



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 March Board Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2024

Zoom

Meeting Attendees:

- Board (13): Michael Bertonaschi, Karen Rose Cercone, Rob Cronauer, Wendy Davis, Jerry Detar, Chad Emahizer, Rick Fisher, Tom Marcin, Stan Rudge, Vicki Rudge, Malcolm Sias, AnnaMarie Stackiewicz, Ann Wade
- Absent Board (8): Mike Banda, Liz Ferri, Kerry Jobe, Geri Lombardo, Monica Meehan, Darrin Miller, Pat Norton, Chris Panichella
- Guests and Members: Amy Imblum, Matt Kundrat, Ron Markos, Bob Stackiewicz, John Ruccio, David Nigro

1. The Zoom meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.
2. President's Comments – none
3. Public Input/Introductions – none
4. Approval of Minutes
 - a. The minutes from the February 8, 2024 meeting were approved on a motion by Cronauer seconded by Bertonaschi.
5. Treasurer's Report – Stan Rudge (for Chris Panichella)
 - a. As of February 29, 2024, we have \$54,178.74 in our Money Market accounts (S&T Bank), \$92,943.50 in our checking account (S&T Bank) and \$53,586.48 invested (Wealth Enhancement Advisors) for a total of \$201,283.05 in current assets. We have \$49,782.28 in capital equipment and \$18,971.02 in fixed assets, making our total liability and equity \$220,254.07.
 - b. On a motion by Detar, seconded by Stackiewicz, the Treasurer's reports were approved.
 - c. Comedy Night grossed \$18,341 this year. The net profits minus sponsorships were shared with the Five Star Trail, resulting in a total profit of \$6247.07 for our trail chapter. A motion by Sias, seconded by Bertonaschi, was made to send a check for \$3847.07 to the Five-Star Trail. Rob Cronauer thanked all of the volunteers who helped make the night such a success.
6. **ITEMS FOR ACTION AND/OR INFORMATION**
 - a. Official Correspondence –
 - A trail user's request for a waste can at the Old Wm Penn gravel lot / kiosk could not be honored; the trail user will be contacted with an explanation.
 - Fifteen thank-you letters were sent for donations made since the beginning of the year
 - b. Upcoming Events – A motion was made by Cercone, seconded by Bertonaschi, to approve all of the following trail events:
 - MSA Earth Day Trail Cleanup – April 22, 2024
 - GCXC Murrysville Monster Trail Race – July 14, 2024 (7 AM – Noon) Zone 4
 - GCXC Trick or Treat 5K Race – October 26, 2024 (8 AM – 11 AM) Zone 4

7. OLD BUSINESS

- a. New Volunteer Agreement and Liability Waiver from the RTC is attached to the minutes (page 5). Discussion was tabled until the next meeting; a copy is attached for volunteers to read before the next meeting. The RTC has indicated that signing the liability waiver is not required to volunteer.
- b. Website – Chad Emahizer is the new WHT webmaster. He is planning to move the website to a new hosting service and modernize its appearance.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. New Tractor – Rick Fisher reported that the new tractor is in the shed and looks like it will work out very well. It can be driven on the road or on the trail, and has a sickle bar attachment.
- b. Issues have occurred with dogs on the section of the trail between Slickville and Saltsburg. Loyalhanna Township’s Animal Control Officer is aware of the problem and has taken some of the dogs into custody. All dogs walked on the trail should be on 6-foot leash.

9. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **Real Estate, Planning, Engineering and Construction** – Jeff Richards & Malcolm Sias
 - The Kacin land donation agreement is still in the hands of solicitors. The Salem Twp. Planning Commission has reviewed the Lot Revision Plan submitted by Dollar General and is making comments to Salem Township Board of Supervisors for their March 20 meeting.
 - Malcom Sias reported that the Zone 1 and 2 resurfacing project just waiting for good weather to do the final punch list items.
 - Malcolm Sias reported that both tracts near Sara Steele are now owned by the RTC.
 - Lisa’s Bike Shop property has been purchased with a cash offer by a gentleman in Murrysville. Stan will talk to the former owner about the sign that is partly on trail property.
- b. **Public Relations** – Vicki Rudge
 - The WHT’s Facebook followers now stand at 3623 with our Twitter followers at 169 and Instagram at 75.
 - “Save the Date” signs for the Trail Town Festival will be posted along the trail after March for Parks is completed. Signs will also be posted in kiosks, website, and social media.
- c. **Membership** – Wendy Davis
 - The Spring Membership Drive prizes were drawn by an on-screen random number generator. The winners were Shelby Doyle (3rd prize, free Poker Run entry), Frank Kucan (2nd prize, \$50 cash) and Victor & Rachel Corder (1st prize, \$100 Amazon gift certificate). Wendy will notify all of the winners and arrange for prize distribution.
- d. **Maintenance** – Rick Fisher and Chad Emahizer
 - A small tree was taken down at 3.5 miles because it was overhanging the trail.
 - Four brake wheel cylinder parts were purchased for the Toros at \$145 each. (645.76). The purchase was approved on a motion by Sia, seconded by Bertonaschi.
 - A large tree came down on Zone 5 and was taken care of within just a few hours.
 - Murrysville shed – the Toro is blocking the tractor and won’t be fixed until early April.
 - Slickville garage – the DR Trimmer may not be needed and could be sold.
 - The chains at Sportsman’s Road were cut and need to be fixed.
 - More vinyl privacy slats could be removed on the fence along Cleveland Brothers boundary to improve visibility around the bend. Conversations should be held with the company first.

- A list of possible additional ideas for trail improvement is attached to the minutes (page 6).
- e. **Fundraising** – Rob Cronauer
- See Comedy Night report under Old Business above.
 - Malcolm Sias reminded everyone to sign up for March for Parks All-Trails Team at Twin Lakes on March 23. Donations can be designated for the WHT Middle Gap project.
- f. **Trail Ambassadors** – Stan Rudge
- Trail Ambassadors logged 63 total hours for the month of February. Stan thanked Michael, Steve, Jerry, and Tim for their diligence and prompt reporting of issues.
- g. **Regional Trail Corporation / Trans-Allegheny Trails** – Stan Rudge
- A new RTC mobility policy is attached to the minutes (page 7). It will be posted at kiosks along the trail.
- h. **Municipal Representatives**
- Trafford – parking continues to be an issue at Wye Brewing / Parkside Creamery. The Trafford Borough manager has been asked if parking lines could be painted in the upper lot at B-Y Park to allow more cars to park. She will ask her maintenance employees about this.
 - Trafford has asked the Westmoreland Heritage Trail to send a letter of support to PennDOT for improving the traffic flow around Parkside Plaza. The Executive Officers will address this.
 - Friends of the Riverfront is negotiating with Norfolk Southern to purchase the entire rail corridor between WHT and Wilmerding. FOTR is having the 3.5 mile section of rail appraised and will be moving forward with this negotiation. They would appreciate any statistics for trail use on the WHT to support grant applications. Stan Rudge has already sent statistics to Chris Corbran at the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, but will also send them to FOTR.
 - Delmont Borough is applying for a C2P2 grant from DCNR for a trail feasibility study. WHT will supply a letter of support for this effort.
10. Next month's WHT Meeting will be held in person on April 11 at the Lamplighter Restaurant.
11. On a motion by Annemarie Stackiewiec, seconded by Chad Emahizer, the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Rose Cercone, Secretary

Upcoming WHT Board Meeting Dates and Locations

April 11 (Lamplighter, Delmont)
 May 9 (Lamplighter, Delmont)
 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	6 PM	10 th Annual WHT Comedy Night	Colton Hall, Claridge

APRIL

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
Mon, Apr 22	TBD	MSA Earth Day Trail Clean-up	Zone 4, near MSA plant

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>
Sat July 14	7 AM – Noon	GCXC Murrysville Monster Race	Zone 4

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>
Sat Oct 26	8 AM – 11 AM	GCXC Trick or Treat 5 K Race	Zone 4

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

**REGIONAL TRAIL CORPORATION AND CHAPTERS
VOLUNTEER AGREEMENT AND RELEASE FROM LIABILITY**

1. I, _____, [name of volunteer] agree to work for RTC and Chapters as a volunteer on _____ [name of project or activity] _____ [date or timeframe].

2. As a volunteer, I understand that I control the dates and times when I work and that Regional Trail Corporation and Chapters are not responsible for scheduling my volunteer work. I also understand that I will not be compensated, nor am I entitled to benefits, including employment insurance, because of this service.

3. I am aware that participation may require physical activity and will require the exercise of reasonable care to avoid injury. I am voluntarily participating with knowledge of the potential hazards and dangers involved and accept all risks of personal injury and property damage.

