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**Meeting Minutes November 14, 2019 (Draft V2)
Italian-American Club, Export, PA**

Meeting Attendees:

- a. Board: (12) Tom Dittman, Rick Fisher, Alyssa Harden (Acting Secretary), Ted Hayes, Kerry Jobe, Jack Maher, Monica Meehan, John Nagoda, Bill O’Hara, Jeff Richards, Stan Rudge, and Anne Marie Stackiewicz
 - b. Malcolm Sias, Director, Westmoreland County Parke and Recreation
 - c. Guests: Sunny Hayes, Dee O’ Hara, Pat Norton, Jeff Pike, Dave Deer, Ann Wade, Wendy Davis, Chad Emahizer, Rudy Kobosky, Joe Knapick, Paula Hartman, Chris Panichella, and others
1. President Stan Rudge led the recitation of “The Pledge of Allegiance” and then called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.
 2. Presidents’ Comments
 - a. President Rudge thanked everyone for attending the meeting and reported there has been 2,372 volunteer hours recorded to date in 2019!
 3. Public Input/Introductions
 - a. Welcome to Cliff, Tom, and Jeff, three brand new members of the trail!
 4. Approval of Minutes
 - a. A motion was made to approve the October meeting minutes by Harden, 2nd by Maher, motion carried, minutes approved.
 5. Treasurer’s Report – Jack Maher
 - a. There is now \$40,256.72 in the Money Market account and \$12,176.06 in the checking account, which has doubled from this time last year. There is \$405 residual funding for the historical markers, and \$500 is in the Delmont Visionary Committee’s reserve account. The trail has \$70,902.54 in total assets.
 - b. Income is up \$10,000 from last year and expenses are down \$9,500, so keep up the good work!
 - c. A motion was made to approve the treasurer’s report by Hayes. 2nd by O’Hara. Motion carried, treasurer’s report approved.
 - d. A motion was made to move the remaining \$405 designated for the historical markers to the general fund by Rudge. 2nd Maher. Motion carried. Money will be moved to the general fund.

6. RTC Report – Stan Rudge
 - a. RTC is now going through their 2018 audit, and we reported to them we have 281 paid members for the WHT!
7. TAT Report – Stan Rudge
 - a. A new Trans Allegheny Trails brochure is being drafted for spring 2020 publication. It will have updated information on the WHT. Grant funding for the new brochure is being considered in place of advertising to pay for the associated costs.
8. Committee Reports
 - a. Real Estate and Acquisitions – Malcolm Sias
 - i. A sales agreement has been signed to purchase land from Route 66 westward. A Phase I Environmental assessment is in progress.
 - b. Engineering and Construction – No report.
 - c. Fund Raising – Stan Rudge
 - i. Please mark your calendars for next year’s Comedy Night, which will be on Feb. 15, 2020 at Colton Hall. Rob Cronauer will have tickets for sale at next month’s meeting. Please consider helping sell tickets!
 - d. Public Relations – Vicki Rudge
 - i. There are currently 1,851 Facebook followers for the WHT page.
 - ii. Ann Wade and Tom Dittman participated in a Halloween Trick or Treat Event on the trail on Oct. 26. The trail has been invited to participate in a Christmas event on Saturday, Dec. 7 at Sardis Park as well. More information will follow, but volunteers will be needed.
 - iii. Ann Wade, Michael Bertomaschi, Monica Meehan, and Vicki Rudge manned a WHT Booth at Forbes Regional Hospital’s Safety Fair on Nov. 4.
 - iv. One of our new trail members, Tom Washburn, has created a 2020 calendar from pictures he has taken along the trail. The PR committee will be discussing possible fundraising/sales opportunities with the calendar.
 - v. A Card Club has been started to send cards to members for various occasions (sickness, condolences, congratulations, etc.). If anyone would like to put in a request, please email whtpr2017@gmail.com.
 - vi. The PR committee is considering starting a quarterly newsletter for the trail. Any input or interest in helping will be greatly appreciated.
 - vii. Make sure the 2nd Annual Trail Towns event is on your calendars for June 6, 2020!
 - e. Membership – Stan Rudge
 - i. As reported earlier, the trail now has a record 281 paid members!
 - f. Trail Ambassadors – Stan Rudge
 - i. Approximately 45 hours of active trail monitoring have been submitted for 2019 to date.
 - ii. A Trail Ambassadors training class is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 5, 2019 at 6:30 pm. The meeting will take approximately 1-1.5 hours at the Zion Lutheran Church in Harrison City. Any ambassadors who have been active longer than 2 years should attend for recurrent training. Please notify Stan ahead of time so he can have an accurate headcount for materials.

