



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

Meeting Minutes February 10, 2022  
Lamplighter Restaurant, Delmont

Meeting Attendees:

- a. Board: (15) Alyssa Davis, Wendy Davis, Tom Dittman, Chad Emahizer, Elizabeth Ferri, Rick Fisher, Brandon Lacina, Jack Maher, Monica Meehan, Bill O'Hara, Chris Panichella, Stan Rudge, Vicki Rudge, Malcolm Sias, and Ann Wade
  - b. Absent Board: (6) Gordon Conn, Rob Cronauer, Kerry Jobe, Mary Grace Muster, Pat Norton, and AnnaMarie Stackiewicz
  - c. Guests: Jeff Richards, Joseph Hlista, Tim Leriottis, Nancy Sward-Martin, David Boles, Mike Grimaldi, Louise Fisher, Carol Byers, Mike Jesik, Dave Kunkle, Bill Breeger, Jerry Babcock, John DeLuca, Ed Gerstenhaber
1. President Stan Rudge led the recitation of "The Pledge of Allegiance" and then called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.
  2. Presidents' Comment –
    - a. A warm welcome to our new board members Chad Emahizer and Liz Ferri!
    - b. Also a huge WHT THANK YOU to our recently "retired" treasurer, Jack Maher, who has contributed hundreds of hours over the years to the trail via treasurer, volunteer, and board member!
    - c. A big thank you to newly appointed treasurer Chris Panichella for stepping up into the role!
  3. Public Input/Introductions –
    - a. Mike Grimaldi introduced himself and brought up the desire for trail grooming on the WHT. He stated that he has a friend that would be willing to groom the trail with his personal equipment for free. He also provided printouts of information to President Rudge on grooming equipment if the trail was interested in purchasing some of their own.
      - i. This issue has been forwarded on to Brandon Simpson at West. Co. Parks and Rec. to evaluate due to the associated liability concerns, the Export to Trafford section of the trail is owned by County Parks. WHT is awaiting a decision from West. Co.
      - ii. RTC does own the Rangos to Saltsburg section, so other discussions may occur in the future on this section.
  4. Approval of Minutes –
    - a. A motion was made to approve the January minutes by Sias, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Maher, motion carried, minutes approved.
  5. Treasurer's Report –Chris Panichella
    - a. So far we have \$3,000 dollars in sponsorships and \$7,000 in ticket sales from Comedy Night so far. Income should be up significantly in February due to the upcoming Comedy Night fundraiser.
    - b. A motion was made to approve the January treasurer's report by Wade, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lacina, motion carried, report approved.
  6. Committee Reports –
    - a. Public Relations – Vicki Rudge
      - i. WHT now has 2,833 Facebook followers and 139 Twitter followers.
      - ii. Please save the date for the upcoming Trail Towns Festival on June 4, 2022! Anyone who is interested in volunteering, donating, or assisting in the planning process, reach out to PR Chairperson Vicki Rudge.
    - b. Fundraising –Rob Cronauer
      - i. President Rudge reported that Comedy Night is expected to be a sellout! Anyone who is planning on helping out the night of or with set up the day before, please sign up and your

names will be passed onto Cronauer. The Trailblazers will also have a table set up at the event to begin passing out the membership discount cards.

