



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 June Board Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2024

Pedora Park, White Valley, PA

Meeting Attendees:

- Board (14): Mike Banda, Michael Bertonaschi, Karen Rose Cercone, Rob Cronauer, Rick Fisher, Kerry Jobe, Geri Lombardo, Tom Marcin, Monica Meehan, Pat Norton, Chris Panichella, Stan Rudge, Vicki Rudge, Annamarie Stackiewicz
- Absent Board (7): Wendy Davis, Jerry Detar, Chad Emahizer, Liz Ferri, Darrin Miller, Malcolm Sias, Ann Wade
- Guests and Members (8): Jerry Babcock, Christopher Begeman, Barb Coulter, Jim Coulter, Ginny Hayes, Jim Klueber, Tim Leriottis, John Ruccio, Heather Shearer, Bob Stackiewicz

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM.

- President's Comments – the agenda order was revised to allow Heather Shearer to give an update on the Fourth Annual Ted Hayes Walk/Run Memorial Event on Saturday, August 17. A motion to approve the event was made by Rob Cronauer with a second by Pat Norton. The motion carried. The event will begin at 10 AM and all members are invited to participate.
- Public Input/Introductions – Jim Klueber, a resident of Slickville, introduced himself to discuss their upcoming Community Festival on August 9 and 10 which will use part of the trail in that area. A motion to permit use of the trail pending the receipt of the insurance was made by Geri Lombardo, with a second by Pat Norton. The motion carried.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. The minutes from the May 9, 2024 meeting were approved on a motion by Annemarie Stackiewicz seconded by Michael Bertonaschi.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT – Chris Panichella

- a. In May, we received an LSA grant for \$13,407.50, in addition to new memberships and Poker Run sponsorships and registrations. As of May 30, 2024, we have \$14,270 in our Money Market accounts (S&T Bank), \$44,923 in our checking account (S&T Bank), \$40,000 in one Certificate of Deposit (S&T Bank), \$50,000 in a second Certificate of Deposit (S&T Bank) and \$63,434 invested with Fidelity (Wealth Enhancement Advisors), making our total funds \$212,628.
- b. On a motion by Pat Norton seconded by Karen Rose Cercone, the Treasurer's reports were approved.

4. ITEMS FOR ACTION AND/OR INFORMATION

- a. Official Correspondence –
 - We are up to four corporate sponsors: Kacin Companies, CNX Foundation, Weisser Insurance and Wye Beer Company. Two of these were recruited as part of the Poker Run.

b. Upcoming Events

- The Fourth Annual Ted Hayes Walk/Run Memorial Event was discussed and approved under President's Comments.
- A motion to approve the Young Life 5K Fundraiser on November 2 was made by Karen Rose Cercone, seconded by Annemarie Stackiewicz. The motion carried.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Lisa's Bike Shop and Roger's Appliance property has been appraised and an offer for the appraised price has been made to the current owners. We are waiting to hear back.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. A motion was made by Vicki Rudge, seconded by Karen Rose Cercone, to sponsor a WHT outreach table for \$250 at Ginny's Carniv-ALZ fundraiser for Alzheimer's Disease. The motion carried.

7. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **Real Estate, Planning, Engineering and Construction** – Jeff Richards and Rob Cronauer
- The closing for the Richard Kacin land conveyance to Westmoreland County, east of S.R. 66, was finally completed on May 22, 2024.
 - Jeff thanked Vicki Rudge and Karen Rose Cercone for providing color photos for a new information kiosk funded by the Export Historical Society. It will have a panel about the trail.
 - Construction was begun by the Westmoreland Conservation District for a new parking lot on the Morosini Reserve near where the trail will eventually be located in Zone 3.
- b. **Public Relations** – Vicki Rudge
- The WHT's Facebook followers now stand at 3710 with our Twitter followers at 175 and Instagram at 88. The website received 869 visitors last month with 2469 page views.
 - **Second Annual Poker Run & Community Festival** – Vicki thanked Ann Wade for taking on the chairmanship of the event, and also thanked all of the volunteers. The event was a success with 55 pre-registered participants and 26 on-site registrations. Along with business sponsors, two new corporate sponsors, basket and bike raffles, merchandise sales, and in-kind donations, the total raised by the event will be close to \$7800.
- c. **Membership** – Wendy Davis
- No report.
- d. **Maintenance** – Rick Fisher and Chad Emahizer
- New gates have been put up along Route 819 in Slickville. The current locks are low to the ground and difficult to reach. New locks with weatherproof covers will be added.
 - Lots of grass cutting has been done along the trail. Rick thanked all the volunteers.
 - New tools and safety equipment will be ordered with the trail grant that we just received.
 - Zone Leader Reports
 - Trees are still falling – one was just cleaned up along the Big Bend in Zone 5.
- 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.

- 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.
- g. **Regional Trail Corporation / Trans-Allegheny Trails** – Stan Rudge
- h. **Municipal Representatives**
 - Delmont – a section of the future connector trail was officially donated to the borough by Windstream. A chalk art festival and bike rodeo fundraiser will be held on June 15, 12:30 to 3:30. Another bike raffle will be held as part of it.
 - Trafford – Friends of the Riverfront met with Trafford Borough to update them about the Turtle Creek Connector Trail. Two fair market assessments are being made of the entire Norfolk Southern rail corridor from Pitcairn to Trafford and an offer will be made to the railroad by the end of the summer. The route connecting to our trail is not finalized and might be tweaked in the future to follow an easier route under the Trafford Bridge. The BY Park trails have been paved, but they are not wide enough for bikes to circle around the lake. If the Trafford Borough Council votes to approve of it, signs will be placed to inform riders, and also to direct trail users to park in the upper lot. Trafford will hold a community festival on Sunday June 23 to celebrate the grand re-opening of the upgraded park.
 - Export’s paving project will probably take a few more weeks to be completed.
- 8. Next month’s WHT Meeting will be held in person on July 11, 2024 at Pedora Park.
- 9. On a motion by Pat Norton, seconded by Mike Banda, the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Rose Cercone, Secretary

Upcoming WHT Board Meeting Dates and Locations

July 11 (Pedora Park, Export)

October 10 (Lamplighter, Delmont)

August 8 (Pedora Park, Export)

November 14 (Lamplighter, Delmont)

September 12 (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>
Aug 8 and 9	All day	Slickville Community Festival	Zone 2 / Slickville
Sat Aug 17	TBA	4 th Annual Ted Hayes Memorial	Zone 2 / Slickville VFD

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>
Sat Nov 2	7 AM – 1 PM	Young Life 5K Fundraiser	Zone 4

DECEMBER

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
Thur Dec 12	6 - 8 PM	Volunteer Appreciation Dinner	TBA