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**Meeting Minutes December 13, 2018 (Draft V1)  
Spaghetti and Steak House, Delmont, PA**

1. Meeting Attendees:
  - a. Board: (18) Gordon Conn, Rob Cronauer, Tom Dittman, Eileen Elicker, Rick Fisher, Noel Grimm, Ted Hayes, Kerry Jobe, Jack Maher, Monica Meehan, Dorothea Motto, John Nagoda, Bill O'Hara, Reynold Peduzzi, Jeff Richards, Tom Ronksley, Stan Rudge, John Sopko – Malcolm Sias, Westmoreland Co. Parks and Recreation
  - b. Guests: Matt Cmar, Wendy Davis, Tony DeCeasar, Chad Emahizer, Alyson Fearon, Rob Fucich, Alyssa Harden, Ginny Hayes, Mary Grimm, Dee O'Hara, Melanie Litz, Michael Manle, Michele Nagoda, Pat Norton, Chris Panechella, Tobin Ross, Vicki Rudge, Donna Ronksley, Anna Marie Stackiewicz, Bob Stackiewicz, Crystal Szogi, Doug Webster and others
2. President Stan Rudge led the recitation of "The Pledge of Allegiance", and then called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.
3. President's Comments
  - a. President Stan Rudge Extended WHT Greetings for a Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Happy New Year to all the attendees and all Trail Enthusiasts Everywhere.
  - b. President Rudge attended the Penn Township Commissioner's Meeting and extended a WHT Thank You to Alex Graziano, Scott Fouty, Tom Lamaz and the entire Penn Township Road Crew for the fantastic repair of the trail after the Turtle Creek Flood washout.
  - c. President Rudge also extended a WHT Thank You to Malcolm Sias and Westmoreland County for providing the crushed limestone for the repair.
4. Public Input - None.
5. Approval of Minutes - A motion was made to approve the November minutes as published by Sopko, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Maher, Motion carried, minutes approved. A WHT Thank You to Alyssa Harden for filling in as Secretary at the November meeting.
6. Treasurer's Report
  - a. Treasurer Maher, reported \$49,335.75 in total assets.
  - b. Treasurer Maher reported that the S&T Bank Checking Account has \$26,948.83 as essentially "Cash on Hand". A motion by Hayes to transfer the unused \$872.67 in the reserve fund for the Sarah Steele Kiosk to the general account as that project is complete, 2<sup>nd</sup> Elicker, Motion carried, funds transferred.
7. RTC Report – No Report
8. TAT Report – Trail maps are updated for the 12 member trails. \$660.00 in annual dues will be due in 2019 and will be voted on in January.
9. Committee Reports

- a. Real Estate and Acquisitions – None
- b. Engineering and Construction – Jeff Richards
  - i. A pre-construction Phase IV meeting with PA DOT is slated for December 20th.
  - ii. The Project is in “winter shutdown” until March 2019
  - iii. A WHT Thank You to Murrysville Public Works for removing the “RR ties” from the Marlee Acres bridge deck. Trail decking is being fabricated in sections at a Westmoreland County facility.
  - iv. A Growing Greener Grant of \$64,000 will be used for Creek Bank Stabilization prior to the construction start in March.
  - v. Phase IV construction will also be funded by a PA DCNR Grant of \$320,000.
- c. Funding Raising
  - i. Rey Peduzzi reported an uptick in Mile Marker Post advertising. He also stated the mileposts are “Being Read” as several spelling mistakes have been reported. All have been corrected at meeting time.
  - ii. March for Parks is slated for Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. This Year’s Theme is “Export Bound, The Trail Continues”. Mark your Calendars.
  - iii. Comedy Night February 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.
    - 1. Tickets are available for sale by Trail Individuals or at the Lamplighter and Ferri Pharmacy in Murrysville.
    - 2. Sponsors and baskets are being solicited.
    - 3. 340 attendees is the goal for this year.
  - iv. Five Memorial Benches at the new \$750 donation level are “in cue” for Spring 2019 installation.
- d. Public Relations – Vicki Rudge
  - i. Vicki Rudge reported 1137 Facebook followers.
  - ii. June 1<sup>st</sup> has been officially selected by email board vote for the WHT Trail Town Tour as that date is National Trail Day.
  - iii. Festivities with live entertainment are planned.
  - iv. Volunteers are needed; please contact Vicki Rudge to sign up.
  - v. The 2018 WHT List of Accomplishments will be posted on the web page and Facebook.
  - vi. The WHT “google.my.maps” program
    - 1. This program, developed by Karen Rose Cercone, identifying Points of Interest along the trail is now active. The WHT website has all the pertinent information and QR Codes for internet access and the codes are also posted at all the trail kiosks.
    - 2. A HUGE “WHT THANK YOU” to Karen for her effort. The WHT extends to Karen Best Wishes for Success in her new position.
- e. Membership – Gordon Conn.
  - i. Gordon reported that we now have 144 active members for 2018 exceeding last year’s membership of 107 members..
  - ii. The WHT now has 40 Lifetime members, 23 Ten Year Members and 81 Annual members
  - iii. There will be a Membership Drive in January.

iv. Late Membership sign-ups in November and December of 2018 have been afforded full 2019 Membership status. Adding to that, the Lifetime and Ten Year members, we're off to a great 2019 start with 69 members.

f. Trail Ambassadors (Monitors) - No Report

g. Trail Maintenance – Tom Dittman

- i. Volunteers are needed to “groom” the trail for the June 1<sup>st</sup> “Trail Town Tour Festival. Please contact Tom Dittman to sign-up.
- ii. Tom Dittman, Bill O’Hara and Ted Hayes received a huge round of applause for keeping the trail “Looking Good” in 2018.
- iii. The “Trail User” counter is repaired and will be re-installed soon.
- iv. Rey Peduzzi reported that 275 pounds of wire fencing has been removed from the bottom of the current fencing to facilitate “Weed Whacking”. Rey requested that Phase IV fencing have a minimum of 6” ground clearance to avert post construction wire removal.

10. Old Business – Gordon Conn reported that Allegheny County has received a Grant for a Feasibility Study to investigate the possibility of a Trafford to Homestead Trail. The Trail may be named The Westinghouse Valley Trail, The Westinghouse Interworks Trail or The Westmoreland Heritage Trail Connector

11. New Business – Election of 2019 Officers and At-Large Board members will be held at the January Meeting. All current officers were re-nominated. Jack Maher, Gordon Conn and Rick Fisher were re-nominated for At-Large terms.

On a motion by Maher 2<sup>nd</sup> Richards, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

The next meeting will be on January 10th at The Italian–American Club in Export starting at 7:00 p.m.

The 50/50 Chuck-a-Luck was won by Rob Cronauer who donated his winnings to the WHT Chapter treasury.

All then enjoyed camaraderie, Holiday Festivities, hors d’oeuvres and party trays catered by The Spaghetti and Steak House.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Sopko, 2018 Secretary