4. As consideration for volunteering for Regional Trail Corporation and Chapters, I hereby agree that I, and my assignees, heirs, guardians, and legal representatives, will not make a claim against or sue Regional Trail Corporation and Chapters or its employees, agents, or contractors for injury or damage resulting from the negligence, whether active or passive, or other acts, however caused, by any of its officers, employees, agents, or contractors of Regional Trail Corporation and Chapters as a result of my volunteering. I HEREBY RELEASE AND DISCHARGE REGIONAL TRAIL CORPORATION AND CHAPTERS AND ITS OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, AND CONTRACTORS FROM ALL ACTIONS, CLAIMS, OR DEMANDS THAT I, MY HEIRS, GUARDIANS, AND LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES NOW HAVE, OR MAY HAVE IN THE FUTURE, FOR INJURY OR DAMAGE RESULTING FROM MY PARTICIPATION.

5. I UNDERSTAND THAT IF I AM INJURED IN THE COURSE OF THE PROJECT, I AM NOT COVERED BY REGIONAL TRAIL CORPORATION'S WORKERS' COMPENSATION PROGRAM. I authorize Regional Trail Corporation and Chapters to seek emergency medical treatment on my behalf in case of injury, accident, or illness arising from my involvement as a volunteer. I understand that I will be responsible for medical costs incurred in connection with any accident, illness, or injury.

6. I understand that the materials and tools provided by RTC and Chapters are and remain the property of RTC and Chapters, and I agree to return these tools and any remaining materials at the end of my volunteer service.

7. I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS AGREEMENT AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENTS. I AM AWARE THAT THIS IS A RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND SIGN IT OF MY OWN FREE WILL.

Date	Volunteer Signature	Printed Name
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Date	RTC/Chapter Representative Signature	Printed Name
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If the volunteer is under 18, a parent or guardian must read and sign the following:

This release, its significance, and assumption of risk have been explained to and are understood by the minor.

Date	Parent or Guardian Signature	Printed Name
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TRAIL IDEAS FOR IMPROVEMENTS FOR 2024

Zones 1 & 2

- Painting benches, picnic table, fences and sign posts
- Some benches have plaques that are faded – need new plaques or is it time to resell some of the benches
- Refrigerator in creek near Sara Steele (near the east gate) – remove it?
- Landscaping in Sara Steele and Rangos parking areas
- WHT entrance at Saltsburg
- Mile Post signs on Zones 1 & 2
- Paint bridge railings at Slickville Fire
- Paint bridge railings and deck on bridge leading to Slickville Deli

ZONES 4 & 5

- Move library in Trafford
- Move maintenance post in Trafford
- Replace solar lights on flag at Saunders Station
- Minor washout on Zone 4 where MSA is right where trail crosses Meadowbrook. Also there is a good ditch that needs cleaned out and same drainage issues
- Minor washout on Zone 5 down past BY Park near the end of the trail
- Add picnic table to Saunder Station
- Put out “A” fames
- Spay Bridge Decks
- Add Trail Head signs (Saunders Station TH, Carson Braun TH, Roberts Parcel TH, etc.)
- Contact Alcosan because they use the trail to access with trucks and they have equipment they could use to clear the drainage area in Zone 5

Regional Trail Corporation

Mobility Device Policy

Revision 2

As approved by the RTC Board on December 13, 2023

In accordance with the US Department of Justice (DOJ), Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), revised regulations for Titles II and III, the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design of 15 November 2010, and Vehicle Code (75 PA C.S.) - Neighborhood electric vehicles, operation of pedacycles with electric assist and operation of vehicle without official certification inspection, Act of Oct. 22, 2014, P.L. 2543, No. 154 C1. 75, Session 2014 No. 2014-154, the RTC adopts the following policies:

1. To accommodate mobility disabled persons, wheelchairs and similar devices built specifically for mobility disabilities are permitted.

2. E-bikes that meet the following criteria are permitted:
 - a. Are propelled by fully-operating pedals or by pedal-assist power.
 - b. Have motors that are 750 watts or less.
 - c. Weigh less than 100 pounds (43kg).
 - d. Are no more than 36 inches wide.
 - e. Have two or three wheels.

3. The following are not permitted:
 - a. Devices powered by throttle only, by accelerator pedals, or by internal combustion engines.
 - b. Using the electric motor to move any device without pedaling.
 - c. Riding an e-bike at a speed in excess of the 15 mph speed limit.
 - d. Motorized skateboards, scooters, or similar devices with any number of wheels.