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Meeting Minutes December 8, 2022
Lamplighter Restaurant, Delmont

Meeting Attendees:

- a. Board: (18) Rob Cronauer, Alyssa Davis, Wendy Davis, Chad Emahizer, Elizabeth Ferri, Rick Fisher, Kerry Jobe, Brandon Lacina, Geri Lombardo, Monica Meehan, Pat Norton, Bill O'Hara, Chris Panichella, Stan Rudge, Vicki Rudge, Malcolm Sias, AnnaMarie Stackiewicz, and Ann Wade
 - b. Absent Board: (3) Karen Rose Cercone, Paul Estok, and Jack Maher
 - c. Guests: Louise Fisher, Barbara Coulter, Jerry Detar, Larry Josephs, Tim Leriotis, Jerry Babcock, Alysia Cronauer, Michael Mance, Melanie Litz, David Nigro, Steve Ising, Ron Markos, Michael Bertonaschi, John Ruccio, Tom Marcin, Marion Marcin, Elena Kehres, Dale Hollabaugh, Bob Stackiewicz, Dee O'Hara, Dick Wale, Darren Miller, and Jeff Richards
1. President Stan Rudge led the recitation of "The Pledge of Allegiance" and then called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.
 2. Presidents' Comment – The WHT Mission Statement was again read for anyone who hadn't heard last month: *"The mission of the Westmoreland Heritage Trail is to manage and maintain the trail from Saltsburg to Trafford, in partnership with like-minded groups and the associated municipalities the trail traverses. The trail will be promoted for walking and biking activities to advocate for recreation, education, volunteerism, tourism, historic, and environmental conservation."* A card for Leslie Pierce to congratulate her on her retirement and thank her for her years of service at the Regional Trail Corporation was passed around for signatures. Thanks for the support of some of our important fundraising efforts this year: all of our members and our new membership chairs Wendy Davis & Justina Latimer; success in this year's Comedy Night Fundraiser, Trail Towns Festival, parking volunteers at the Arts and Heritage Festival, and Ted Hayes Memorial Fundraiser.
 3. Public Input/Introductions – Melanie Litz, representing the Export Historical Society, introduced herself and explained the organization is preparing a mini-grant application to the Rivers of Steel Mini-grant Program to construct an informational kiosk at the future Export trailhead.
 - a. A motion to approve the application of the mini-grant was made by Norton, 2nd by Wade, motion carried, go ahead on mini-grant application approved.
 4. Approval of Minutes –
 - a. A motion was made to approve the November minutes by O'Hara, 2nd by Cronauer, motion carried, minutes approved.
 5. Treasurer's Report –Jack Maher
 - a. To date, we have \$53,786.53 in the Money Market account, \$43,908.24 in the checking account, and \$60,000.00 invested for a total of \$157,694.77 in current assets. We have \$16,392.49 in fixed assets making our total assets \$174,087.26.
 - b. Our total revenue for 2022 is \$62,464.21. Total expenses were \$43,245.04 for a net operating revenue of \$19,219.17.
 - c. A motion was made to approve the November treasurer's report by Stackiewicz, 2nd by Sias, motion carried, report approved.
 6. Items for Action and/or Information
 - a. Nominations for Open Board member positions
 - i. There are three At-Large board members up for re-election: Jack Maher, Pat Norton, Ann Wade.
 1. Dale Hollenbaugh was nominated by Norton, 2nd by Fisher
 2. Darren Miller was nominated by Ferri, 2nd by Cronauer.
 - ii. Alyssa Davis will be stepping down from the Secretary position, so there is an opening for Secretary as well.
 1. Karen Rose Cercone was nominated for the open Secretary position by Vicki Rudge, 2nd by Norton.

- iii. Nominations were closed and final nominations and voting will take place in January.
 - b. Trail Events
 - i. No new events at this time.
- 7. Old Business
 - a. Boy Scout Kiosk Projects
 - i. Liaisons are needed to help coordinate between the multiple Eagle Scouts interested in completing their final projects on the WHT.
 - ii. Sias and Jeff Richards have stepped up to assist. If others are interested, please reach out to President Rudge.
- 8. New Business
 - a. Leslie Pierce Retirement Gift
 - i. In support of Leslie Pierce's years of dedication to the Regional Trail Corporation and its trail chapters, President Rudge has asked if the WHT would like to provide her with a retirement gift.
 - 1. A motion to donate \$100 to Leslie Pierce along with a WHT t-shirt and hat as a retirement gift was made by Sias, 2nd by O'Hara, motion carried, gifts approved.
 - b. Regional Trail Corporation Annual Retreat
 - i. If anyone is interested in attending the event, advance registration is required. Please see President Rudge for more information. There is no agenda yet.
- 9. Standing Committee Reports –
 - a. Real Estate/Acquisitions & Engineering and Construction – Jeff Richards
 - i. The parcel of land that has been in discussion east of Route 66 is still in the works, and Murrysville recently approved a lot line revision to expand the square footage of the property. Slow but sure progress is happening!
 - b. Public Relations – Vicki Rudge
 - i. FB followers at 3,225, Twitter at 161.
 - ii. PR committee recently had a meeting to discuss plans for 2023.
 - iii. Last minute Christmas gifts are still available if you are looking to purchase on sale WHT merch! See Vicki Rudge if interested.
 - c. Membership – Wendy Davis
 - i. The WHT is currently at 466 current members!
 - d. Maintenance – Rick Fisher and Chad Emahizer
 - i. Next Thursday, there will be a contractor out on the trail to do some ditch cleaning.
 - ii. Some volunteers helped Steele Valley Trail with the construction of their new storage shed. Their assistance was greatly appreciated!
 - iii. The Regional Trail Corporation applied for a Laurel Foundation grant for \$50,000, which included \$10,000 for a new utility vehicle for the west end of the WHT. This grant was awarded, and once RTC has the money in hand, moves can be made to purchase a new vehicle.
 - e. Trail Ambassadors – Stan Rudge
 - i. Thanks to all of our trail ambassadors! Please submit your hours to President Rudge to be included in the end of year totals.
 - f. Fundraising – Rob Cronauer
 - i. It's Comedy Night time again! It will take place on Feb. 11, 2023 at Colton Hall in Claridge. Tickets are on sale for \$35/ticket. **All board members are encouraged to take a bundle of tickets to sell!** Tickets are also on sale at the Westmoreland County Parks office in Greensburg and Ginny's Restaurant in Export.
 - g. Municipal Representatives- various
 - i. President Rudge thanked Salem Township and Westmoreland County Parks for the donation of stone to the trail!
- 10. Next month's meeting will take place on January 12 at the Lamplighter Restaurant.

On a motion by Stackiewicz, 2nd by Stan Rudge, the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Alyssa Davis, Secretary