and Chad Emahizer

- With the winter weather, several more trees came down along the trail.
- Darrin Miller helped organize the donation of a skid loader for the day on January 21 to help clear the trail corridor in the area near Springview Court. If there are any volunteers that want to come out and walk beside the skid loader and help with any hand clearing, all are welcome!

e. Trail Ambassadors – Stan Rudge

- No report.

f. Fundraising – Rob Cronauer

- It's Comedy Night time again! It will take place on Feb. 11, 2023 at Colton Hall in Claridge. Tickets are on sale for \$35/ticket. **All board members are encouraged to take a bundle of tickets to sell!** Tickets are also on sale at the Westmoreland County Parks office in Greensburg and Ginny's Restaurant in Export.
- This is one of the trail's biggest fundraisers every year, so please support in any way you can!!!

g. Municipal Representatives- various

- No report.

10. Next month's meeting will take place on February 9 at the Lamplighter Restaurant.

11. On a motion by O'Hara, 2nd by Norton, the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Alyssa Davis, Secretary