



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)

Meeting Minutes October 2023

Lamplighter Restaurant, Delmont PA

Meeting Attendees:

- Board (14): Karen Rose Cercone, Jerry Detar, Elizabeth Ferri, Rick Fisher, Geri Lombardo, Tom Marcin, Darrin Miller, Pat Norton, Chris Panichella, Stan Rudge, Vicki Rudge, Malcolm Sias, AnnaMarie Stackiewicz, Ann Wade
- Absent Board (6): Rob Cronauer, Wendy Davis, Chad Emahizer, Kerry Jobe, Mike Ley, Monica Meehan
- Guests and Members (8): Jerry Babcock, Mike Banda, Michael Bertonaschi, Sarah Colligan, Barbara Coulter, Jim Coulter, Tim Leriottis, Carol Richardson

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM.
2. President's Comments – Stan Rudge thanked all of the volunteers who have kept our trails in great shape throughout the summer and noted that the trail will continue to be very busy this fall. Stan also noted that former board member Bill O'Hara received a service award at the Green Luncheon.
3. Public Input/Introductions – none
4. Approval of Minutes
 - a. A motion to approve the August and September 2023 minutes was made by Detar and seconded by Stackiewicz. The motion carried and the minutes were approved.
5. Treasurer's Report – Chris Panichella
 - a. As of September 30, 2023, we have \$53,981.26 in the Money Market account, \$85,142.88 in the checking account and \$53,586.48 invested for a total of \$192,034.95 in current assets. We have \$18,971 in fixed assets, making our total assets \$211,005. 97.
 - b. A motion to approve the August and September 2023 Treasurer's Reports was made by Sias and seconded by Norton. The motion carried and the two Treasurer's Report were approved.
6. **ITEMS FOR ACTION AND/OR INFORMATION**
 - a. Walmart – Delmont has given a combined grant to the RTC to support all area trails. A contribution of \$1000 will be presented to the WHT at the Grand Re-Opening ceremony **on Friday, November 3 at 8:00 AM**. Members are requested to be present if possible.
 - b. Upcoming Events – see attached Trail Calendar
 - DNA Charity Costume Run – Norton moved and Ferri seconded approval of this event. The motion carried.
 - Murrysville Trick or Treat on the Trail – Cercone moved and Lombardo seconded approval of this event. The motion carried.
 - Young Life 5K – Detar moved and Stackiewicz seconded approval of this event. The motion carried.

7. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Nominations for open board position – none submitted.
- b. Trail monitors/ambassadors are needed to help with road crossings for the Export Witch's Ride Saturday (1-4 PM) near Helltown Brewery
- c. An LSA Grant was submitted by Stan Rudge for trail maintenance equipment.
- d. Signs will be posted at Saunders Station about possible security surveillance.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Political stickers will be removed from stop signs near School Road.
- b. Report on possible loss of parking spaces at Parkside Creamery / Wye Beer lot. Jeff Richards has discovered that some of the trail parking spaces in this lot are actually on Westmoreland County property. The County offered to support Wye Beer in an appeal for a variance of the parking regulations to Trafford Borough. Jeff also talked to the Pennsylvania Environmental Council about a possible detour route of the trail into downtown Trafford to provide additional parking. The PEC asked us to wait before exploring a possible detour route because they have a meeting scheduled with Norfolk Southern to discuss donation of the entire line for the Turtle Creek Connector Trail. S. Rudge suggested that the nearby Lisa's Bike Shop building (currently on sale for \$187,000) would make a great trail visitor's center and add more parking spaces.
- c. A motion to make December the WHT's designated Annual Meeting was made by Panichella, and seconded by Miller. WHT officers will be nominated in November with elections to occur at the December holiday meeting. The motion carried.
- d. Trail counter statistics continue to show heavy usage in Zones 4 and 5.

9. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **Real Estate, Planning, Engineering and Construction** – Jeff Richards
 - Murrysville – Jeff met with staff from Murrysville Public Works, Murrysville Parks and Rec, and White Valley Athletic & Social Club. Mackin is developing a master plan for this section.
 - Tunnel location under Route 66 – the donation agreement with Richard Kacin was extended until the end of the year, due to Dollar General delays in PennDOT permitting.
 - Grants have been submitted to PennDOT and TASA for the tunnel construction.
 - DCNR has given Westmoreland County \$500,000 to help close the Middle Gap.
 - Zone 1 and 2 resurfacing will occur in the next few weeks with crushed limestone.
- b. **Public Relations** – Vicki Rudge
 - The WHT's Facebook followers now stand at 3455 with our Twitter followers at 168 and Instagram at 67. The WHT website got 614 unique visitors in June with 1288 hits.
 - New WHT merchandise will be made available through an online vendor. V. Rudge requested assistance with this from a trail member. If interested, please contact her.
- c. **Membership** – Wendy Davis (report by Vicki Rudge)
 - We have added 89 new or renewing members this year.
 - As of today, we have 440 active members, up 4 from September.
 - An additional 20 new memberships were given out to participants in the WCD Biking for Conservation event today.
- d. **Maintenance** – Rick Fisher and Chad Emahizer
 - Grant money for the new tractor will be transferred to the RTC after a cooperative agreement is approved by the County Commissioners this evening.

- Some parts will be needed to repair the Toro tractors over the winter.
 - The possible addition of permanent air pump stations along the trail will be explored by S. Rudge.
 - Portable air pumps for the tractors and quads were also requested for the maintenance budget.
 - Rumble strips have now been installed at Saunders Station, with lines painted at all crossings.
- e. **Fundraising** – Heather Shearer
- Ted Hayes Bike Run and Walk - \$4240 will be donated to the trail following the event. Forty-six baskets were donated by various sponsors including local restaurants and stores.
- f. **Trail Ambassadors** – Stan Rudge
- All ambassadors and monitors were asked to continue submitting their volunteer hours.
- g. **Regional Trail Corporation / Trans-Allegheny Trails** – Stan Rudge
- The monthly RTC meeting will be held next Wednesday
- h. **Municipal Representatives** –
- **Anne Marie Stackiewicz (Delmont)** – Delmont Apple & Arts Festival gathered \$50 in donations for the trail. Raffle tickets still available for the bike
 - **Tom Marcin (Murrysville)** – Tom Marcin and Ann Wade will be handing out candy for Trick or Treat on behalf of the trail. Wade will purchase the candy and bring receipts to the next meeting.
10. Next month's WHT Board meeting will take place on November 9 at the Lamplighter – Delmont. Nominations for 2024 WHT Officers will occur at this meeting.
11. On a motion by Norton, seconded by Stackiewicz, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Rose Cercone, Secretary

Westmoreland Heritage Trail 2023 Event Calendar

APRIL

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
Sat April 22	8 AM - Noon	Dustin Norris Memorial Race	Zone 4
Tues April 25	6 PM	WHT Trail Ambassador Training	WCD Greensburg
Sat April 29	8 AM – 3 PM	Norwin Air Force Junior ROTC	Zones 4 and 5
Sun April 30	7:30–11:30 AM	Burn Boot Camp MDA 5K Race	Zone 4

MAY

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
Thur May 4	All Day	Trail Life National Day of Prayer	Zone 4

JUNE

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
Sat June 3	9 AM – 2 PM	WHT Festival and Poker Run	B-Y Park and Zone 5
Sun June 16	10 AM	Joy Rider Bike Ride	Zone 4

JULY

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
July 15	7 AM - Noon	GCXC Racing Event	Carson-Braun to Duff

AUGUST

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
Sat Aug 12	8:30-noon	Slickville Centennial Challenge	Zone 1
Sat Aug 19	All Day	Export Ethnic Festival	Zone 4
Sat Aug 26	All Day	Ted Hayes Memorial	Zone 1

SEPTEMBER

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
Thur Sept 14	7 PM	WHT Volunteer Dinner	Piper Bay Café

OCTOBER

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
Thur Oct 12	4 – 6 PM	WCD Biking for Conservation	Zones 4 and 5
Sat Oct 14	7– 11 AM	Halloween Hot Foot Race	Zone 4
Sun Oct 15	1 – 5 PM	Witches' Ride	Zone 4
Sat Oct 28	8 AM – 1 PM	GCXC Racing Event	Carson-Braun to Duff
Sat Oct 28	10:30 AM-12	DNA Charity Costume Run	Ginny's to Penn-Murry
Sat Oct 28	11 AM – 4 PM	Trick or Treat on the Trail	Murrysville CC - Roberts

NOVEMBER

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
Sat Nov 4	7 - 11 AM	Young Life 5K Race	Zone 4

DECEMBER

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
Thur Dec 14	7 PM	WHT Annual Meeting and Holiday Celebration	The Lamplighter