



*The mission of the Westmoreland Heritage Trail is to manage and maintain the trail from Saltsburg to Trafford, in partnership with like-minded groups, Westmoreland County Parks, and the associated municipalities the trail passes through. The trail will be promoted for walking and biking activities and to provide for recreation, education, volunteerism, tourism, and historic and environmental conservation. ([www.westmorelandheritagetrail.com](http://www.westmorelandheritagetrail.com))*

## **WHT January Board Meeting Minutes**

January 11, 2024

Zoom

### **Meeting Attendees:**

- Board (16): Mike Banda, Michael Bertonaschi, Karen Rose Cercone, Rob Cronauer, Wendy Davis, Jerry Detar, Chad Emahizer, Rick Fisher, Geri Lombardo, Tom Marcin, Chris Panichella, Stan Rudge, Vicki Rudge, Malcolm Sias, AnnaMarie Stackiewicz, Ann Wade
- Absent Board (5): Elizabeth Ferri, Kerry Jobe, Monica Meehan, Darrin Miller, Pat Norton
- Guests and Members: Jim Coulter, Amy Imblum, Ron Markos, David Nigro, John Ruccio, Jeff Richards, Bob Stackiewicz

1. The Zoom meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.
2. President's Comments – Stan thanked everyone for the generous support given to the WHT over the past year. We hope 2024 will continue our success.
3. Public Input/Introductions – none
4. Approval of Minutes
  - a. A motion to approve the December 14, 2023, minutes was made by Detar and seconded by Sias. The motion carried and the minutes were approved.
5. Treasurer's Report – Chris Panichella
  - a. As of December 30, 2023, we have \$54,104.47 in our Money Market accounts (S&T Bank), \$83,983.77 in our checking account (S&T Bank) and \$53,586.48 invested (Wealth Enhancement Advisors) for a total of \$192,249.05 in current assets. We have \$49,782.28 in capital equipment and \$18,971 in fixed assets, making our total assets \$211,220.07.
  - b. A motion to approve the December 2023 Treasurer's Reports was made by Cronauer and seconded by Emahizer. The motion carried and the Treasurer's Report was approved.
6. **ITEMS FOR ACTION AND/OR INFORMATION**
  - a. Official Correspondence – seven thank you letters were sent out to recent trail donors, some of whom donated in honor of Noel Grimm.
  - b. Upcoming Events – nothing new to approve for the calendar
7. **OLD BUSINESS**
  - a. 10<sup>th</sup> Annual WHT Comedy Night – Feb 10, 2024 6 PM at Colton Hall, Claridge. Rob Cronauer encouraged board members to sell tickets or send people to Ginny's, Lamplighter, Parkside Perk, WCD or Westmoreland Parks and Rec. Members can also donate auction baskets. Set-up will be done at 2 PM on the day before, with all the usual workers asked to return. Auction basket ticket sellers will also be needed on the night of the event.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Spring Membership Drive – Wendy Davis has designed a flyer and will begin publicity for the drive on Feb 1, advertising the prizes (\$100 Amazon gift certificate, \$50, free Poker Run registration) that will be drawn for three new members at our March meeting.

## 9. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **Real Estate, Planning, Engineering and Construction** – Jeff Richards & Malcolm Sias
  - The RTC has made an offer for the five-acre parcel of land around Sara Steele railhead that was formerly on a long-term lease. A sales agreement has been sent to the current owners and should be finalized soon. Additional negotiations have occurred for a parcel that is in the viewshed of the trail, and we may acquire that as well to protect it from development.
- b. **Public Relations** – Vicki Rudge
  - The WHT's Facebook followers now stand at 3581 with our Twitter followers at 169 and Instagram at 72. The WHT website got 439 unique visitors and 870 views in December.
  - Plans for the Trail Town Festival are coming along, with food trucks being solicited.
- c. **Membership** – Wendy Davis
  - As of today, we have 468 active members, up 2 from December.
- d. **Maintenance** – Rick Fisher and Chad Emahizer
  - Since we first got quotes on a new tractor, the discount has changed, giving us a price increase of \$2573.88 for a new total price of \$35,097.38. Fisher made a motion, with a second by Cercone, to approve the new price. Delivery should take a couple of months.
  - The VenTrac tractor was returned by Fletchers with a new frame. Marcin will test drive it when the weather permits.
  - Some run-off is occurring at the trail gate by the sewage plant. It is on private property, but WHT can fill the ruts with gravel if we need to.
- e. **Fundraising** – Rob Cronauer
  - See report under Old Business above.
- f. **Trail Ambassadors** – Stan Rudge
  - If any trail ambassadors haven't turned their hours in for 2023, please do so.
- g. **Regional Trail Corporation / Trans-Allegheny Trails** – Stan Rudge
  - The RTC has an additional waiver clause that they want all volunteers to sign in 2024. WHT will conduct an outreach campaign to get our volunteers to update their release forms.
  - A new mobility vehicle policy has been promulgated by the RTC and will be posted on our website and kiosks. KR Cercone requested that the policy also be distributed to our local police departments so they are clear about what is permitted on the trail.
- h. **Municipal Representatives** – no reports

10. Next month's WHT Meeting will be held over Zoom on February 8. The Zoom link will be sent out to trail members and board members along with the agenda in early February.

11. On a motion by Emahizer, seconded by Wade, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Rose Cercone, Secretary

## 2024 WHT Board Meeting Dates and Locations

January 11 (Remote meeting on Zoom)  
 February 8 (Remote meeting on Zoom)  
 March 14 (Remote meeting on Zoom)  
 April 11 (Lamplighter, Delmont)  
 May 9 (Pedora Park, Export)  
 June 13 (Pedora Park, Export)

July 11 (Pedora Park, Export)  
 August 8 (Pedora Park, Export)  
 September 12 (Member Night TBA)  
 October 10 (Lamplighter, Delmont)  
 November 14 (Lamplighter, Delmont)  
 December 12 (Lamplighter, Delmont)

## Westmoreland Heritage Trail 2024 Event Calendar

### FEBRUARY

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
Sat, Feb 10	6 PM	10 <sup>th</sup> Annual WHT Comedy Night	Colton Hall, Claridge

### APRIL

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
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### MAY

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
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### JUNE

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
Sat June 1	9 AM – 2 PM	WHT Festival and Poker Run	Murrysville Community Center and Zone 4

### JULY

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
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### AUGUST

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
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### SEPTEMBER

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
Thur Sept 12	6 PM	WHT Volunteer Dinner	TBA
Sat Sept 14	9 AM - 2 PM	Wealth Management Trail Walk	Export to Carson Braun

### OCTOBER

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
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### NOVEMBER

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
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### DECEMBER

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
Thur Dec 12	7 PM	WHT Christmas Gathering	Lamplighter