



*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](http://www.westmorelandheritagetrail.com))*

## **WHT November Board Meeting Minutes**

November 14, 2024

Lamplighter Restaurant, Delmont PA

### **Meeting Attendees:**

- Board (17): Mike Banda, Michael Bertonaschi, Karen Rose Cercone, Rob Cronauer, Wendy Davis, Jerry Detar, Chad Emahizer, Liz Ferri, Rick Fisher, Monica Meehan, Darrin Miller, Pat Norton, Chris Panichella, Stan Rudge, Vicki Rudge, Malcolm Sias, Annamarie Stackiewicz
- Absent Board (4): Geri Lombardo, Tom Marcin, Kerry Jobe, Ann Wade
- Guests and Members (15): Jerry Babcock, Gael Carns, Bethany Carolus, Sarah Colligan, Barbara Coulter, Jim Coulter, Mike Grimaldi, Ron Hoffman, Tim Leriotes, Hal Lester, Ron Markos, Patrick O'Toole, John Pilch, Jeff Richards, Bob Stackiewicz

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM.

- 1. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS** – the president thanked the volunteers for all their hard work.
- 2. PUBLIC INPUT/INTRODUCTIONS** – none
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
  - a. The minutes from the October 10, 2024 meeting were approved on a motion by Jerry Detar seconded by Annamarie Stackiewicz.
- 4. TREASURER'S REPORT** – Chris Panichella
  - a. (Review of previous month's tabled reports.) As of September 30, 2024, we had \$14,461 in our Money Market accounts (S&T Bank), \$74,539 in our checking account (S&T Bank), \$40,000 in one Certificate of Deposit (S&T Bank), \$50,000 in a second Certificate of Deposit (S&T Bank) and \$67,989 invested with Fidelity (Wealth Enhancement Advisors), making our total funds \$247,029. Our building fund (not included in the total) stands at \$26,745. On a motion by Michael Bertonaschi, seconded by Wendy Davis, the September Treasurer's reports were approved.
  - b. (Review of current month's reports.) As of October 31, 2024, we have \$14,508 in our Money Market accounts (S&T Bank), \$73,289 in our checking account (S&T Bank), \$40,000 in one Certificate of Deposit (S&T Bank), \$50,000 in a second Certificate of Deposit (S&T Bank) and \$66,531 invested with Fidelity (Wealth Enhancement Advisors), making our total funds \$245,318. Our building fund (not included in the total) stands at \$26,745. On a motion by Malcolm Sias, seconded by Pat Norton, the October Treasurer's reports were approved.
- 5. ITEMS FOR ACTION AND/OR INFORMATION**
  - a. Official Correspondence
    - An email motion to approve the Nov 10, 2024 RISE Vets Special Event passed unanimously
    - Welcome to Turner Dairy as a new Corporate Sponsor for the trail.

## 6. OLD BUSINESS

- a. WHT Volunteer Appreciation Night – Ann Wade & Monica Meehan  
The committee is planning our usual holiday cookie exchange, along with hors d'oeuvres and beverages provided by the trail chapter. The event will be held on Dec 12 at the Westmoreland Conservation District, with maps and directions to be provided with the December agenda.
- b. Ted Hayes Fundraiser – Rob Cronauer  
This year's fundraiser raised almost \$3000 which went toward the building fund.
- c. Gateway Arch – Stan Rudge  
Significant progress has been made on the brick pillars since the last meeting. The next step will be designing the arch with Multi-Metals on Route 66, to be erected in the spring.
- d. Memorial Plaques for Rey Peduzzi and Noel Grimm – Malcolm Sias  
Photos and text have been given to Mark Jackson, who is designing the final artwork.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

