



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

## **WHT April Board Meeting Minutes**

April 9, 2026

Lamplighter Restaurant, Delmont PA

### **Meeting Attendees:**

- Board (17): Mike Banda, Michael Bertonaschi, Karen Rose Cercone, Rob Cronauer, Wendy Davis, Jerry Detar, Chad Emahizer, Liz Ferri, Rick Fisher, Tom Marcin, Darren Miller, Chris Panichella, Stan Rudge, Vicki Rudge, Brooke Russick, Malcolm Sias, Annamarie Stackiewicz
- Absent Board (4): Steve Ising, Pat Norton, Monica Meehan, Ann Wade
- Guests and Members (12): Pat Carney, Barb Coulter, Jim Coulter, Tim Dunn, Chrissy Edwards-McCune, Mike Grimaldi, Hal Lester, Alexandra Long, Jeff Richards, Bob Stackiewicz, Mike Urban, Dale West.

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

### **1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**2. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS** – Stan Rudge apologized for the longer meeting agenda and thanked our guest speakers for coming out to present their information to the trail chapter.

**3. PUBLIC INPUT/INTRODUCTIONS** – Pat Carney introduced himself as a local resident who is interested in finding out more about the 'middle gap' of the trail.

### **4. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

- Alexandra Long from the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) described the T.R.A.I.L.S. Project and the Trail Maintenance Toolkit, showing how the new digital platform could be used to catalog the trail's maintenance needs. As part of the project, the WHT will receive almost \$15,000 for signage and other maintenance needs from the pilot grant.
- Chrissy Edwards-McCune from Westmoreland Conservation District gave a presentation about ticks on the Westmoreland Heritage Trail. She advised trail chapter members about the best ways to prevent tick bites and ward off tick-borne diseases.
- Chad Emahizer of the Westmoreland Heritage Trail showed trail chapter members how to access the Google cloud resources. Anyone who needs more assistance should contact Chad.

### **5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the March 12, 2026 meeting were approved on a motion by Michael Bertonaschi, seconded by Jerry Detar. The motion passed.

### **6. TREASURER'S REPORT**

As of March 31, 2026, our checking balance was \$66,123 our Money Market balance was \$15,183, our Fidelity Investments totaled \$78,727 and our CD balance is approximately \$67,000. WHT's total equities and assets come to \$339,613. The trail received income of \$18,298 in March from Comedy Night, early Poker Run Festival registrations, sponsorships, dues and other income Total expenses for March, including Comedy Night, Porta-Potties and Trail Maintenance, came to \$16,082. A

motion was made by Karen Rose Cercone, seconded by Mike Banda, to approve the March treasurer's reports. The motion passed.

## **7. ITEMS FOR ACTION AND/OR INFORMATION**

- Karen Rose Cercone reported that 19 thank-you letters and one advocacy letter (concerning All American Baseball Center in Trafford) were sent out in February and March.
- First Quarter (Jan – Mar 2026) Trail Counter data was presented showing a marked uptick in trail usage with the warmer spring weather. A fourth trail counter has been added to the trail at milepost 16.5, near Robert's Parcel.
- Stan Rudge shared that a dedication and ribbon cutting will be held on Wednesday April 22 at 12:30 PM in Nanty Glo, celebrating the completion of the Ghost Town Trail's 32-mile Loop.

## **8. OLD BUSINESS**

- Report on March for Parks fundraiser – Malcolm Sias reported that the fundraiser was a success despite the cold weather, and there were numerous participants there from local trail chapters. The total amount of funds raised is not known yet but may exceed \$80,000.
- CNX Day of Service for Zones 1 and 2 – Rob Cronauer reported that this event has not been completely finalized, but will most likely occur on Tuesday, May 5. Trail volunteers are asked to hold that date on their calendars, because help will be needed to organize the large group.
- Update on the Culvert Clean-out Zone 5 – Michael Bertonaschi reported that Nick at Eveready Contracting has cleaned out many culverts on the western end of the trail. Issues were discovered with a landslide near Forbes Road and also at the Big Bend. Temporary fencing may be needed to ensure the safety of trail users.
- Update on the PES stipend for new gates and replacement of worn signage – Rick Fisher reported that the gates have been purchased and should arrive toward the end of May. Volunteers will be needed to assist the contractor who will be installing them.
- Trail resurfacing update – Malcolm Sias informed the chapter that the trail resurfacing following construction work by FTMSA has been postponed to November 2026. Starting Monday, contractors will begin resurfacing the worst sections of the trail after last year's flood issues. They will begin in Export and work west to Murrysville and then on to Trafford. Some sections will be repaired with limestone, while others will be paved with asphalt. Work will continue on weekdays from 6 AM through 4 PM for the next few weeks. The work could cost \$172,000, most of which will be contributed by the county and the RTC. The trail chapter has already approved up to \$30,000 to be contributed toward resurfacing if needed.

