



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

May 9, 2024

Lamplighter Restaurant, Delmont PA

Meeting Attendees:

- Board (16): Mike Banda, Michael Bertonaschi, Karen Rose Cercone, Rob Cronauer, Jerry Detar, Chad Emahizer, Liz Ferri, Rick Fisher, Geri Lombardo, Tom Marcin, Monica Meehan, Pat Norton, Stan Rudge, Vicki Rudge, Malcolm Sias, Ann Wade
- Absent Board (5): Wendy Davis, Kerry Jobe, Darrin Miller, Chris Panichella, Annamarie Stackiewicz
- Guests and Members (13): Jerry Babcock, Sarah Colligan, Barb Coulter, Jim Coulter, Maria DePasquale, Roberta Jones, Tim Leriottis, Hal Lester, Ron Markos, Jeff Richards, John Ruccio, Mike Urban, Kelly Voetsch

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.
2. President's Comments – two additions will be made to tonight's agenda: Parking at Twin Lakes Arts & Heritage Festival and change in date of the WHT Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
3. Public Input/Introductions – none
4. Approval of Minutes
 - a. The minutes from the April 11, 2024 meeting were approved with one correction on a motion by Rob Cronauer seconded by Jerry Detar. The correction by Stan Rudge was on the amount of liability insurance paid by RTC (\$57,000, not \$87,000).
5. Treasurer's Report –Chris Panichella (report by Karen Rose Cercone)
 - a. As of April 30, 2024, we have \$54,202.17 in our Money Market accounts (S&T Bank), \$93,926.72 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 \$229,452.00.
 - b. On a motion by Malcolm Sias seconded by Pat Norton, the Treasurer's reports were approved.
6. **ITEMS FOR ACTION AND/OR INFORMATION**
 - a. Official Correspondence –
 - A letter was received from Brandon Simpson of Westmoreland County Bureau of Parks and Recreation formally transmitting the LSA Reimbursement from Westmoreland County to the RTC to help pay for the new tractor.
 - A letter was sent at the request of Trafford Borough to PennDOT asking for a safety evaluation of the Forbes Road trail crossing in Trafford. A reply was received from Josh Theakston, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator for District 12. He consulted with PennDOT Safety Coordinator, Cory Craft and suggested some possible improvements such as repainting the crosswalks and pavement markings, adding flashing beacons to the existing signs, adding a sign to the parking lot exit at Parkside Plaza and cutting back the hill. These suggestions were passed along to Trafford Borough.

- b. Upcoming Events – nothing new to approve

7. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Flood damage repair in Zone 5 was carried out by EverReady Contractor, located near the trail at Zip's old building in Trafford. The contractor did a good job, and even removed a large tree from a drain. The dust was rolled on Tuesday after the recent rain and maintenance reports that the trail is now in much better shape. The total cost was \$4000, most of which was materials. The county will pick up this bill.
- b. Committee for Volunteer Appreciation Dinner – Our yearly appreciation dinner will be moved to December and combined with the holiday party. Monica Meehan and Ann Wade volunteered to coordinate the dinner.
- c. Lisa's Bike Shop and Roger's Appliance back on the market – Stan Rudge and Malcolm Sias visited the building and recommended getting it appraised. An email vote of the board approved funding half of the cost of the appraisal. Westmoreland County will fund the other half of the cost. Once the appraised value is known, we can decide whether to proceed with acquisition of the property and seek grant funding for it.
- d. Dog attack update – a hearing was held about two of the five incidences of dog attacks that occurred along the trail. The District Attorney proposed removing all of the dogs from the property, but no final decision has yet been made. The owner has apologized and modified the fences on his property so the remaining dogs should not be able to escape.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Investment update – two Certificate of Deposits have been purchased for \$40,000 and \$50,000 at almost 5% interest (one for 6 months and one for 9 months.) In addition, S&T Bank agreed to pay 4% interest on our remaining checking accounts, which will result in higher earnings for the current year than we have received in the past.

9. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **Real Estate, Planning, Engineering and Construction** – Jeff Richards and Malcolm Sias
 - A certified letter has been sent to Ralph Faulk about cleaning up his property near Lauffer Mine Road.
 - Following municipal approvals, the 'bite' near Dollar General has been conveyed to Delmont Industrial Drive LLC. Title insurance is now being finalized and everything should be completed by the end of the month.
 - West of Route 66, work has been done along the edge of the Morosini Reserve with help from Darren Miller. Some of the brush material removed along the trail route was then used to block ATV access to Morosini Reserve.
 - Morosini Farm Court has been roughly graded for a future parking spot along the trail by the Westmoreland Conservation District. It will not be used until the trail is constructed.
 - Zones 1 and 2 final items – gates have been installed and asphalt has been patched near Athena Road. Additional riprap was installed to help reduce silt run-off into Beaver Run.
- b. **Public Relations** – Vicki Rudge
 - The WHT's Facebook followers now stand at 3670 with our Twitter followers at 173 and Instagram at 79. The website received 992 visitors last month with 2347 views of pages.
 - Poker Run event – tables are covered and sponsors have been signed up. Additional volunteers are welcome
- c. **Membership** – Wendy Davis (report by Chad Emahizer)

- We are up to 483 active members.
- d. **Maintenance** – Rick Fisher and Chad Emahizer
- Lots of tree-cutting has been done along the trail. Rick thanked all the volunteers.
 - The new tractor is broken. West Central has been contacted and has ordered parts. They are hoping to get the parts installed next week.
 - Zone Leader Reports
 - More dust is needed at Zone 4 and could be moved from Sara Steele where there is a lot that could be used. Once our tractor is back in service, we can request a small dump truck from the county to take it to Zone 4.
 - Paul Estok in Monroeville is aware of the Saunders Station break-in situation. He has said that he is planning to add some Ring cameras around the kiosk.
- e. **Fundraising** – Rob Cronauer
- Twin Lakes Heritage Festival Parking (July 4-7) – Brandon Simpson has given us a sign-up sheet for volunteers to help with parking as a fund-raiser. All trail members are encouraged to sign up for a three-hour slot to help raise funds for the trail. A request for volunteers will be sent out to the membership with the June Meeting notice.
- f. **Trail Ambassadors** – Stan Rudge
- **Tuesday, June 25 6 PM** – a refresher course plus new orientation for trail ambassadors will be held at the Westmoreland Conservation District (hopefully).
- g. **Regional Trail Corporation / Trans-Allegheny Trails** – Stan Rudge
- Progress is being made on the pedestrian bridge across Route 22 for the West Penn Trail
- h. **Municipal Representatives**
- Delmont – chalk art festival and bike rodeo fundraiser will be held on June 15
 - Trafford – Trafford plans to repaint the pavement markings across Forbes Road and will consider adding flashing lights as a safety feature. Unfortunately, PennDOT did not offer to do any specific traffic calming work at this site. Trafford is also widening and paving the pathways throughout BY Park. Parking access to the trail will need to be through the grass until the construction is done. Finally, Trafford’s Borough has invited the Friends of the Riverfront to talk to Borough Council about the exact path of the trail they plan to install through downtown Trafford.
 - Export has done some clean-up of stones and gravel, but paving has not started yet.
 - Monroeville is still waiting for permissions to install a bridge to the trail near Abers Creek.
10. Next month’s WHT Meeting will be held in person on June 13, 2024 at Pedora Park.
11. On a motion by Ann Wade, seconded by Pat Norton, 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 (Lamplighter, Delmont)
 October 10 (Lamplighter, Delmont)
 November 14 (Lamplighter, Delmont)
 December 12 (Appreciation Dinner TBA)

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>
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	6 - 8 PM	Volunteer Appreciation Dinner	TBA