- c. Membership –Gordon Conn (via email)
    - i. WHT actually ended with and updated total of 366 members for 2021, which is a new record!
  - d. Engineering and Construction – Jeff Richards
    - i. The Export extension went out to bid as of today’s meeting, and bids are due March 1. The plans have been approved by West. Conservation District, and Richards is working on a permanent easement for the area.
    - ii. Lyons Run Watershed Association is planning to present their abandoned mine drainage treatment system proposal for the discharge near Borland Farm Rd to Murrysville Council on Feb. 16.
    - iii. The White Valley Athletic & Social Club’s new driveway opposite Wilson Run Rd has been approved.
    - iv. The Delmont Visionary Committee has been in contact with various landowners along their proposed future trail spur.
    - v. The property donation east of Rte. 66 is almost finalized.
  - e. Trail Ambassadors – Stan Rudge
    - i. 1,102 hours were reported for 2021, which equals over 8,000 miles of trail! Thank you to everyone who has been out riding the trail and contributing hours! A special thanks to the top contributor Tim Leriotis!
    - ii. The WHT ambassadors will be working with the Five Star & Coal and Coke Trails to help improve their programs.
  - f. Municipal Representatives
    - i. West. Co. Parks (Chris Panichella): A reminder that 2022’s March for Parks will occur on March 26, 2022. This is the event’s 20<sup>th</sup> year. Please register, volunteer, and share the event with others, as some of this money goes to the WHT!
7. Old Business
- a. Westmoreland Trailblazers Membership Coupon Book Proposal
    - i. As of this meeting, eight businesses have agreed to participate in the discount program. The program will officially be kicked off at the Comedy Night fundraiser.
  - b. Laurel Highlands Conservation Landscape Minigrant for Joyrider Bike Application
    - i. The grant application was unfortunately not funded this round. President Rudge reported that the program had 17 applications and only six were selected to be funded. Feedback indicated that they like our proposal, but they needed more details.
    - ii. Plans are to reapply for this project in the next grant round.
  - c. PA Master Naturalist Volunteer Project – Educational Posts on Social Media
    - i. Byers presented on her proposed project. She mentioned that she actually owns property adjacent to the trail and is a regular trail user.
    - ii. WHT is now an approved member organization of PA Master Naturalist, so any future Naturalists who would like to do a project with the WHT will have a streamlined admin process.
    - iii. The project has been approved by PA Master Naturalist. The goal of the project is to enhance current WHT Facebook posts with monthly educational posts about the habitat/wildlife/plants/nature along the trail corridor.
    - iv. The WHT agreed to partner with Byers to support her in carrying out the project.
  - d. 2022 DCNR Trail of the Year Application
    - i. The nominated trail has not been announced yet.
8. New Business
- a. Trafford Bridge decking replacement
    - i. This bridge is in need of a major replacement of the decking. All of the lumber has been acquired (50% was provided by Yellowood, who provided the current decking, and 50% was purchased by Co. Parks). Two layers of decking will need replaced, and volunteers are needed to help with the removal and installation. Once the weather breaks, dates will be announced (anticipating March/April).
      - 1. Anyone who is interested in helping, please give your names to Dittman. He will keep this people in the loop on the dates.
    - ii. To complete this project, WHT needs to purchase nails and rent a rollaway dumpster, which is anticipated to cost approx. \$750.

1. A motion to approve purchases at the executive committee's best judgement for this project not to exceed \$1,000 was made by Maher, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dittman. Motion carried, budget approved.
- b. Materials for cleaning/staining WHT bridges
  - i. A Yellawood preservative will be applied on all wooden bridges along the trail corridor.
- c. Pittsburgh Foundation grant application for new storage container and outfittings
  - i. President Rudge proposed that the WHT submit an application to the Pittsburgh Foundation for the new storage container near FTMSA. Asks also would include costs for tools, shelving, leveling the site, solar lighting, and locks. The container costs approx. \$10,000 and the additional asks total approx. \$4,000. The grant requires a 50/50 in-kind match, and Co. Parks has already committed \$4,000 to the project, so WHT would need to commit \$3,000 in match towards to \$14,000 grant total.
  - ii. A motion to commit \$3,000 towards the new storage container and amenities as match for the Pittsburgh Foundation grant was made by A. Davis, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Maher. Motion carried, match amount approved.
  - iii. President Rudge will complete and submit the grant application.
- d. Solar Lighting
  - i. Solar lighting has been purchased to be installed at the Murrysville storage container in the spring.
- e. Safety Initiative Signs
  - i. Once the weather breaks, 2-3 sandwich boards should be placed on each section of the trail with the interchangeable safety initiative signs.
- f. 2021 Accomplishments & Year in Review Report by President Rudge
  - i. President Rudge put together this two highly detailed, well organized summaries of 2021 for the WHT!! A HUGE WHT thank you to him for all of his time and efforts to put these together, as well as to all volunteers and trail users for 2021!
  - ii. The trail counters indicated almost 160,000 total trail users from July-Dec. 2021!

On a motion by Wade, 2<sup>nd</sup> by V. Rudge, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alyssa Davis, Secretary