## **9. NEW BUSINESS**

- No items of new business were covered at this meeting.

## **10. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- a. Real Estate/Acquisitions & Engineering/Construction – Jeff Richards reported that GAI Consultants are now working on preliminary engineering and surveying for the 1.5 miles of trail between Morosini Farm Road and Rangos Trailhead. The tunnel will be the focus of most geotechnical work such as soil borings and geological conditions. The WHT Steering Committee has simultaneously been working on a schematic plan for the future Route 66 Trailhead at Industrial Drive. This will include a 100 x 50 maintenance building, parking for 150 cars, and storage for trail supplies. GAI Consultants have been engaged for this planning effort as well.
- b. Public Relations – Vicki Rudge updated us about planning for the 2026 Poker Run Festival at the B-Y Park in Trafford. Facebook followers increased by 99 to 4120, Instagram followers stand at 215, and X followers are again 162.

- c. Membership – Wendy Davis reported that trail chapter membership rose to 590 in March.
- d. Maintenance – Rick Fisher reported that first-aid training was successful, and that resulted in the donation of first-aid training and supplies. Rick has certificates for those that completed the training. He also noted that a pressure washer and generator were purchased with funding from the Pittsburgh Foundation, and may be useful for the CNX Day of Service. Michael Bertonaschi reported that the chain saw training was also successful with 100% participation.
- e. Fund-raising – Rob Cronauer gave an update about the 2026 Comedy Night noting that it raised \$8611 overall with \$3105 going to Five-Star trail and \$5505 going to the WHT. A final payment from the Casino is still due for the charity bingo.
- f. Trail Ambassadors – Steve Ising sent in a report by email that 20 Trail Ambassadors were trained and certified on March 16<sup>th</sup>. They included 18 from the WHT and two from other RTC trail chapters. WHT Ambassadors logged 113 hours on the trail in March.
- g. Regional Trail Corporation / Trans-Allegheny Trails – Stan Rudge said that the RTC President was very complimentary about our safety training efforts so far in 2026.
- h. Municipal Representatives Reports:
  - Annamarie Stackiewicz (Delmont) reported that the public survey for the Delmont Feasibility Study will close on April 12. She also invited trail members to a murder mystery fundraiser on May 9 at the Lamplighter. Tickets are available on Delmont Borough’s website <https://www.delmontboro.com/events/visionary-committee-murder-mystery/>.
  - Darrin Miller (Murrysville) reported that Murrysville Police had received a grant for additional bike monitoring of the trail. Stan suggested that a discussion be held between the trail and the police officers to update them on the continuing issues with E-bikes.
  - Stan Rudge (Penn Township) thanked Penn Township for lending their sawhorses to the trail for the recent work.

## 11. NEXT BOARD MEETING

Our next meeting will be May 14, 2026, 7:00 PM in person at the Lamplighter Restaurant or another (less noisy) location. Please monitor your emails in May for location information.

## 12. ADJOURNMENT

Rob Cronauer made a motion, seconded by Tim Leriotis, to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 PM. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Rose Cercone, Secretary

## Westmoreland Heritage Trail 2026 Event Calendar

Month	Date	Time	Event	Location
JAN	8	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Zoom
FEB	12	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Zoom
MAR	7	6 - 9 PM	WHT Comedy Night at LIVE Casino	Greensburg
	12	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Zoom
APR	9	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Lamplighter
	19	8 -11 AM	Burn Boot Camp 5K Race & MDA Fundraiser	Zone 4
	25	8 AM – 4 PM	Norwin AF-JROTC Boosters Annual Bataan March	Zones 4 and 5
MAY	14	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Lamplighter / TBA
JUN	6	9 AM – 2 PM	Poker Run Festival	Trafford B-Y
	11	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Pedora Park
JUL	9	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Pedora Park
	12	7 AM–12 PM	GCGX Murrysville Monster Race	Zone 4
AUG	13	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Pedora Park
SEP	10	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Pedora Park
OCT	3	All-day	Export 100 Trail Race (pending approval)	All trail zones
	8	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Lamplighter / TBA
	31	8AM-11AM	GCXC Racing Trick or Trot 5K	Zone 4
NOV	12	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Lamplighter / TBA
DEC	10	6 PM	WHT Volunteer Appreciation Night	WCD