



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 Annual Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2023

Lamplighter Restaurant, Delmont PA

Meeting Attendees:

- Board (19): Mike Banda, Michael Bertonaschi, Karen Rose Cercone, Rob Cronauer, Wendy Davis, Jerry Detar, Chad Emahizer, Elizabeth Ferri, Rick Fisher, Geri Lombardo, Tom Marcin, Monica Meehan, Pat Norton, Chris Panichella, Stan Rudge, Vicki Rudge, Malcolm Sias, AnnaMarie Stackiewicz, Ann Wade
- Absent Board (2): Kerry Jobe and Darrin Miller
- Guests and Members: Jerry and Mary Babcock, Barbara Coulter, Alysia Cronauer, Louise Fisher, Bob and Liz Hand, Ron and Pat Hoffman, Dale Hollabaugh, Steve Ising, Elena Kehnes, Tim Leriottis, Hal Lester, Marion Marcin, Bill and Dee O'Hara, Jeff Richards, John Ruccio, Bob Stackiewicz, Mike Urban, Lois Weaver, Jeri and Gary Wenning

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM.
2. President's Comments – at its recent meeting, the Regional Trail Corporation gave Malcolm "Trail Boss" Sias a service recognition award for his long-standing leadership and dedication.
3. Public Input/Introductions – Bob and Liz Hand introduced themselves as first-time meeting attendees
4. Approval of Minutes
 - a. A motion to approve the November 9, 2023, minutes was made by Sias and seconded by Cronauer. The motion carried and the minutes were approved.
5. Treasurer's Report – Chris Panichella
 - a. As of November 30, 2023, we have \$54,078.68 in the Money Market account, \$79,200.10 in the S&T checking account and \$53,586.48 invested for a total of \$187,439.59 in current assets. We have \$49,782.28 in capital equipment and \$18,971 in fixed assets, making our total assets \$206,410.261.
 - b. A motion to approve the November 2023 Treasurer's Reports was made by Norton and seconded by Stackiewicz. The motion carried and the Treasurer's Report was approved.

6. ITEMS FOR ACTION AND/OR INFORMATION

- a. Official Correspondence – five thank you letters were sent out to recent trail donors
- b. Reminder of Upcoming Events
 - 10th Annual WHT Comedy Night – Feb 10, 2024 at Colton Hall, Claridge. Tickets were distributed by Cronauer to board members and meeting attendees.
 - 2nd Annual Poker Run Trail Town Festival – June 1, 2024 at Murrysville Community Center.

7. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Election for at-large board position. Mike Banda was elected by unanimous consent.
- b. LSA Grant disbursement – On a motion by Fisher, seconded by Wade, an additional \$2000 was approved for purchase of the new John Deere tractor.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Rick Fisher, municipal representative for Murrysville and Stan Rudge, municipal representative for Penn Township, were re-appointed by their communities to new three-year terms (2024-2026).
- b. Re-nomination and election of at-large board members whose terms expired in Dec 2023: Wendy Davis, Monica Meehan, and Malcolm Sias all accepted nominations and were unanimously re-elected to three-year terms (2024-2026).
- c. Rick Fisher made a motion, seconded by Sias, to take the Ven-Trac tractor into Fletchers for ten-year maintenance of filters, valves and other routine items. Cost for this service will be \$479 plus any additional parts that might need to be replaced.
- d. Warranty item of the Ven-Trax Mower (Repair Weld) - Tom Marcin reported that a weld broke on the new mowing deck, and was clearly defective. The deck will be repaired or replaced at no cost to the WHT trail chapter.

9. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **Real Estate, Planning, Engineering and Construction** – Jeff Richards
 - The Dollar General site has been approved by PennDOT which will enable the required land subdivision to be approved by Murrysville. Closing is expected by March of 2024.
 - The White Valley Athletic and Social Club has a preliminary easement which has been approved by DCNR. A Phase 1 environmental assessment is being carried out by GAI Consultants. It is hoped that remaining agreements will be completed by spring 2024.
 - The trail renovation of Zones 1 and 2 is proceeding well with new gates being installed on Route 819 that will eliminate bollards. Resurfacing work will most likely be completed next Tuesday and the trail will be completely open for users.
- b. **Public Relations** – Vicki Rudge
 - The WHT's Facebook followers now stand at 3576 with our Twitter followers at 168 and Instagram at 71. The WHT website got 460 unique visitors and 906 views in November.
 - The schedule of WHT Board Meeting dates for 2024 will be posted at all trail kiosks.
 - Planning meetings of the PR committee will be held by Zoom on the first Tuesday of the month starting in January 2024. Interested members should contact Ann Wade if they would like to attend and help organize this event.
- c. **Membership** – Wendy Davis
 - As of today, we have 462 active members, up 6 from November.
 - A motion by Davis, seconded by Cercone, was made to have a membership drive in February.
- d. **Maintenance** – Rick Fisher and Chad Emahizer
 - A few trees have come down over the past months, but the trail is otherwise in good shape.
- e. **Fundraising** – Rob Cronauer
 - Comedy Night tickets need to be sold by trail members and board members. Tickets are also being sold by the Lamplighter in Delmont, Ginni's in Export, Parkside Perk in Trafford, and the Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation headquarters.
 - Comedy Night set-up will be done at 2 PM on the day before, with all the usual workers asked to repeat their jobs. Raffle basket donations are welcome, either with items or gift cards.
- f. **Trail Ambassadors** – Stan Rudge
 - Tim, Jerry, Steve, Paul, and John along with many others have done a great job as trail ambassadors over this past season. In-kind hours should be reported to S. Rudge.

g. **Regional Trail Corporation / Trans-Allegheny Trails** – Stan Rudge

- There is a spring meeting coming up for the Trans-Allegheny Trail.

h. **Municipal Representatives** –

- **Trafford (Michael Bertonaschi)** – the borough manager and two representatives from the Trafford Rec Board have assured us that trail users can park in the upper lot. The new parking regulations in the Creamery Lot are being respected so far, but this means the Saunders Station lot is taking the bulk of parking. The gravel lot across the road from Saunders Station is owned by Monroeville and could be expanded to hold more cars.
- **Monroeville (Tom Marcin)** – Monroeville is moving forward with plans for the bridge across Turtle Creek at Valley Park. The Army Corps of Engineers is reviewing the permit now. Monroeville is hoping to have the site completed by Fall 2024. There should be extensive parking made available for trail users there along with restroom facilities. A sign with a rendering of the new facility will be erected along the trail, once we give them permission.

10. Next month’s WHT Meeting will be held over Zoom on January 11. The Zoom link will be sent out to trail members and board members in early January.

11. On a motion by Sias, seconded by Stackiewicz, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Rose Cercone, Secretary

2024 WHT Board Meeting Dates and Locations

January 11 (Remote meeting on Zoom)

February 8 (Remote meeting on Zoom)

March 14 (Remote meeting on Zoom)

April 11 (Lamplighter, Delmont)

May 9 (Pedora Park, Export)

June 13 (Pedora Park, Export)

July 11 (Pedora Park, Export)

August 8 (Pedora Park, Export)

September 12 (Member Night TBA)

October 10 (Lamplighter, Delmont)

November 14 (Lamplighter, Delmont)

December 12 (Lamplighter, Delmont)

Westmoreland Heritage Trail 2024 Event Calendar

FEBRUARY

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
Sat, Feb 10	TBA	10 th Annual WHT Comedy Night	Colton Hall, Claridge

APRIL

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
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MAY

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
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JUNE

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
Sat June 1	9 AM – 2 PM	WHT Festival and Poker Run	Murrysville Community Center and Zone 4

JULY

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
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AUGUST

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
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SEPTEMBER

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
Thur Sept 12	6 PM	WHT Volunteer Dinner	TBA
Sat Sept 14	9 AM - 2 PM	Wealth Management Trail Walk	Export to Carson Braun

OCTOBER

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
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NOVEMBER

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
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DECEMBER

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
Thur Dec 12	7 PM	WHT Christmas Gathering	Lamplighter