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**Meeting Minutes October 11, 2018 (Draft V3)  
Lamplighter Restaurant, Delmont, PA**

1. Meeting Attendees:
  - a. Board: (16) Gordon Conn, Rob Cronauer, Tom Dittman, Eileen Elicker, Rick Fisher, Ted Hayes, Jack Maher, Meghan Nelson, Bill O'Hara, Dorothea Motto, Reynold Peduzzi, Jeff Richards, Tom Ronksley, Stan Rudge, John Sopko – Malcolm Sias, Westmoreland Co. Parks and Recreation
  - b. Guests: Doug Ekeroth, Veronica Ekeroth. Mike Finnegan, Jinny Hugs, Chris Leo, Chris Panichella, Dee O'Hara, Vicki Rudge, Paul Scheinert, Ron Trozzo and others
2. President Stan Rudge led the recitation of "The Pledge of Allegiance", and then called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.
3. President's Comments
  - a. The dedication of the Blue Star Memorial Marker at the Robert's Parcel Trail Access parking area will be Sunday October 21, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.
  - b. A HUGE WHT Thank You to Doug Ekeroth for the construction and completion of the replacement kiosk at Sarah Steele Parking Access in Slickville.
  - c. A WHT Congratulations to Reynold Peduzzi, Board Member and Trafford Representative who received the Lewis Fellowship Award for Outstanding Public Service at the annual Westmoreland Citizens Advisory Board Ceremony on September 20<sup>th</sup> at Twin Lakes Park.
  - d. A HUGE WHT Thank You to Bill O'Hara (a.k.a. Paul Bunyan), Ted Hayes (a.k.a. Babe 1) and Tom Dittman (a.k.a. Babe 2) for extensive tree removal and trail clearing during the past rainy weather.
  - e. A HUGE WHT Thank You to Jeff Richards, Malcolm Sias, Lauren Jones, and Mark Jackson, for the completely updated New Trail Brochures.
  - f. A HUGE WHT Thank You to the Municipality of Monroeville, Trafford Borough and Penn Township for their "Clean-UP" efforts after the latest Turtle Creek flood.
  - g. A HUGE WHT Thank You to Westmoreland County Parks for providing the base materials and Top Crushed Limestone and to Penn Township for providing the equipment and manpower to repair the trail washout after the latest Turtle Creek flood.
4. Public Input - Gordon Conn reported on Monroeville's Active Transportation Plan
  - a. The project is funded by the R.K. Mellon Foundation.
  - b. The WHT Connector from Trafford to the GAP is part of the Plan.
  - c. There is a Public Meeting on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. at the Monroeville Council Chambers.
  - d. A Feasibility Study has been funded and should be completed within one year.
5. Approval of Minutes

- a. A WHT Thank You to Alyssa Harden for volunteering as Secretary for the September Meeting.
  - b. There was one correction: Doug Ekeroth completed the Sarah Steele Kiosk, not Doug Webster as reported.
  - c. A motion was made to approve the July minutes as corrected by Richards, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nelson, Motion carried, minutes approved.
6. Treasurer's Report
- a. Treasurer Maher, reported \$47,825.88 in total assets.
  - b. Treasurer Maher reported that the S&T Checking Account has \$24,516.17 as essentially "Cash on Hand", and \$1,947.00 in a reserve fund for the Sarah Steele Kiosk.
  - c. Approximately \$900.00 will be spent on "Polycarbonate Windows" for the kiosk display boards before the reserve fund is closed.
  - d. A motion to approve the treasurer's report by Conn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Elicker, Motion carried, report approved.
7. RTC Report – No Report
8. TAT Report – No Report
9. Committee Reports
- a. Real Estate and Acquisitions – Malcolm Sias reported that there have been no communications from Norfolk Southern RR.
  - b. Engineering and Construction – Jeff Richards
    - i. Design Plans for Phase IV are "Out for Bidding".
    - ii. October 18<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to submit bids.
  - c. Fund Raising – Rey Peduzzi
    - i. Both personal and commercial plaques have been installed on the newly installed Mile Marker Posts.
    - ii. 911 information, Community Locale and website information is also posted.
    - iii. The WHT will again provide parking support for the Export Festival next year.
  - d. Public Relations – Vicki Rudge
    - i. Our Facebook page now has 1159 followers.
    - ii. A Complimentary T-Shirt was awarded to the 1000<sup>th</sup> Facebook follower.
    - iii. The Community Festival Booths were a huge success.
      1. Shirt and Hats sales grossed \$985.00
      2. The Delmont Festival sadly was a rainout. Elieen Elecker, at great personal peril, attempted to save the WHT booth canopy, but the high winds overwhelmed her efforts.
      3. In all, Festival Proceeds amounted to \$1,488.00
    - iv. The Trail Town Tour tentatively slated for May 18, 19, 2019. Community representatives are asked to attend a planning meeting at the Lamplighter Restaurant, Tuesday November 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.
    - v. The WHT website is going well with additional "Links" being added. \$99.00 has been paid to World Press for the Website Service. A WHT Thank You to Alyssa Harden for being our "webmaster".