- g. Trail Maintenance – Tom Dittman
 - i. The trail had its seemingly annual washout near Trafford, and Westmoreland County Parks has helped out to repair the trail surface.
 - ii. A new trail access has been installed behind Hoss's at the back of the parking lot. Make sure to frequent Hoss's to thank them for their cooperation!
 - h. Delmont Visionary Committee – Anna Marie Stackiewicz
 - i. PennDOT will be coming out to look at options for the Delmont Spur of the trail, and an active transportation plan is being drafted. Ms. Stackiewicz will be traveling to Indiana County for a PennDOT technical assistance meeting in regards to working on the active transportation plan.
9. Old Business
- a. The WHT Christmas/Holiday celebration will be on Dec. 12, 2019 beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Lamplighter Restaurant in Delmont. There will be a brief meeting and light hors d'oeuvres. A Huge WHT Thank You to Ann Wade and Monica Meehan for organizing the gathering!
10. New Business
- a. All board members are asked to please sign their Board Member Expectation sheet and turn them into Stan Rudge ASAP.
 - b. A list of capital expenditures has been drafted by the Board executive committee, which totals approximately \$17,000 for 2020. A portion of these costs have the potential to be covered by future grant opportunities. If any other items should be added, please let Stan Rudge know.
 - c. Two At-Large board member three year terms, Rick Fisher and Jack Maher, expire in December and will be up for re-election in January. In addition, Megan Nelson resigned from her board position at October's meeting, so there is an additional At-Large board position open. Nominations are being accepted until January's meeting when elections will take place.
 - d. Mark your calendars for next year's March for Parks on March 21, 2020 at the Murrysville Sportzone. Anyone interested in joining the MFP planning committee as a representative of the WHT is welcome and encouraged. Further information about the next planning meeting will be provided from Westmoreland County Parks.
 - e. There is a new committee being formed to work on an application to submit the WHT as DCNR's 2021 Trail of the Year next year. The application will be due in November of 2020. Lauren Jones of Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation and Alyssa Harden at the Westmoreland Conservation District have volunteered to work on the application. Work will be started in Feb/March collecting letters of support and other resources. Anyone else interested in helping, please contact Stan Rudge or Alyssa Harden.
 - f. A HUGE WHT Thank You to Joe Stefano and the individuals through the United Way of Southwest PA for their generous donations to the trail!
 - g. The JM Hall JR Trust is funding a project to rebuild a railroad station in Export along the trail. The building will include restrooms, a meeting hall, and an exhibition hall.
 - h. Nominations were accepted for Megan Nelson's vacated board position. Nominations will also be accepted at December's meeting.
 - i. Pat Norton was nominated by Dittman, 2nd by Maher.

- ii. Ann Wade was nominated by Vicki Rudge, 2nd by Meehan.
 - i. Ted Hays reported on the trail use counter positioned near the Trafford Road Crossing. Over 89,000 trail users who passed the counter were tallied in 2019! Thank you Ted for all your hard work in acquiring the data and maintaining the counter!
- 11. The next meeting will be on December 12, 2019 at the Lamplighter Restaurant for the Christmas/Holiday celebration starting at 7:00 p.m.

On a motion by Richards, 2nd Rudge, the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alyssa Harden, Acting Secretary