



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 May 11, 2023

Pedora Park, Export PA

Meeting Attendees:

- Board (13): Karen Rose Cercone, Rob Cronauer, Elizabeth Ferri, Rick Fisher, Dale Hollabaugh, Geri Lombardo, Monica Meehan, Pat Norton, William O'Hara, Chris Panichella, Stan Rudge, Vicki Rudge, Malcolm Sias, Ann Wade
- Absent Board (8): Alyssa Davis, Wendy Davis, Chad Emahizer, Paul Estok, Mike Ley, Kerry Jobe, AnnaMarie Stackiewicz
- Guests (10): Mike Banda, Barb Coulter, Jim Coulter, Tim Dunn, Jerry Detar, Tom Kundrat, Tim Leriott, Jack Maher, Tom Marcin, Dee O'Hara

1. President Stan Rudge led the recitation of "The Pledge of Allegiance" and then called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.
2. President's Comments – President Rudge read the chapter's mission statement to reaffirm our commitment to it. He noted that Jeff Richards has submitted the DCNR grant that was discussed at our April meeting. A letter requesting support was sent out to over 30 government representatives in the region and several positive replies have since been received.
3. Public Input/Introductions – none
4. Approval of Minutes
 - a. A motion to approve the April minutes was made by Sias, seconded by Norton. The motion carried and the minutes were approved.
5. Treasurer's Report – Chris Panichella
 - a. As of April 30, 2023, we have \$53,907.31 in the Money Market account, \$78,405.57 in the checking account, and \$53,586.48 invested for a total of \$185,899.36 in current assets. We have \$18,971.02 in fixed assets, making our total assets \$204,870.38.
 - b. A motion to approve the April 2023 Treasurer's Report was made by Cronauer and seconded by Cercone. The motion carried and the Treasurer's Report was approved.
6. **ITEMS FOR ACTION AND/OR INFORMATION**
 - a. Official Correspondence - none
 - b. Upcoming Events – see attached Trail Calendar
7. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. Purchase of Tractor and Grant Proposal Update – Stan Rudge will learn next week where the previously awarded grant money is. After that, he will move forward with the Pittsburgh Foundation grant request as approved at the April meeting.
 - b. Mural Painting and Planning – nothing new to report at this time
 - c. Maintenance Facility Planning – work in progress, no update at this time

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. The Mance family would like to show their family the Kiosk and Bench. To do this they would like permission to drive a few cars on the trail between Athena Dr. and Story Road. Their family is old and not able to walk. Approximately 10-15 people would be attending this event on May 20, a Saturday, from 10:30 to noon. Motion by Fisher, seconded by Norton to allow this event.
- b. Trail board and chapter members are urged to sign up for Westmoreland Arts and Heritage Festival Parking shifts (June 29-July 2). This is a trail fundraiser, and we make a great deal of money based on how many WHT members volunteer. You can also contact the RTC directly at regionaltrails@comcast.net to sign up for a shift (10 AM-1 PM, 1-4 PM, or 4-7 PM).

9. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **Real Estate, Planning, Engineering and Construction** – Jeff Richards
 - Rumor has it that Export has received funds to pave the downtown portion of Heritage Square. The trail contractor will be able to complete the thermoplastic markings for the trail crossings once the pavement project is completed.
 - An appraiser has been retained to assist with determining the value of the White Valley Athletic Club property.
 - Annamarie Stackiewicz has been continuing her work to connect Delmont to the trail
 - Some rough clearing has occurred in the Lauffer Mine Road region north of Delmont, but we are not sure who is responsible.
- b. **Public Relations** – Vicki Rudge
 - The WHT's Facebook Followers now stand at 3320 with our Twitter followers at 165 and Instagram at 53. The WHT website received 919 unique visitors in April with 1959 hits.
 - The 2023 Trail Town Festival will be held at Trafford B.Y. Park with the addition of a new Poker Run, a D.J., furry friend activities, fishing for the kids, food vendors, auction baskets, and community merchant/organization tables. Registration forms for the Poker Run and for sponsors and merchants can be downloaded from our website now. Sponsorships are coming in nicely, and a \$950 bike has been donated by Flat Tire Bike Shop. This will be used for a separate fund-raising raffle. Any members with card tables are asked to lend them.
- c. **Membership** – Wendy Davis (report by Karen Rose Cercone)
 - As of today, we have 415 active members, up from 410 at the April meeting.
 - The volunteer survey was completed by 30 trail chapter members. An updated volunteer 'bank' will be kept on the WHT Google drive for committee chairs who need extra help.
 - Volunteer Hours Reporting Update – Karen Rose Cercone thanked all committee chairs and officers for submitting their volunteer hours for April.
- d. **Maintenance** – Rick Fisher and Chad Emahizer
 - The Gator is in at West Central and is waiting for one accessory to be delivered
 - Zone Leader reports – Zones 1-3 are in good shape. Zones 4 has recruited some new volunteers, and the trail is also in great shape. Zone 5 will be cutting grass.
- e. **Fundraising** – Rob Cronauer
 - Rob emphasized the importance of volunteering at the Arts and Heritage Festival.
- f. **Trail Ambassadors** – Stan Rudge
 - Our current trail ambassadors traveled 119 hours / 952 miles in the month of April.

- Four new trail ambassadors attended training in April.
- A new refresher meeting will be scheduled for any ambassadors whose 2-year certification is coming due.

g. **Municipal Representatives** – various

- Murrysville (Fisher) – a report about the trail was recently given to Murrysville Council, with news about the upcoming trail festival. Similar reports could be given to other councils.
- Export (Ferri) – the owner of Griff's Ice Cream has a dead tree that they would like to take down. The maintenance crew will take a look and if permission needs to be asked of Westmoreland County, Stan will follow up with Westmoreland County.

h. **Regional Trail Corporation/Trans-Allegheny Trails** – Stan

- Fliers about the Trans-Allegheny Trail are being utilized by our trail users.

10. Next month's WHT Board meeting will take place on June 8 at 7 PM at Pedora Park, Wilson Road at Old William Penn Hwy, Export (rain or shine).

11. On a motion by Norton, seconded by Cronauer, the meeting was adjourned at 7:37pm.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Rose Cercone, Secretary

Westmoreland Heritage Trail 2023 Event Calendar

APRIL

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
Sat April 22	8 AM - Noon	Dustin Norris Memorial Race	Zone 4
Tues April 25	6 PM	WHT Trail Ambassador Training	Westmoreland Conservation District
Sat April 29	8 AM – 3 PM	Norwin Air Force Junior ROTC	Zones 4 and 5
Sun April 30	7:30–11:30 AM	Burn Boot Camp MDA 5K Race	Zone 4

MAY

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
Thur May 4	All Day	Trail Life Troop 2717 Export National Day of Prayer	Zone 4

JUNE

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
Sat June 3	9 AM – 2 PM	WHT Festival and Poker Run	B-Y Park and Zone 5
Sun June 16	10 AM	Joy Rider Bike Ride	Roberts Trail Access / Zone 4

JULY

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
June 29 & 30 July 1 & 2	<i>Parking Shifts</i> 10-1, 1-4, 4-7	Westmoreland Arts & Heritage Festival - Parking Fundraiser	Twin Lakes Park

AUGUST

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
Sat Aug 12	TBD	Slickville Centennial Challenge	Zone 1
Sat Aug 19	All Day	Export Ethnic Festival	Zone 4
Sat Aug 26	All Day	Ted Hayes Memorial	Zone 1

SEPTEMBER

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
Thur Sept 14	7 PM	WHT Volunteer Appreciation Dinner	TBD

OCTOBER

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
Sat Oct 14	7– 11 AM	Halloween Hot Foot Race	Zone 4
Sun Oct 15	TBD	Witches' Ride	Zone 4

NOVEMBER - Nothing at this time.

DECEMBER

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
Thur Dec 14	7 PM	WHT Christmas Gathering	TBD