



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 February Board Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2025

Meeting Held Via Zoom

Meeting Attendees:

- Board (16): Mike Banda, Karen Rose Cercone, Rob Cronauer, Wendy Davis, Jerry Detar, Chad Emahizer, Liz Ferri, Rick Fisher, Kerry Jobe, Geri Lombardo, Chris Panichella, Stan Rudge, Vicki Rudge, Malcolm Sias, Annamarie Stackiewicz, Ann Wade
- Absent Board (5): Michael Bertonaschi, Monica Meehan, Darrin Miller, Tom Marcin, Pat Norton
- Guests and Members (4): Amy and Greg Imblum, Sean O'Rourke, Jeff Richards

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

- 1. WHT MISSION STATEMENT** – was read by the secretary.
- 2. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS** – the president noted that representatives from Friends of the Riverfront will attend our April in-person meeting to discuss their progress on the Turtle Creek Connector Trail.
- 3. PUBLIC INPUT/INTRODUCTIONS** – Sean O'Rourke introduced himself and stated that he would like to volunteer for the trail, perhaps as a trail ambassador.
- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - a. The minutes from the January 9, 2025 meeting were approved on a motion by Rob Cronauer, seconded by Malcolm Sias.
- 5. TREASURER'S REPORT** – Chris Panichella
 - a. New and renewed memberships in January came to \$50. A grant was received for \$750 and Comedy Night ticket sales amounted to \$4,910 for a total revenue of \$5710. Expenses for January included maintenance costs of \$69, visitor amenities costs of \$560, technology costs of \$160 and miscellaneous expenses of \$250, for a total of \$1,038 in expenses.
 - b. As of January 31, 2025, we had \$14,596 in our Money Market accounts (S&T Bank), \$74,704 in our checking account (S&T Bank), \$40,990 in one Certificate of Deposit (S&T Bank), \$50,000 in a second Certificate of Deposit (S&T Bank) and \$68,485 invested with Fidelity (Wealth Enhancement Advisors). Our building fund stands at \$29,776, making our total funds \$278,550.
 - c. On a motion by Chad Emahizer, seconded by Karen Rose Cercone, the January Treasurer's reports were approved.
- 6. ITEMS FOR ACTION AND/OR INFORMATION**
 - a. Official Correspondence – Karen Rose Cercone
 - A letter of support was written for Delmont DCED MAP grant application.
 - A letter of support was written for former board member Paul Estok.

- b. Upcoming Events – Stan Rudge
 - Norwin AFJROTC Bataan March - April 26th 2025, Zones 4 and 5 – approved by unanimous consent

7. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Update on Comedy Night – Rob Cronauer
 - Ticket sales are going well, considering that it's a new venue. Three hundred tickets have been sold for our night (Saturday) and we're hoping for a sell-out. Ginni's will no longer be a selling location, but Lamplighter still has tickets as well as the County Parks. Rob will be emailing with more information and requests for volunteer duties.
- b. Spring Membership Drive- Wendy Davis
 - WHT will again hold a membership drive with a prize drawing in the month of February. A membership drive mailing will be sent to all yearly members, with a special notice sent to those whose memberships expired in 2024.
- c. The metal for the Gateway Arch has been ordered for the trail head in Saltsburg. We hope to install in in late April or early May.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Property near Industrial Drive – Stan Rudge

The entire Dollar General lot has been offered to the County for purchase, at a price of \$175,000. The property has been appraised at \$180,000. Contributions have been requested from the RTC, the Citizen's Advisory Board (CAB), the Westmoreland Land Trust, and the Westmoreland Hotel Tax. The Westmoreland Heritage Trail has been asked to contribute \$90,000 of which up to \$85,000 may be returned to us via a DCNR grant. A motion was made by Rob Cronauer, seconded by Vicki Rudge, to allocate up to \$90,000 to Regional Trail Corporation (RTC) for the purchase of 2 properties totaling 2.7 acres. These properties are located at the corner of Rt. 66 and Industrial Drive, in Murrysville and Salem Township. They are currently owned by Richard Kacin AKA Delmont Builders Supply. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. Bridge inspections for Zone 1 – Stan Rudge

Our two large bridges in Zone 1 are due for safety inspection. Malcolm has worked to get us a reasonable bid for the inspection, which came in at \$26,500. County Parks is willing to contribute \$10,000 toward this and the Citizens Advisory Board has been asked to contribute \$5500. The RTC is considering a motion to contribute the remaining \$11,000 so that the local trail chapter does not have to cover the costs of capital improvements. A motion was made by Karen Rose Cercone, seconded by Geri Lombardo, to approve a contingency funding of \$5,500 toward this project if the RTC does not cover the full cost.

9. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **Real Estate, Planning, Engineering and Construction** – Jeff Richards
 - One and a half miles of planned trail from Rangos Trailhead to Morosini Farm Road has been sent out to four different engineering firms for the design of the trail and tunnel. Westmoreland County Commissioners nominated GAI Consultants as their preferred engineering consultant. PennDOT has approved this selection. The engineering consultants will conduct all of the preliminary studies (stormwater, environmental impacts, etc) in order to create a set of biddable construction drawings. This project will be called the Middle Gap Pre-Construction Work.

- PennDOT will be coming with all of their various experts on March 6 for a tour of the mile and a half section. Some clearing will need to be done on the east side of Route 66. Volunteers will be needed to help with a skid-loader.
- b. **Public Relations** – Vicki Rudge
- Facebook followers stand at 3783, Instagram at 126 and X /Twitter at 164.
 - WHT merchandise options have been selected, and proofs for our clothing are being prepared. Many types of shirts will be available, along with hats. The purchase was kept under the budgeted amount with 156 items to start with. Initial sales will occur at the RTC office, with website sales to follow.
 - The Trail Town Festival Committee met on Tuesday to plan our event. The Committee would like to donate \$100 to the Export Firemen for the use of their pavilion. Wade’s Grill and Salsa Sam will be our food trucks, and the Export business community may coordinate with the event. The race will start at the caboose in Export and go to Carson Braun, so all of the poker run stations will be the same as last year. We will make t-shirts again and put ‘save the date’ posters out on our kiosks.
- c. **Membership** – Wendy Davis
- Membership at the end of January stood at 501 active members. A gift certificate for the new merchandise store will be sent to the person who was our 500th member to join.
- d. **Website** - Chad Emahizer
- The WHT website had 720 views visitors in January, with the decline due to the winter weather.
 - A web store has been added to handle both memberships and merchandise sales
- e. **Maintenance** – Rick Fisher and Chad Emahizer
- Rick Fisher reported that the tractor parts and the Slickville sponsor signs have been received. The signs are stored inside the shed.
- e. **Fundraising** – Rob Cronauer
- Mile markers are still available for sponsorship. Comedy Night sponsorships are coming in at a nice rate.
- f. **Trail Ambassadors** – Stan Rudge
- Stan plans to have a Trail Ambassador training class on Tuesday March 11 at 6:30 PM in the Westmoreland Conservation District office.
- g. **Regional Trail Corporation / Trans-Allegheny Trails** – Stan Rudge
- The RTC will meet next week and we will hear more about their funding of our bridge inspection, as well as the issues with the slide near Kennywood on the GAP trail.
- h. **Municipal Representatives**
- The March for Parks will again have an All-Trails team for the event, as we did last year. It will be held on Saturday March 29 at Twin Lakes Park, starting at 10 AM.
10. Next month’s WHT Meeting will be held via Zoom on March 13, 2025 from 7:00 to 8:00 PM.
11. On a motion by Rob Cronauer, seconded by Annmarie Stackiewicz, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 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 Nights at LIVE Casino	Greensburg
	11	6:30 PM	Trail Ambassador Training / Refresher Class	WCD Barn
	13	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Zoom
APR				
	10	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Lamplighter
MAY	26	8 AM - 2PM	Norwin AF-JR-ROTC Bataan March	Zones 4 & 5
	8	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Lamplighter
JUN	7	9 AM – 2 PM	Community Festival / Poker Run	TBA
	12	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Pedora Park
JUL				
	10	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Pedora Park
AUG				
	14	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Pedora Park
SEP				
	11	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Pedora Park
OCT				
	9	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Lamplighter
NOV				
	13	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Lamplighter
DEC	11	6 PM	WHT Volunteer Appreciation Night	TBA