- e. Nomination of five WHT board members for 2025-2027 terms – Stan Rudge  
Current board members whose terms end in 2024: Rob Cronauer (Westmoreland Conservation District) Chad Emahizer, Liz Ferri (Export), Chris Panichella (Westmoreland County Parks & Rec), and Vicki Rudge. Current at-large board members Chad and Vicki agreed to be re-nominated. No other nominations were made from the floor. Additional nominations will be accepted at the December meeting, followed by elections.
- f. Nomination of WHT officers for 2025  
Stan Rudge, Rob Cronauer, Karen Rose Cercone, and Chris Panichella all agreed to serve again in the upcoming year. Additional nominations will be accepted at the December meeting, followed by elections.
- g. WHT store – Vicki Rudge  
A variety of hats, t-shirts, and sweatshirts will be designed and purchased, then sold next year through the RTC storefront and also through online and social media platforms.

## 8. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **Real Estate, Planning, Engineering and Construction** – Jeff Richards
  - The Export parking sign has been delivered to Stan and will be installed soon.
  - The White Valley legal counsel delivered their comments to the county today on the easement agreement, and the County will be reviewing them soon.
  - Rob Cronauer and Shelly Tichy of the Westmoreland Conservancy have been working on a future trailhead at Morosini Preserve. A grant has been submitted to DEP to fund the final paving project for the parking area and a connection to the trail.
  - The advertisement for statements of interest from prospective engineering consultants, and they must be submitted to the County by Dec 3. The top 3 firms will go on the December Commissioner's agenda.
- b. **Public Relations** – Vicki Rudge
  - Facebook followers stand at 3767, Instagram at 123 and X /Twitter at 168
  - The WHT website was updated to display fall pictures.
- c. **Membership** – Wendy Davis
  - Membership has increased to 496 active members.

- d. **Maintenance** – Rick Fisher and Chad Emahizer
- Leaf blowing has been underway. Some electric tools were tested but were not found to be financially feasible for the trail at this point in time.
  - A nice group of volunteers from Phillips came out to stain and waterproof four bridges. They also paid for their own lunch, so it was a great contribution to the trail.
- e. **Fundraising** – Rob Cronauer
- Corporate Sponsorships are coming in as a result of placing the first plaques for sponsors on the Roberts Parcel. A similar display will be put up at Slickville. Sponsor logos will be featured on all event t-shirts and posters, as well as at Comedy Night.
  - Comedy Night next year will be at the LIVE Casino on Friday March 7 and Saturday March 8 in partnership with the Five Star Trail and County Parks & Rec. Four hundred people can attend each night, tickets will cost \$40 and will include dinner catered by the Casino (fish on Friday, two meats on Saturday). The event will start at 6 PM.
  - Many baskets will be needed for the auction, and they can be brought to the December meeting.
- f. **Trail Ambassadors** – Stan Rudge
- Stan alerted trail ambassadors to be careful in their interactions with the public.
- g. **Regional Trail Corporation / Trans-Allegheny Trails** – Stan Rudge
- The Regional Trail Corporation is still dealing with the major landslide near Kennywood, over a one-mile section of trail, although the trail itself is now open.
- h. **Municipal Representatives**
- **Trafford** – the B.Y. Park restrooms have been closed up for the winter months.
  - **Monroeville** – Monroeville has received a permit for the bridge over Turtle Creek, to connect Valley Park to the trail.
9. Next month's WHT Meeting will be held in person on December 12, 2024 at the Westmoreland Conservation District Barn at 218 Donahoe Road in Greensburg from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.
10. On a motion by, Pat Norton seconded by Chad Emahizer, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 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
	13	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Zoom
APR	10	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Lamplighter
MAY	8	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Lamplighter
JUN	7	9 AM – 2 PM	Community Festival / Poker Run	TBA
	12	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Pedora Park
JUL	10	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Pedora Park
AUG	14	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Pedora Park
SEP	11	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Pedora Park
OCT	9	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Lamplighter
NOV	13	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Lamplighter
DEC	11	6 PM	WHT Volunteer Appreciation Night	TBA