



*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 9, 2025

Meeting Held Via Zoom

### **Meeting Attendees:**

- Board (15): Michael Bertonaschi, Karen Rose Cercone, Rob Cronauer, Wendy Davis, Jerry Detar, Chad Emahizer, Liz Ferri, Rick Fisher, Geri Lombardo, Chris Panichella, Stan Rudge, Vicki Rudge, Malcolm Sias, Annamarie Stackiewicz, Ann Wade
- Absent Board (6): Mike Banda, Monica Meehan, Darrin Miller, Pat Norton, Tom Marcin, Kerry Jobe
- Guests and Members (5): Amy and Greg Imblum, Jeff Richards, Christie H and Dean Matanin

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

**1. WHT MISSION STATEMENT** – was read by the secretary.

**2. PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS** – the president wished everyone a Happy New Year.

**3. PUBLIC INPUT/INTRODUCTIONS** – none

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. The minutes from the December 12, 2024 meeting were approved on a motion by Annamarie Stackiewicz seconded by Chad Emahizer.

**5. TREASURER’S REPORT** – Chris Panichella

- a. New and renewed memberships in December came to \$249, donations amounted to \$3,350 for a total revenue of \$3599. Expenses for December included maintenance costs of \$276, equipment costs of \$77, visitor amenities costs of \$521 and miscellaneous expenses of \$1031, for a total of \$1,906 in expenses.
- b. As of December 30, 2024, we had \$14,509 in our Money Market accounts (S&T Bank), \$73,521 in our checking account (S&T Bank), \$40,990 in one Certificate of Deposit (S&T Bank), \$50,000 in a second Certificate of Deposit (S&T Bank) and \$68,484 invested with Fidelity (Wealth Enhancement Advisors). Our building fund stands at \$29,776, making our total funds \$277,281.
- c. On a motion by Michael Bertonaschi, seconded by Wendy Davis, the December Treasurer’s reports were approved.

**6. ITEMS FOR ACTION AND/OR INFORMATION**

- a. Official Correspondence
  - We were informed by Laura Hawkins, Greenway Coordinator of the Pittsburgh-to-Harrisburg Main Line Canal Greenway, that a recent donation from Roy Weil and Mary Shaw of \$4,250 included \$1000 earmarked for the Westmoreland Heritage Trail. Stan thanked both Roy and Mary for their long-standing commitment to the trail.

## 7. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Update on Comedy Night – Rob Cronauer
  - Ticket sales have been slow so far, but that is typical for this time of year. Rob encouraged trail members to either buy tickets, recruit sponsors, or make baskets for the auction.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Spring Membership Drive- Wendy Davis
  - WHT will again hold a membership drive with a prize drawing in the month of February. A membership drive mailing will be sent to all yearly members, with a special notice sent to those whose memberships expired in 2024.

## 9. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **Real Estate, Planning, Engineering and Construction** – Jeff Richards
  - On December 27, 2024, Westmoreland County finalized their trail easement agreement with the White Valley Social Club. This will be helpful in applying for a DCNR grant from Morosini trail head to White Valley trail head.
  - Work has proceeded with PennDOT on the tunnel to cross Route 66. An advertisement went out to engineering firms for statements of interest went out in December. Four firms responded with their qualifications, which have been ranked. A recommendation has gone to the county commissioners who will act on it at their next January meeting.
- b. **Public Relations** – Vicki Rudge
  - Facebook followers stand at 3775, Instagram at 124 and X /Twitter at 164.
  - The WHT website had 334 visitors, viewing 804 different pages.
  - WHT merchandise options have been selected, and price estimates have been requested. Vicki Rudge made a motion to spend up to \$2500 on WHT articles of clothing. Wendy Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
  - Vicki recommended that the trail look into the possibility of taking credit card and Venmo payments. Chris Panichella and Chad Emahizer volunteered to investigate the best options.
  - Vicki Rudge made a motion, seconded by Annamarie Stackiewicz, to hold a third annual Poker Run and Trail Town Festival in Export on June 7, 2025. Ann Wade will chair the event. The motion passed.
- c. **Membership** – Wendy Davis
  - Membership at the end of December stood at 497 active members. Vicki suggested we offer a free gift to the 500<sup>th</sup> person to join. This will be publicized on social media.
- d. **Website** - Chad Emahizer
  - The website has been updated with new forms and an advertisement for Comedy Night.
- e. **Maintenance** – Rick Fisher and Chad Emahizer
  - Rick Fisher made a motion, seconded by Malcolm Sias, to spend up to \$200 on a foot-pedal for the Ventrac tractor to make it easier to use on the trail.
  - Michael Bertonaschi reported that the light at Saunders Station seems to be too dark.
- e. **Fundraising** – Rob Cronauer
  - Corporate Sponsorship placards will be placed on the Slickville shed (mirroring what we have placed on the Roberts Trail Head Visitor’s Center.)
  - Trail members can direct potential sponsors to our website for the form to sign up. Any questions should be directed to Rob.

f. **Trail Ambassadors** – Stan Rudge

- Stan plans to have a Trail Ambassador training class in March. Karen Rose is assembling volunteer hours for 2024 and will include them in the Winter 2025 newsletter.

g. **Regional Trail Corporation / Trans-Allegheny Trails** – Stan Rudge

- The eastern end of the Ghost Town Trail now has a completed loop.

h. **Municipal Representatives**

- Nothing to report.

**10.** Next month's WHT Meeting will be held via Zoom on February 13, 2025 from 7:00 to 8:00 PM.

**11.** On a motion by Rob Cronauer seconded by Ann Wade, the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Rose Cercone, Secretary

## Westmoreland Heritage Trail 2025 Event Calendar

Month	Date	Time	Event	Location
JAN	9	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Zoom
FEB	13	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Zoom
MAR	7 & 8	6 PM	Comedy Nights at LIVE Casino	Greensburg
	13	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Zoom
APR				
	10	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Lamplighter
MAY				
	8	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Lamplighter
JUN				
	7	9 AM – 2 PM	Community Festival / Poker Run	TBA
	12	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Pedora Park
JUL				
	10	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Pedora Park
AUG				
	14	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Pedora Park
SEP				
	11	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Pedora Park
OCT				
	9	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Lamplighter
NOV				
	13	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Lamplighter
DEC				
	11	6 PM	WHT Volunteer Appreciation Night	TBA