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Meeting Minutes December 10, 2020  
Online via Zoom

Meeting Attendees:

- a. Board: (13) Gordon Conn, Rob Cronauer, Tom Dittman, Rick Fisher, Alyssa Davis, Ted Hayes, Kerry Jobe, Jack Maher, Bill O'Hara, Chris Panichella, Vicki Rudge, Stan Rudge, Ann Wade
  - b. Absent Board: (8) Eileen Elicker, Brandon Lacina, Monica Meehan, Dorothea Motto, Mary Grace Muster, John Nagoda, Pat Norton, and AnnaMarie Stackiewicz
  - c. Guests: Malcolm Sias, Jeff Richards, and Brian Fritz
1. President Stan Rudge led the recitation of "The Pledge of Allegiance" and then called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.
  2. Presidents' Comment – A big thank you to everyone who helped with the CARES Act grant process and hopes that everyone is staying healthy.
  3. Public Input/Introductions – No report.
  4. Approval of Minutes –
    - a. A motion was made to approve the November minutes by Maher, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wade, motion carried, minutes approved.
  5. Treasurer's Report – Jack Maher
    - a. For the month of November, WHT had \$28,500 in the Capital Reserve for the storage building, \$45,000 in the general Money Market account, and \$13,500 in the checking account. The \$650 in the Delmont Visionary reserve account has been returned to the Delmont Visionary Committee. We have \$1,000 from the grant for the second round of historical plaques. Total current assets are at \$85,000. Memberships, donations, post plaques and benches are all still up from last year, so great job everyone! Our net profit is up by \$4,000 and expenses are down. We will have an additional \$25,000 from the CARES Act grant as well.
    - b. A motion was made to approve the November treasurer report by O'Hara, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Conn, motion carried, report approved.
  6. RTC Report – No report
  7. TAT Report – Stan Rudge
    - a. Work continues on the new map, and the WHT will pay their \$150 dues to the group for the 2020-2021 website cycle.
  8. Committee Reports -
    - a. Real Estate and Acquisitions – Malcolm Sias
      - i. Nothing new to report
    - b. Engineering and Construction – Jeff Richards
      - i. A site visit was made to the White Valley Social Club for a possible location for the future WHT maintenance building. The search should continue for other possible options.
      - ii. Updates will continue for the construction occurring along the trail for the FTMSA sewer line work.
    - c. Fundraising –Rob Cronauer
      - i. The mile markers from mile 0 to Rangos have been updated with all old, unpaid post plaques removed and any existing are now paid up. The next sections of the trail will be targeted for the beginning of 2021.
      - ii. There are talks of a possible virtual Comedy Night fundraiser; more info to follow.

- iii. 15 benches were installed in 2020, and there are 9 more that are ready to be installed in 2021.
  - a. There is a rogue old bench application with the \$750 donation out on the internet somewhere. Places that may have links to the application were asked to check to make sure their links are up to date.
  - b. Starting Jan. 1, all individuals must pay the \$1,000 donation price.
- iv. A motion was made to return \$250 to Bruce Stevens for overpaying on his bench application by Hayes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Maher. Motion carried. A call will be placed to let him know that the money will be returned.
- d. Public Relations – Vicki Rudge
  - i. WHT now has 2,364 Facebook followers and 98 Twitter followers.
  - ii. Social media will continue to be updated.
  - iii. The PR team has been promoting memberships and merchandise for Christmas gift ideas.
  - iv. Murrysville is hosting a 12 miles in 12 weeks challenge for the community that encourages everyone to get out and use their local parks and trails. See the link for more info: [Murrysville's 12 for 12 Challenge | Murrysville, PA.](#)
  - v. The WHT has published one full year of our quarterly newsletter! The 1<sup>st</sup> quarter newsletter for 2021 is in the works.
- e. Membership –Gordon Conn
  - i. Conn started out by thanking everyone for participating via Zoom.
  - ii. The trail now has 301 members, which means we beat our 295 membership total of 2019! Three membership drive letters were sent out throughout the year encouraging the public to join/renew the WHT.
  - iii. 116 members did not renew, however there were lots of new members.
  - iv. WHT will start 2021 with 150 members.
  - v. An advertisement was placed in the Penn Franklin News for the trail.
- f. Trail Ambassadors – Stan Rudge
  - i. Hours continue to be reported for trail ambassadors.
- g. Trail Maintenance – Zone Leaders
  - i. Everything is going good!
  - ii. Zone 1: No issues.
  - iii. Zone 2: No issues.
  - iv. Zone 3: No issues.
  - v. Zone 4: Plans are in place to fix the large rut at the entrance to the Carson Braun parking lot. Monica Meehan has volunteered to empty the garbage can at Carson Braun.
  - vi. Zone 5: No report.
- h. Delmont Visionary Committee – Anna Marie Stackiewicz
  - i. No report
- i. Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation – Chris Panichella
  - i. Parks is helping WHT with Toro maintenance.
  - ii. 10,000 new trail brochures have been printed. Eventually the trail address will need changed from TMR's address.
  - iii. Replacement boards for the bridge discussed earlier this year are being sent, which will be better material than was previously used.
- j. Municipal Representatives
  - i. Penn Twp: Stan Rudge reported that he would be attending the next township meeting to thank them for their work on and support of the trail.
  - ii. Monroeville: Conn reported that he has passed on word to the municipality that the WHT is very appreciative of their work.
  - iii. Salem Two: Jobe reported that the township is waiting to hear about their Lauffer Mine Rd. grant application to the Westmoreland Conservation District's Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road program. The next section of the trail will cross this road and a new parking lot will be constructed near the intersection.

- k. Historical and Turtle Creek Railroad – Ann Wade
  - i. Wade has been sorting through interviews and materials.
  - ii. A conductor on the railroad will hopefully be interviewed soon.
  - iii. Wade has volunteered to spearhead the efforts to reach out to Karen Cercone and move the second round of historical plaques forward.
  - iv. Any historical documents and materials can be passed onto Wade at [whthistory2020@gmail.com](mailto:whthistory2020@gmail.com).
- 9. Old Business
  - a. The DCNR Trail of the Year Application has been submitted.
- 10. New Business
  - a. Two board members are up for re-election (Dorothea Motto and Monica Meehan).
    - i. The floor was then opened for additional nominations.
      - A. O’Hara nominated Malcolm Sias, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Wade.
      - B. Vicki Rudge nominated John Russo, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> from Dittman.
    - ii. Nominees will be contacted to accept or decline their nominations, and elections will take place at the January 2021 board meeting.
    - iii. After reviewing the Articles of Association, it was brought to the executive committee’s attention that the WHT’s municipal representatives should be re-nominated on a 3-year term schedule.
      - A. After some discussion on the best way to implement this, it was determined that Stan Rudge would reach out to each municipality to determine their re-appointment schedules and assign terms to each municipality accordingly.
  - b. The WHT received their \$25,000 check from the CARES Act award. Approx \$43,600 of loss was submitted with supporting documentation. The awarded money must be allocated by Dec. 31, 2020.
    - i. A motion to have the officers allocate funds and report back to the board in January was made by Conn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vicki Rudge, motion carried. Officers will allocate funds and report back.
  - c. A motion to move \$20,000 from the general Money Market account into the designated building fund was made by O’Hara, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hayes. Motion carried, \$20,000 will be moved into the building fund.
    - i. This money is will still be located within the Money Market account. It is just now designated as building funds. There will be a total of \$48,000 in the building fund once this money is moved.
- 11. The next meeting will be on January 14, 2021 online via Zoom.
  - On a motion by Cronauer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wade, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alyssa Davis, Secretary