



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)

Meeting Minutes March 9, 2023

Lamplighter Restaurant, Delmont

Meeting Attendees:

- Board (15): Karen Rose Cercone, Rob Cronauer, Wendy Davis, Chad Emahizer, Elizabeth Ferri, Rick Fisher, Dale Hollabaugh, Kerry Jobe, Geri Lombardo, Pat Norton, William O'Hara, Chris Panichella, Malcolm Sias, Ann Wade
- Absent Board (9): Alyssa Davis, Paul Estok, Monica Meehan, Stan Rudge, Vicki Rudge, AnnaMarie Stackiewicz
- Guests (14): Jerry Babcock, Barbara Coulter, Jim Coulter, John Frick, Joshua Frick, Ron Hoffman, Jim Klueber, Tim Leriotis, Jack Maher, Darrin Miller, Dee O'Hara, Megan Pilkington, Jeff Richards, Dan Scheuerman

1. Vice President Rob Cronauer led the recitation of "The Pledge of Allegiance" and then called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.
2. President's Comment – No report.
3. Public Input/Introductions – No report.
4. Approval of Minutes
 - a. A motion to approve the February minutes was made by Norton, seconded by Lombardo. The motion carried and the minutes were approved.
5. Treasurer's Report – Chris Panichella
 - a. As of February 28, 2023, we have \$53,859.14 in the Money Market account, \$66,554.66 in the checking account, and \$53,586.48 invested for a total of \$173,400.28 in current assets. We have \$18,971.02 in fixed assets, making our total assets \$192,371.30. Membership renewals in February increased from last year by a significant amount (\$2200 versus \$400) thanks to our special membership drive. Comedy Night was a success (see Fundraising below for additional discussion). A motion was made by Wade, seconded by Sias to transfer \$3205.68 to the Five Star Trail as their portion of the profits and sponsorships. The motion passed. The overall net profit of Comedy Night was \$5700, down from the previous year.
 - b. A motion to approve the February 2023 Treasurer's Report with minor corrections regarding Comedy Night was made by Emahizer and seconded by O'Hara. The motion carried, and the Treasurer's Report was approved as amended.

6. ITEMS FOR ACTION AND/OR INFORMATION

- a. Upcoming Events
 - March 25, 2023 – March for Parks - Twin Lakes Park (more under New Business)
 - April 22, 2023 - Dustin Norris Mem. Race - 8am to Noon - Zone 4
 - April 25, 2023 - Trail Ambassador Training - 6pm – Westmoreland Conservation District
 - April 29, 2023 - Norwin JR ROTC - 8am to 3pm - Zone 4 and 5
 - June 3, 2023 - WHT Festival and Poker Run - Trafford B-Y Park - Zone 5
 - October 14, 2023 - Halloween Hot Foot Race - 7-11am - Zone 4

7. OLD BUSINESS

- a. The Murrysville Mural Committee met on Zoom with Christina Donahoe, the muralist who has begun planning to cover the graffiti on the bridge under Route 22 with a mural honoring Murrysville history. Consensus was reached on not adding corporate logos to the bridge supports as per Westmoreland County regulations. The artist was amenable to instead creating a plaque with the names of the mural donors, like the plaques we have done in the past for WHT bridge donors. Additional plans for the mural will be presented to WHT officers as they are developed in consultation with PennDOT and the municipality of Murrysville. Once the design is finalized, volunteers will be recruited to assist the artist with clear coating of the mural to protect against future graffiti.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Joshua Frick from Boy Scout Troop 257 presented his proposed Eagle Scout Project for the Westmoreland Heritage Trail. He plans to build a bike rack and solar charging station to install at the Creamery in Trafford with a second bike rack to be installed at the Carson Braun trailhead. Stan Rudge will serve as Joshua's mentor and advisor. A motion was made by Sias, seconded by Norton, to approve the project. A follow-up motion was made by Wade, seconded by Jobe, to fund Joshua's project in the amount of \$250.
- b. A request was made for WHT to staff an outreach table at a regional Trail Summit to be held at the Public Lands store in Cranberry PA, April 1 9-3 PM. Unfortunately, no volunteers were available to assist with this particular outreach event.
- c. Malcolm Sias is seeking additional participants to create a March for Parks "All Trails Team" to help raise money for parks and trails in the county. A long-sleeved t-shirt will be given out to all participants who raise \$30. There will also be a pancake breakfast with real maple syrup! Contact Malcolm and/or register online if you are interested in participating.

9. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **Real Estate, Planning, Engineering and Construction** – Jeff Richards
 - PennDOT is still reviewing the Dollar General site proposal, resulting in further delay in finalizing the Richard Kacin donation. The White Valley Athletic Club is reviewing the draft of the agreement for an easement on their property.
 - Survey markers need to be reinforced with metal pipes in Zone 3 – the maintenance team will be asked to assist.
- b. **Public Relations** – Vicki Rudge (report by Wendy Davis)
 - The WHT's Facebook Followers now stand at 3267 with our Twitter followers at 160 and Instagram has 23 followers.
 - As noted earlier, the 2023 Trail Town Festival will be held at Trafford B.Y. Park with a Poker Run, a D.J. and several food vendors
- c. **Membership** – Wendy Davis
 - The February Membership Drive included a raffle for anyone joining or renewing through PayPal. We received 65 renewals and several new members.
 - \$100 Amazon card goes to Mark Begeman
 - Lifetime Membership goes to Gary Grysiak
 - \$50 cash goes to Danielle Edwards

- d. **Maintenance** – Rick Fisher and Chad Emahizer
- A few trees came down over the winter months, but not too many, which is a tribute to the maintenance team’s efforts to take out dead trees. Several Maintenance volunteers attended pesticide class and some mechanical maintenance was done to prepare for the upcoming summer season.
 - Zone 3 clearing was very successful with assistance from local excavator Groundbreakers. This will assist in promoting a future Century Run (partly along the trail) in the Fall of 2024. The newly cleared portion of Zone 3 will be visited at our first summer meeting at Pedora Park in June.
- e. **Trail Ambassadors** – Stan Rudge (report by Rob Cronauer)
- A training for new trail ambassadors will be held on Tuesday, April 25 at 6 PM at the Westmoreland Conservation District Building. Contact Stan Rudge if interested.
 - Trail Monitors should post their February monitoring hours.
- f. **Fundraising** – Rob Cronauer
- Comedy Night went well, thanks to member support. About 270 attendees contributed about \$17 each through the raffle and auction baskets. Ticket sales and sponsor numbers have declined since the initial year. There were some issues with the sound quality which will need to be addressed in coming years with the venue.
- g. **Municipal Representatives** – various
- Export (Liz Ferri) – the grant application for the proposed new kiosk in Export was not successful. Efforts to raise funds will continue.
- h. **Regional Trail Corporation/Trans-Allegheny Trails** – Stan Rudge (report by Rob Cronauer)
- No report

10. Next month’s WHT Board meeting will take place on April 13 at the Lamplighter Restaurant.

11. On a motion by O’Hara, seconded by Norton, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Rose Cercone, Secretary