



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)

WHT October Board Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2025

Lamplighter Restaurant, Delmont PA

Meeting Attendees:

- Board (17): Mike Banda, Michael Bertonaschi, Karen Rose Cercone, Rob Cronauer, Wendy Davis, Chad Emahizer, Rick Fisher, Kerry Jobe, Geri Lombardo, Tom Marcin, Monica Meehan, Chris Panichella, Stan Rudge, Vicki Rudge, Malcolm Sias, AnnaMarie Stackiewicz, Ann Wade
- Absent Board (4): Jerry Detar, Liz Ferri, Darrin Miller, Pat Norton
- Guests and Members (8): Jerry Babcock, Tim Dunn, Mike Grimaldi, Hal Lester, Jeff Richards, John Ruccio, Brooke Russick, Dan Sigg

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

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

- The Pennsylvania Environmental Council is using our trail as their beta test site for their trail sustainability initiative. They will donate \$15,000 to \$20,000 in grant funding to assist trails with maintenance as part of this project.

3. PUBLIC INPUT/INTRODUCTIONS – none

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. The minutes from the September 11, 2025 meeting were approved on a motion by Chad Emahizer, seconded by Mike Banda. The motion passed.

5. TREASURER'S REPORTS

- a) As of August 31, 2025, we have \$14,941 in our Money Market accounts (S&T Bank), \$21,093 in our checking account (S&T Bank), \$40,989 in one Certificate of Deposit (S&T Bank), \$52,258 in a second Certificate of Deposit (S&T Bank) and \$72,904 invested with Fidelity (Wealth Enhancement Advisors), making our total funds \$231,963. We received \$50 in memberships (new and renewals) plus \$240 in donations. We spent \$9519 on equipment and \$4898 on visitor amenities. A motion was made by Ann Wade, seconded by Karen Rose Cercone, to approve the August treasurer's report. The motion passed.
- b) As of September 30, 2025, we have \$15,233 in our Money Market accounts (S&T Bank), \$20,688 in our checking account (S&T Bank), \$40,989 in one Certificate of Deposit (S&T Bank), \$52,258 in a second Certificate of Deposit (S&T Bank) and \$72,904 (not updated) invested with Fidelity (Wealth Enhancement Advisors), making our total funds \$231,557. We received \$30 in memberships (new and renewals) plus \$228 in donations. We spent \$386 on maintenance and \$3696 on visitor amenities. A motion was made by Malcolm Sias, seconded by Michael Bertonaschi, to approve the September treasurer's report. The motion passed.

6. ITEMS FOR ACTION AND/OR INFORMATION

- No new correspondence or event requests were received in the past month.

7. OLD BUSINESS

- a) The Export 100 trail run went well, with several racers completing the course. This was a pilot project, which is anticipated to become much larger in the future. Any profits from future trail runs will be donated to the trail as a fundraiser.
- b) The anticipated Joyriders bike donation will probably occur late in the year or early next year. The location for storage will need to be determined. If the Murrysville quad is not going to be used on the trail, perhaps that space could be utilized for the Joyriders bike.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Nomination of board members for 2026-2028 terms
 - Board members whose terms expire at the end of 2025 are Karen Rose Cercone (at large), Kerry Jobe (Salem Township), Geri Lombardo (Loyalhanna Township), Pat Norton (at large), AnnaMarie Stackiewicz (Delmont Borough), and Ann Wade (at large).
 - Kerry Jobe indicated that he would be willing to turn over the responsibilities as municipal representatives to another Salem Township resident, since his available time has become quite limited. Salem Township will be asked to appoint a new liaison.
 - The three at-large representatives and the two other municipal representatives all indicated that they were willing to serve another three-year term on the board and all were nominated.
 - Nominations will remain open through the November board meeting, with elections to be held in December

9. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **Real Estate, Planning, Engineering and Construction** – Jeff Richards
 - The Westmoreland County furloughs due to the state budget crisis have stalled progress on approving the GAI contract.
 - The White Valley Social Club continues to work with Murrysville on a new road/driveway opposite Pedora Park.
 - Rick Fisher has been exploring zoning options with Murrysville for the Kacin property at Route 66 and Industrial Drive. It is currently zoned for business use.
 - Malcolm Sias has received a proposal from GAI for the planning work to be done on the RTC property at Route 66 and Industrial Drive. A committee will review it in the next week or so.
- b. **Public Relations** – Vicki Rudge
 - Facebook followers stand at 3977, Instagram at 187 and X at 163.
 - Kathy and Dan Sigg, our trail counter volunteers, reported third quarter trail usage was consistent with last year, except for a decrease in June due to the floods.
 - The WHT now has a shelf for our merchandise at the RTC Visitors Center in West Newton. Green hooded sweatshirts are now available again to purchase.
 - New WHT trail logo windbreakers will be offered as appreciation gifts to our active volunteers as part of appreciation night in December. Members who are not volunteers will be able to purchase them if desired, like our other merchandise.

