



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 November Board Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2025

Lamplighter Restaurant, Delmont PA

Meeting Attendees:

- Board (16): Mike Banda, Michael Bertonaschi, Karen Rose Cercone, Wendy Davis, Jerry Detar, Chad Emahizer, Liz Ferri, Rick Fisher, Kerry Jobe, Monica Meehan, Darrin Miller, Stan Rudge, Vicki Rudge, Malcolm Sias, AnnaMarie Stackiewicz
- Absent Board (5): Rob Cronauer, Geri Lombardo, Tom Marcin, Chris Panichella, Ann Wade
- Guests and Members (18): Kristine Cihil, Sarah Colligan, Representative Jill Cooper, Barb Coulter, Jim Coulter, Louise Fisher, Elizabeth Healy, Tim Lerioritis, Steve Long, Dean Matanan, Justin McClure, David Nigro, Roger Phillips, Todd and Debby Rhea, Jeff Richards, John Ruccio, Brooke Russick, Bob Stackiewicz, Mike Urban

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

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS – Any board members or volunteers who want to attend the RTC conference in January should notify us by the January board meeting to get their costs covered.

3. PUBLIC INPUT/INTRODUCTIONS – State Representative Jill Cooper visited to discuss her proposed E-Bike legislation, which would classify E-Bikes into three classes according to their speed, and their pedal/throttle presence. State regulations can only cover vehicles that travel on the road or on sidewalks, not on trails or in parks. Municipalities can write their own ordinances according to their needs, and the trail could work with local municipalities to create memorandums of understanding. The proposed law would not require a helmet for E-Bike users and would prohibit registration, licensing and insurance across the state. Fees for traffic violations and bodily harm would increase across the state as well.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the October 9, 2025 meeting were approved on a motion by Jerry Detar, seconded by Pat Norton. The motion passed.

5. TREASURER'S REPORTS

Since Chris Panichella was absent, the October Treasurer's Report was not available. It will be presented at the December meeting.

6. ITEMS FOR ACTION AND/OR INFORMATION

- Twenty-five letters of thanks were sent to WHT donors for this summer's donations.

7. OLD BUSINESS

- Nomination of board members for 2026-2028 terms (elections to be held in December)
 - Delmont Borough Municipal Representative: Annamarie Stackiewicz
 - Loyalhanna Township Municipal Representative: Brooke Russick
 - At-Large Delegates (will vote for 4 open seats): Karen Rose Cercone, Steve Ising, Pat Norton, and Ann Wade
- Nomination of WHT officers for 2026 (elections to be held in December)
 - President: Stan Rudge
 - Vice President: Rob Cronauer
 - Treasurer: Chad Emahizer
 - Secretary: Karen Rose Cercone
- PEC has invited the trail to participate in a grant funded trail maintenance project which comes with a stipend. A committee has been formed to participate (Larry Smith, Barb Coulter, Michael Bertonaschi, Stan and Vicki Rudge, Steve Ising, and Rick Fisher).

8. NEW BUSINESS

- Jerry Detar has offered to serve as the Salem Township liaison if the Supervisors approve. The final decision will be tabled until the Salem Township board meets in January.
- Appointment of new Loyalhanna Township liaison to board – if elected to the board, Brooke Russick has offered to serve in this position.
- Route 66 parcel – GAI Consultants, who have been selected by the County to design the new section of trail and the tunnel, have offered to create a preliminary plan for the trail parking, facilities and maintenance building on the Kacin site. A preliminary budget would be prepared for several different alternative designs, so the trail chapter can make a decision for future planning. The GAI proposal would cost \$20,100 and the RTC has offered to share the costs equally with WHT. A motion to spend \$10,050 on site planning was made by Karen Rose Cercone and seconded by Pat Norton. The motion carried.
- Stan Rudge requested a volunteer to review and make suggestions on the WHT and Trans Allegheny Trail brochures. Jerry Detar volunteered to assist with this.

9. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **Real Estate, Planning, Engineering and Construction** – Jeff Richards
 - East of State Road 66, a corrected deed for Industrial Drive (to meet the DCNR grant funding requirements) has recently been approved by the Westmoreland County Commissioners.
 - The Westmoreland County Commissioners have also approved the agreement to reimburse GAI from the state funding.
- b. **Public Relations** – Vicki Rudge
 - Facebook followers stand at 4006, Instagram at 200 and X at 164.
 - Board meeting schedules for 2026 are ready to be posted at our kiosks.
 - This is the last night for reserving windbreakers as volunteer appreciation gifts.
 - Please remember to support the trail when doing your holiday shopping. Trail merchandise makes a great Christmas gift!
 - The PR Committee would like to begin planning the 6th Annual Community Festival and 4th Annual Poker Run for June 6, 2026 at the BY Park in Trafford. On a motion by Vicki Rudge, seconded by Liz Ferri, this date and location were approved by the board.

- c. **Membership** – Wendy Davis
 - Membership in November stood at 567 active members.
- d. **Website and Merchandise** - Chad Emahizer
 - Views of the website were 2190 in October with visitor numbers at 868, down slightly from the previous month.
 - Volunteer names are being collected and shared with board members. Committee chairs are encouraged to reach out to volunteers and bring them on board for helping.
 - The website store is back online and can be used to purchase merchandise again.
- e. **Maintenance** – Rick Fisher
 - Rick reports that the Ventrac maintenance service is complete and will cost \$750. The tractor is in good shape.
 - Leaf removal and equipment winterization are on-going throughout all zones.
 - Nine sections of fence have been replaced in Zone 5.
 - Frames for the two new benches have not been delivered yet.
- e. **Fundraising** – Rob Cronauer
 - No report.
- f. **Trail Ambassadors** – Stan Rudge
 - Stan thanked all trail ambassadors for turning in their volunteer hours.
- g. **Regional Trail Corporation / Trans-Allegheny Trails** – Stan Rudge
 - A new bike bridge now crosses Route 22 near Route 119, completing the West Penn Trail into Blairsville.
 - The RTC will be meeting next Wednesday.
- h. **Municipal Representatives** –
 - In Delmont, the Visionary Committee is still selling postcards (4 for \$5) featuring bird photos along the trail. A holiday craft and vendor fair is planned on November 22 at the Firehall.
 - In Salem, Kerry Jobe said farewell to the board after 8 years of service and promised to continue his support while the trail is extended through Salem to Route 66.
 - In Export, Liz Ferri reported that the Witches Ride had 150 signups this year and gave the trail a very generous donation. Export is planning to have a light-up night on December 5.
- 10.** Next month's WHT Meeting will be held on December 11, 2025 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Westmoreland Conservation District Barn at 218 Donohoe Road in Greensburg. Bring cookies!
- 11.** On a motion by Chad Emahizer seconded by Annamarie Stackiewicz, the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 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