



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 November 2023

Lamplighter Restaurant, Delmont PA

Meeting Attendees:

- Board (17): Michael Bertonaschi, Karen Rose Cercone, Wendy Davis, Jerry Detar, Chad Emahizer, Kerry Jobe, Elizabeth Ferri, Rick Fisher, Geri Lombardo, Monica Meehan, Darrin Miller, Pat Norton, Stan Rudge, Vicki Rudge, Malcolm Sias, AnnaMarie Stackiewicz, Ann Wade
- Absent Board (3): Rob Cronauer, Tom Marcin, , Chris Panichella
- Guests and Members (13): Mike Banda, Mike Desmond, Ron Hoffman, Steve Ising, Larry Josephs, Jonathan Kepes, Chris Leo, Tim Leriottis, Lois Noonan, Jeff Richards, Bob Stackiewicz, Kelly Voetsch, Joe Walko

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.
2. President's Comments – Stan reported that he was unable to submit an LSA grant for the trail because we couldn't identify a municipal government partner willing to receive the funds.
3. Public Input/Introductions – Lois Noonan and Jonathan Kepes introduced themselves.
4. Approval of Minutes
 - a. A motion to approve the October 2023 minutes was made by Stackiewicz and seconded by Norton. The motion carried and the minutes were approved.
5. Treasurer's Report – Chris Panichella (report given by Stan Rudge)
 - a. As of October 31, 2023, we have \$54,078.68 in the Money Market account, \$89,502.72 in the S&T checking account and \$53,586.48 invested for a total of \$197,493.21 in current assets. We have \$49,782.28 in capital equipment and \$18,971.00 in fixed assets, making our total assets \$216,463.23.
 - b. A motion to approve the October 2023 Treasurer's Reports was made by Wade and seconded by Cercone. The motion carried and the Treasurer's Report was approved.
 - c. A donation of \$1600.00 was generously made to the trail from the Export Witch's Ride. WHT also recently received a check for \$1000.00 as a donation from the Delmont Walmart.

6. ITEMS FOR ACTION AND/OR INFORMATION

- a. Official Correspondence – Karen Rose Cercone
 - RTC Dues Update – The RTC board has approved a motion to no longer charge a \$3.00 per member fee to their chapters to cover volunteer insurance. This will save the WHT approximately \$1300.00 per year.
 - Mural artist Christina Donahoe has asked if she can include the Westmoreland Heritage Trail in a new mural she has been commissioned to do in Export. Her request was approved on a motion by Fisher, seconded by Sias. Cercone will communicate with Christina and note that WHT would appreciate the use of our official logo in her mural if possible.

b. Upcoming Events

- 10th Annual WHT Comedy Night will be held on Feb 10, 2024 at Colton Hall, Claridge. Motion by Sias, seconded by Emahizer to approve that date and offer tickets through our website and the Lamplighter as well as other sites. The motion carried. Tickets will be available at the December meeting, and all WHT members are asked to promote them.
- 2nd Annual Poker Run and Trail Town Festival will be June 1, 2024, location TBA. Motion by V. Rudge, seconded by Cercone, to approve that date for the event. The motion carried.

7. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Nominations for at-large board position left open by Dale Hollabaugh's resignation. Mike Banda was nominated by Sias, seconded by V. Rudge. Election will be held at the December meeting.
- b. Sias reported that the resurfacing work on Zones 1 and 2 has been going well. The entrance from West Penn Trail to the WHT has been paved with asphalt instead of crushed gravel to make it easier to follow. An old railroad tie wall by Route 981 is being replaced with a stone wall made of large rock-faced concrete blocks. Drainage issues have been addressed with new pipes and swales, and more asphalt has been added to the trail near Sara Steele. Additional crews will be sent to our trail in the next few weeks to finish up the resurfacing work.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Nomination of WHT officers for 2024. All current officers reported that they were willing to continue serving in 2024. Sias moved with a second by Wade to have the secretary cast a unanimous ballot to re-elect the current slate of officers. The motion carried.
- b. An offer came in from trail member Marye Phillips of Export to find sponsors for dog waste stations and organize pickups. A motion was made by Ferri, seconded by Stackiewicz, to have Marye convene a work group and create a detailed proposal for the board to review. Requirements for this proposal would be 1) an end goal of providing dog waste stations along the entire trail; 2) a detailed plan for waste removal (engaging municipalities and/or volunteers); 3) a plan for funding the stations; and 4) a plan for keeping stations supplied with bags. The motion carried.
- c. Sias moved, seconded by Stackiewicz, to accept the verbal resignation of Mike Ley as the Trafford representative. The motion carried.
- d. Norton moved, seconded by Fisher, to accept the appointment of Michael Bertonaschi as the Trafford Representative. The motion carried.
- e. Committee for the Christmas Party at Lamplighter Restaurant – Wade and Meehan offered to coordinate this event.
- f. The PEC Loyalhanna mini- grant has opened. Fisher moved with a second by Wade to submit a grant request for a formal archway entrance to the WHT in Saltsburg along with the additional Stihl equipment that would have been included in the LSA grant request. The motion carried.

9. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **Real Estate, Planning, Engineering and Construction** – Jeff Richards
 - Tunnel location under Route 66 – we are one of 32 projects in Southwest Pennsylvania that are on a candidate list for funding. The pole by Dollar General has been moved and the site is being landscaped for PennDOT verification which will enable the Kacin deal to go through.
 - The White Valley Athletic and Social Club has a preliminary agreement with the trail which has been submitted to DCNR and will soon go to the County and their attorney for review.
- b. **Public Relations** – Vicki Rudge
 - The WHT's Facebook followers now stand at 3498 with our Twitter followers at 166 and Instagram at 69. Trail updates are posted frequently as Zone 1 and 2 work continues.

- c. **Membership** – Wendy Davis
 - As of today, we have 458 active members, up 18 from October due to the WCD event.
 - d. **Maintenance** – Rick Fisher and Chad Emahizer
 - Fisher has ridden along the entire trail, and says it is all in good shape.
 - Norton reports that Zone 4 is in good shape.
 - Wade reported that the Halloween event went well with over 500 kids. There were no conflicts with trail riders.
 - Bertonaschi reports that Zone 5 is dealing with the reduction in parking (from 16 slots to 7) at Parkside Plaza. New paint lines and a new sign from Wye Brewery have notified trail users.
 - Vents will be added to the Zone 5 shed to help deal with condensation issues.
 - e. **Fundraising** – Rob Cronauer
 - No report.
 - f. **Trail Ambassadors** – Stan Rudge
 - Trail ambassadors turned in 76 hours to Stan for the past month. Ambassadors reported that the Roberts Parcel Little Library has a broken door and that a stop sign needed repair.
 - g. **Regional Trail Corporation / Trans-Allegheny Trails** – Stan Rudge
 - The RTC audit for 2022 is almost complete and we have submitted our documents.
 - h. **Municipal Representatives** –
 - **Anne Marie Stackiewicz (Delmont)** – Delmont Visionary also received a donation from Walmart. The Cyclocross will be held on November 11 at 9 AM at Shield’s Farm.
 - **Michael Bertonaschi (Trafford)** - Michael reported that WHT friend Salsa Sam had appreciated our birthday card and is recuperating following his recent kidney transplant. V. Rudge noted that WHT would also send him a get-well card.
 - S. Rudge noted that the possibility of the trail buying the Lisa’s Bike Shop building near Parkside Plaza continues to be explored with the owners, with funding discussions also under way. The building would give WHT a welcome center and also additional parking.
10. Next month’s WHT Annual Meeting and Holiday Party will take place on December 14, 7:00 PM, at the Lamplighter – Delmont. Elections for 2024 WHT Officers and the open board seat will occur at this meeting.
11. On a motion by Wade, seconded by Norton, the meeting was 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