- c. **Membership** – Wendy Davis
 - Membership at the end of August stood at 564 active members.
 - d. **Website and Merchandise** - Chad Emahizer
 - Views of the website were 2445 in September with visitor numbers at 1029. The URL (domain) has been renewed for another year.
 - Volunteer forms are ready to be rolled out on the website to collect names of potential volunteers.
 - e. **Maintenance** – Rick Fisher
 - Rick reports that only a few trees have come down in the past month. The Ventrac is in need of repair and will be taken to Fletchers soon.
 - Three benches have been installed so far by Zone 5 (thanks to a loan of bench frames from Five Star Trail), with two more waiting on the bench frames that are on order.
 - The new PennDOT signs for the Forbes Road / Route 130 trail crossing are ready for installation, although they are not much different than the current signs.
 - e. **Fundraising** – Rob Cronauer
 - The current Corporate Sponsors will be sent letters this fall for 2026 renewal.
 - f. **Trail Ambassadors** – Stan Rudge
 - Stan commended the ambassadors for their work this past month.
 - Michael Bertonaschi noted that dirt bike issues have continued, especially on weekends and in the evening, and the trail surface is suffering. New signs will be requested from County Parks with specific prohibitions on electronic dirt bikes. Efforts will also be made to communicate with Rep. Jill Cooper, who is sponsoring new legislation about dirt bikes.
 - g. **Regional Trail Corporation / Trans-Allegheny Trails** – Stan Rudge
 - The RTC Retreat will be held on Saturday, January 24. Ann Wade is the WHT liaison.
 - h. **Municipal Representatives** –
 - In Monroeville, Tom Marcin has been shown the plans for the additional parking lot at Saunders Station Road. Bathrooms will be added on the existing parking lot side where the little lending library currently sits.
 - In Delmont, our table at the Apple Festival gathered \$53 in donations and a membership. The Visionary Committee is selling postcards (4 for \$5) featuring bird photos along the trail.
- 10.** Next month's WHT Meeting will be held on November 13, 2025 from 7:00 to 8:00 PM at the Lamplighter Restaurant in Delmont.
- 11.** On a motion by Rob Cronauer, seconded by Chris Panichella, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 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 Night at LIVE Casino	Greensburg
	11	6:30 PM	Trail Ambassador New / Recertifying Training	WCD Barn
	13	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Zoom
APR				
	10	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting (with FOTR/PEC reps)	Lamplighter
	22	5 PM – 7 PM	TCWA & WBNC Earth Day Watershed Walk	Zone 5
	26	8 AM - 2PM	Norwin AF-JR-ROTC Bataan March	Zones 4 & 5
MAY	8	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Lamplighter
JUN	7	9 AM – 2 PM	Community Festival / Poker Run	Export
	12	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Pedora Park
	22	12 PM–5 PM	WHT Table at Trafford FlavorFest	B-Y Park
	29	12 PM-4 PM	WHT Table at Ginni’s CarnivAlz Fundraiser	Ginni’s, Export
JUL	10	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Pedora Park
	13	7 AM–12 PM	GCXC Murrysville Monster 5K	Zone 4
	19	8 AM – 11 AM	CancerBridges Race (tentative)	
AUG	9	All day	Slickville Community Festival	Zone 2
	14	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Pedora Park
	16	All day	WHT Table at Export Heritage Festival	
SEP	7	All day	WHT Table at Trafford Octoberfest	
	11	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Pedora Park
	13	All day	WHT Table at Murrysville Community Day	
OCT	4 & 5	All Day	Export 100 Trail Run	Zones 1-5
	9	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Lamplighter
	12	1 PM - 5 PM	Export Witches Ride	Zone 4
	25	8 AM – 11 AM	GCXC Trick or Treat 5 K Race	Zone 4
NOV	1	7 AM – 1 PM	YoungLife 5K Run Fundraiser	Zone 4
	3	4 – 5 PM	Dedication of America’s 250 th bell	Roberts Parcel
	13	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Lamplighter
DEC	11	6 – 8 PM	WHT Volunteer Appreciation Night	WCD Barn