



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

April 11, 2024

Lamplighter Restaurant, Delmont PA

Meeting Attendees:

- Board (18): Mike Banda, Michael Bertonaschi, Karen Rose Cercone, Rob Cronauer, Wendy Davis, Jerry Detar, Chad Emahizer, Liz Ferri, Rick Fisher, Geri Lombardo, Tom Marcin, Pat Norton, Chris Panichella, Stan Rudge, Vicki Rudge, Malcolm Sias, Annamarie Stackiewicz, Ann Wade
- Absent Board (3): Kerry Jobe, Monica Meehan, Darrin Miller
- Guests and Members (16): Chris Baldy, Sarah Colligan, Barb Coulter, Jim Coulter, Mike Desmond, Tim Dunn, Steve Ising, Ron Markos, David Nigro, Patrick O'Toole, Jeff Richards, John Ruccio, Adam Shash, Bob Stackiewicz, Mike Urban, Kelly Voetsch

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.
2. President's Comments – A grant application was submitted to the Trail Volunteer Fund for 100% reimbursement of \$5507.76. If funded, this will allow us to purchase two chain saws, six trimmers, and six sets of Stihl power tools. The \$1800 that was formerly going to cover our 33% match will instead be used to purchase additional safety equipment such as hard-hats and first aid kits.
3. Public Input/Introductions – none
4. Approval of Minutes
 - a. The minutes from the March 14, 2024 meeting were approved on a motion by Wade seconded by Cronauer.
5. Treasurer's Report –Chris Panichella
 - a. Total memberships, donations, and Comedy Night revenue were all up for the year, making net revenue year to date \$16,000. As of March 31, 2024, we have \$54,178.74 in our Money Market accounts (S&T Bank), \$92,726.72 in our checking account (S&T Bank) and \$53,586.48 invested (Wealth Enhancement Advisors). We have \$67,938.86 in capital equipment and \$27,194.30 in fixed assets, making our total liability and equity \$228,228.57.
 - b. On a motion by Emahizer, seconded by Detar, the Treasurer's reports were approved.
6. **ITEMS FOR ACTION AND/OR INFORMATION**
 - a. Official Correspondence –
 - Two thank-you letters were sent for donations made in March, including one to Richard Kacin of Kacin Companies, for our first Annual Sponsorship donation of \$1000.
 - Members were reminded to list our Annual Sponsors on all event banners, t-shirts, and other trail materials until the end of 2024.
 - Annual sponsors will be recognized on our maintenance. Rob Cronauer is investigating options for a large permanent sign with smaller removable signs for annual sponsors.
 - b. Upcoming Events – none

7. OLD BUSINESS

- a. The RTC has indicated that signing their new liability waiver is not required for volunteers. Options include 1) signing the new form; 2) crossing out the phrases that the volunteer objects to when signing the new form; or 3) refusing to sign the form. It will be up to the trail chapter whether to accept volunteers who choose options 2 or 3. Note: volunteers should fill out the first line as 'Continuous maintenance service' if they want the form to cover the entire year. A motion was made by Cronauer, seconded by Wade, to accept the new volunteer form with the options listed above. The motion carried.
- b. The dogs involved in the attack on the trail have been captured and euthanized. The animal control officer reports that the dog owner has made his property fence more secure. A hearing has been scheduled for the charges brought by the man whose leashed dog was attacked.
- c. The continuing security issues at Saunders Station were again brought to the trail chapter's attention by Jeff Contello of the Trafford Economic Development Council. He requested security cameras be placed at this trail head. Electricity could be brought in, or battery-operated trail cameras could be installed there. We will continue to explore our options for this site.
- d. The website has been transferred over to a new, more cost-effective site and is undergoing some final reviews before the new link will be made active.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Some flood damage occurred on Zone 5 with the stream cresting over the trail at the Big Bend. The water removed over 600 feet of limestone topcoat but did not remove the asphalt millings that were placed there a year ago. Ever-Ready Contactor (located in Zip's old building) has given us a quote of \$4000 for repairing the trail, drainage ditches, etc. Westmoreland County Department of Parks & Recreation will cover the costs of this repair. The fix will need to wait until a stretch of drier weather allows heavy trucks to be driven on the trail. When a weekday is selected, trail monitors will be alerted so they can block off the trail.
- b. Ditches along Zone 4 and 5 will be cleared by Monroeville Public Works. They will also be adding some gravel to the overflow lot at Saunders Station.

9. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **Real Estate, Planning, Engineering and Construction** – Jeff Richards & Malcolm Sias
 - The Turtle Creek Connector project is moving forward, with updates posted on The Friends of the Riverfront website. An appraisal is going to be done on the off-road trail section between Wilmerding and Trafford, as part of the negotiations with Norfolk-Southern.
 - On March 20, the Salem Township Supervisors approved the plan for Dollar General along Route 66. The closing date for the deal with Mr. Kacin is now the end of April.
 - Resurfacing of Zones 1 and 2 is close to complete. The contractor has a few last tasks to complete such as planting grass, gate installation along Route 819, and log removal.
- b. **Public Relations** – Vicki Rudge
 - The WHT's Facebook followers now stand at 3643 with our Twitter followers at 169 and Instagram at 76. The website received 739 visitors last month with 1840 views of pages.
 - Sponsor letters have been printed for the June 1 Trail Town Festival and members can take them from the meeting to recruit sponsors.
- c. **Membership** – Wendy Davis
 - We are up to 482 active members.

- d. **Maintenance** – Rick Fisher and Chad Emahizer
 - Lots of tree-cutting has been done along the trail. Rick thanked all the volunteers.
 - Brake cylinders and battery have been replaced on the Murrysville Toro. Oil changes are planned for the Slickville Toro and the Gator.
 - Registration of the Smouse trailer is close to expiring and there is no owner's card with it. Stan Rudge will follow up on insurance and registration for it and other vehicles.
 - Zone Leaders – Bench staining is needed this year. This might be a good project for a company interested in doing a Day of Service.
- e. **Fundraising** – Rob Cronauer
 - Milepost sponsorships are still available to interested donors.
- f. **Trail Ambassadors** – Stan Rudge
 - Trail Ambassadors will have a recertification of existing monitors as well as an orientation for new monitors.
- g. **Regional Trail Corporation / Trans-Allegheny Trails** – Stan Rudge
 - The Regional Trail Corporation will be doing publicity for all the trail chapters at the Public Lands festival.
- h. **Municipal Representatives**
 - The parking area for Trafford should be switched from Parkside Plaza to B.Y. Park Upper Lot on our website.
 - At Export's Tuesday Council Meeting, a contract was awarded for paving the lot.
 - The Delmont Visionary Committee and Borough applied for a C2P2 grant and will find out in September if they receive it.
 - A bike rodeo will be held at the Delmont Fire Hall on June 15 from 12:30-3:30 PM.
 - Ann Wade and Rick attended the Murrysville Council Meeting to remind them that they have a cooperative agreement with the County to support the trail.
- 10. Next month's WHT Meeting will be held in person on May 9, 2024 at the Lamplighter Restaurant.
- 11. On a motion by Pat Norton, seconded by Annemarie Stackiewicz, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Rose Cercone, Secretary

Upcoming WHT Board Meeting Dates and Locations

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	Noon to 2 PM	MSA Earth Day Trail Clean-up	Zone 4, near MSA plant
Sat Apr 27	8AM-2:45PM	Norwin AFJROTC Bataan March	Zone 5

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 Ctr

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