- e. Membership – Gordon Conn.
  - i. Gordon reported that we now have 136 active members for 2018 exceeding last year's membership of 107 members.
  - ii. A discussion on the "Membership Year" was led by Gordon Conn
    - 1. Retain the current February / February format.
    - 2. Change the format to be the January / December Calendar Year
    - 3. Change the format to a Date Dues Paid Anniversary Year.
    - 4. A motion to change to a Calendar Year format was made by Conn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sopko, motion passed. Membership will now be January to December.
- f. Trail Ambassadors (Monitors) – Stan Rudge reported there is flood damage on the trail from Slickville to Delmont and there are sections that are narrowed to "one lane".
- g. Trail Maintenance – Tom Dittman
  - i. Work Party Series
    - 1. Tom Dittman is continuing the bi-weekly Work Party Program, Thursdays and Saturdays of each week beginning at specific locations where work is needed.
    - 2. The work parties will meet at 9:00 a.m. weather permitting. Tom will email interested volunteers a day in advance of the event.
  - ii. Trail users are encouraged to identify dead trees with a "Green Ribbon or green tape" to make the tree visible in winter easier for trail maintenance to respond.
  - iii. A "Tow Behind" trimmer has been purchased for the trail funded by a Trail Volunteer Fund Grant.
  - iv. A work party is being organized to cut off the bottom 6" of all wire fencing so that the trimmer can get under it.

## 10. Old Business

- a. The Sarah Steele Parking Access Kiosk has been completed except for polycarbonate glazing for the display cases.
- b. The Slickville Maintenance Building discussion remained tabled.
- c. Alternative to Slickville Maintenance Building.
  - i. President Rudge suggested an alternate plan to construct a Maintenance Shed, a pavilion, restrooms and a picnic area at the proposed Park-and-Ride on Old William Penn Highway near Meier's Hardware.
  - ii. It was agreed the building needs four bays and be a 40 x 60 structure.
- d. The United Day of Caring volunteers successfully painted the sides of two Phase IV bridges. A WHT Thank You to Tom Dittman and Tom Ronksley for returning and painting the bridge decks.

## 11. New Business

- a. Karen Cercone may apply for a Tourism Grant to fund historical markers along the trail. The markers would complement her Google.Maps effort to provide trail users with trail information. If successful, the WHT would match the grant at a 25% / 75% ratio. A motion was made by Peduzzi to match up to \$4000.00 or \$1000.00 from the

trail, 2<sup>nd</sup> O'Hara, Motion passed, Treasurer Maher will set aside a reserve fund for this effort

- b. The Coal and Coke Trail will be hosting their annual Comedy Night at the Scottsdale Fire Hall on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Tickets are \$30.00 and include dinner.
- c. The Mammoth Park Giant Slide, constructed in 1973, will have a "Last Ride" Event with snacks, photos, music, raffles and games on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Ride Tickets are \$25.00 with a chance to win the Grand Prize. The slide will be replaced with two stainless steel "racing" slides with twists and tunnels. There will also be a shorter fun slide for younger visitors. Please plan to attend.
- d. Trail Communities have requested permission to erect "Welcome to Trail Town" markers where trail users cross their political boundary. Malcolm Sias will consult with the communities to insure the markers conform to consistency standards before they are erected.
- e. The Newly Instituted Meeting 50/50 Drawing was won by Sopko and netted the treasury \$44.00.

On a motion by Elicker, 2<sup>nd</sup> Hayes, the meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

The next meeting will be on November 8th at The Lamplighter Restaurant in Delmont starting at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Sopko, 2018 Secretary

Attachments:

Voting on Mile Marker Posts Expense not to exceed \$280 7/27/18					
	Board Member	Yea	Nay	Abstain	No Vote
1	Bob Burton				X
2	Rob Cronauer	Yea			
3	Gordon Conn	Yea			
4	Tom Dittman	Yea			
5	Eileen Elicker	Yea			
6	Rick Fisher				X
7	Noel Grimm				X
8	Ted Hayes	Yea			
9	Kerry Jobe	Yea			
10	Jack Maher	Yea			
11	Monica Meehan				X
12	Dorothea Motto				X
13	Mary Grace Muster	Yea			
14	John Nagoda	Yea			
15	Megan Nelson	Yea			
16	Bill O'Hara	Yea			
17	Reynold Peduzzi	Yea			
18	Jeff Richards				X
19	Tom Ronksley	Yea			
20	Stan Rudge	Yea			
21	John Sopko	Yea			
		15	0	0	6
( 11 Yeas needed to pass. )					