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**Meeting Minutes November 8, 2018
Lamplighter Restaurant, Delmont, PA**

1. Meeting Attendees:
 - a. Board: (11) Bob Burton, Rick Fisher, Noel Grimm, Ted Hayes, Kerry Jobe, Monica Meehan, Dorothea Motto, Mary Grace Muster, Bill O’Hara, Jeff Richards, Stan Rudge
 - b. Guests: Alyssa Harden (Acting Secretary), Ginny Hayes, Vicki Rudge, Todd Tansimore, Pat Norton, Chris Leo, Zachary Walk, Karen Rose Cercone, Jennifer Reitz, Wendy Davis, Chad Emahizer and others
2. President Stan Rudge led the recitation of “The Pledge of Allegiance” and then called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
3. Presidents’ Comments
 - a. The WHT received a certificate of appreciation from the Murrysville branch of the National Garden Club for the Blue Star Memorial marker dedication.
 - b. A WHT Thank You and Congratulations to Tom Dittman for being awarded the \$1,300 grant he applied for to acquire the weed wacker attachment for the maintenance team.
 - c. A HUGE WHT Thank You to all the maintenance volunteers this past month.
 - d. Eileen Elicker was not present at tonight’s meeting, but Stan Rudge brought a “lock and key” to present to her to thank her for all her dedication to maintaining the various kiosks located throughout the trail.
 - e. Six letters were sent out asking for a donation of funds from businesses that engage in “gaming activities.” One business (the Slickville Sportsman’s Club) purchased a bench.
4. Public Input
 - a. Zachary Walk from the Delmont Fire Dept. asked the trail if they had any accessibility attachment ideas for a UTV that was recently acquired by the Fire Dept. No one had any suggestions at the time, and Stan Rudge said he would see what the board members could come up with.
 - b. It was requested that the trail try and follow up with its members on membership confirmations and renewal letters.
5. Approval of Minutes
 - a. There was one correction: There were 1,109 Facebook followers as of last month’s meeting, not 1,159.

- b. A motion was made to approve the October minutes as corrected by Muster, 2nd by Grimm, Motion carried, minutes approved.
- 6. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Jack Maher was not present, so Todd Tansimore reported on Maher's behalf.
 - b. Tansimore reported \$47,859 in total assets.
 - c. Tansimore reported \$24,610 in net cash, which was about \$3,000 higher than last year.
 - d. Reported income from Jan.-Oct. is \$38,629, which is up about \$6,000 from last year.
 - e. Reported expenses totaled \$33,776, giving a net income of \$4,853, which is up \$7,000 from last year.
 - f. A motion to approve the treasurer's report by Meehan, 2nd by Richards, Motion carried. Report approved.
- 7. RTC Report – no report
- 8. TAT Report – Stan Rudge
 - a. There is a meeting on Nov. 9, 2018, which Stan Rudge reported he'd be attending.
- 9. Committee Reports
 - a. Real Estate and Acquisitions – Jeff Richards reported that an idea has been floated to Norfolk Southern by the expeditors, and progress is inch-by-inch.
 - i. Stan Rudge also reported that Trafford received a \$200,000 bid to fix the top of the hills that are eroding down into the corridor of the possible WHT extension section.
 - b. Engineering and Construction – Jeff Richards
 - i. 7 bids were received for the Phase IV extension, with the lowest bidder being Plum Contracting at the price of \$1,344,000.
 - 1. The bid will be approved at the upcoming Westmoreland County Commissioners meeting.
 - 2. \$103,000 are still needed for Phase IV, and a DCNR grant has been applied for to hopefully cover this remaining cost.
 - ii. The railroad ties have been removed from the bridge near Rivertowne, and the new pre-fabricated sections are being constructed at the Twin Lakes facility.
 - c. Fund Raising
 - i. Sally and Phyllis Burton have volunteered to take charge of the fundraising efforts for the 2019 Comedy Night.
 - 1. Comedy Night will take place on Feb. 16, 2019.
 - ii. The 2019 March for Parks will take place on March 30, 2019.
 - iii. Karen Cercone reported that she thinks she should have a draft of the historical markers by Jan/Feb.
 - d. Public Relations – Vicki Rudge
 - i. Our Facebook page now has 1,126 followers.
 - ii. A PR fundraising meeting for the "Trail Town" event scheduled for next year is taking place at the Lamplighter in Delmont on Tuesday, Nov. 13 at 7 p.m.
 - 1. The goal is to bring together trail members and public officials to work together and present ideas for the event.
 - 2. Community support is needed, and representatives are asked to attend.
 - iii. The WHT website is still doing well and functioning properly.

- e. Membership
 - i. Stan Rudge reported that we have 140 active members for 2018.
- f. Trail Ambassadors (Monitors) – Stan Rudge
 - i. The trail is open and returned to “good” condition.
- g. Trail Maintenance
 - i. Tom Dittman reported in an email that the final mowing of the season has been completed with the new mower, and the leaf blower has been attached. All planned maintenance is finished for the year.
 - ii. The bottom 6” of the wire fencing along the trail have been cut off by the work party to improve the ease of future knotweed mowing- a WHT Thank You to all involved!
 - iii. The trail counter is under repair as it crashed. It will have a 5-week turnaround for the repair, and a monthly report of the count will be reported at future meetings.
 - iv. Rick Fisher’s work donated chains, come-alongs, and straps to the trail-a thank you will be sent.
 - v. The trail is still in need of more storage room. Looking for a garage/building about 40’ x 60’ for maintenance equipment storage.

10. Old Business- no report

11. New Business

- a. Discussion to raise the price of the memorial benches from \$500 to \$750 to cover the price of lifetime maintenance/replacement was positive. This will also make the remaining benches more of a “premium,” since there is limited space available.
 - i. A motion to approve raising the price of memorial benches from \$500 to \$750 was made by Fisher, 2nd by Burton, motion passed. Harden will change the price on the website form.
- b. Future fundraiser ideas to replace the benches when the trail runs out of room included picnic tables, a pavilion, and memorial bricks.
- c. Cercone asked a question about dog-sledding on the trail. Dog-sledding and cross-country skiing is permitted on the trail.
- d. Harden reported that the WCD’s West Nile Virus Technician performed a tick drag earlier that day on the trail section between the FTMSA and MSA and recorded 32 ticks. These were mostly picked up along the ditch side. Harden reminded maintenance volunteers to be pay extra attention and that everyone check their dogs and themselves after using the trail. Spraying shoes and socks with repellent/Permethrin can greatly limit your change of picking up ticks.
- e. The Meeting 50/50 Drawing was won by Meehan, who donated her winnings to the trail to net the treasury \$25.

On a motion by Hayes, 2nd O’Hara, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

The next meeting will be on Dec. 13th at the Spaghetti Steakhouse on Route 22 starting at 7:00 p.m. There will be finger foods after the short meeting to celebrate the holidays.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alyssa Harden, Acting Secretary