



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)

Minutes of the WHT Board Meeting

June 11, 2026, 7:00-8:00 PM

Pedora Park, White Valley, PA

Meeting Attendees:

- Board (8): Mike Banda, Michael Bertonaschi, Karen Rose Cercone, Rob Cronauer, Jerry Detar, Liz Ferri, Tom Marcin, Vicki Rudge
- Absent Board (13): Wendy Davis, Chad Emahizer, Rick Fisher, Steve Ising, Monica Meehan, Darren Miller, Pat Norton, Stan Rudge, Chris Panichella, Brooke Russick, Malcolm Sias, Annamarie Stackiewicz, Ann Wade
- Guests and Members (12): Jerry Babcock, Gail Carns, Barb Coulter, Jim Coulter, Mike Grimaldi, Lisa Ives, Tessa Ives, Levi Marcus, Stephanie Marcus, Diane Storrick, Mike Urban, Dale West.

This informational meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM. Since we lacked a quorum, no formal actions were taken by the board this month.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. President's Comments

Since the President was absent, there were no comments this month.

3. Public Input / Introductions

Tessa Ives, Lisa Ives and Diane Storrick introduced themselves as equestrians who live in the Level Green area. They asked the board to reconsider the trail's prohibition on horse riding, stating that their horses are very well-trained and that the public likes to see and meet them. They also noted that their horses do not damage the trail surface. Members of the board explained that hoof damage and horse excrement have been noted in other areas, and that unlike the GAP trail with its wide grassy fringe, the Westmoreland Heritage Trail is too narrow for horses to safely pass family groups with strollers, children on bikes, dog walkers and wheelchair users. This is especially true in the urban western Zones (4 and 5) which are far busier than the rural eastern Zones. The question of a possible compromise such as allowing horses on emptier parts of the trail will be taken to the WHT Executive Committee for discussion, before the matter is brought back to the board for consideration.

4. Approval of Minutes

Tabled until July (no quorum).

5. Approval of Treasurer's Reports

Tabled until July (no quorum).

6. Items for Action and/or Information

- a. Karen Rose Cercone reported that four thank-you letters were sent out in May.

7. Old Business

- a. Pittsburgh Foundation Equipment Grant – Karen Rose Cercone asked trail maintenance volunteers to purchase additional equipment so that this grant can be closed out with a final report and a new grant request can be submitted.
- b. RTC Parking Fundraiser – Rob Cronauer noted that 19 slots remain unfilled at the Twin Lakes Art & Heritage Festival. Volunteering brings the trail \$100 per 3-hour slot.

8. New Business

- a. Annual payment for porta-johns – Tabled until July (no quorum).
- b. Summer Bicycle Raffle – Vicki Rudge has many tickets left and would like board members to assist in selling them. Contact her if interested.

9. Standing Committee Reports

- a. Real Estate/Acquisitions & Engineering/Construction – Karen Rose Cercone reported for Jeff Richards that GAI continues to work on designing the trail alignment through the Middle Gap. Subsoil borings to prepare for tunnel installation will not begin until August. The Trafford Planning Commission meeting to review the requested expansion of the Great American Baseball field under the Trafford bridge will now occur on June 25 at 6:00 PM in Trafford Council Chambers. Members are asked to attend as a show of support for the Turtle Creek Connector trail.

In addition, Tom Marcin reported that he and Jeff had a long and cordial meeting with the Geiger brothers who own property in White Valley that is needed for future development of Zone 3 of the trail.

- b. Public Relations – Facebook followers increased again to 4627, Instagram followers rose to 245, and X followers remained at 162. The Poker Run Festival in Trafford was the most successful held so far, with 92 registrations, 37 basket raffles, and several new memberships as a result. Proceeds are still coming in from vendors, so the final total will be presented in July. An informational table will be staffed at the Trafford Flavor-Fest on June 28 from 12 to 5 PM in B-Y Park. Contact Vicki if you can assist in staffing it.

c. Website – no report

d. Membership – no report

e. Maintenance - Michael Bertonaschi reported that Westmoreland County has begun mowing along the trail at the western end, and will continue eastward in the next few days. County Works employees will also place three additional drainage pipes in the 'coffee-pot' area between mile markers 17 and 18 to assist with drainage issues there. Some graffiti was left on the trail trailer near FTMSA, which could be painted over if we have a volunteer event in the future. Repair work is scheduled for the Little Free Library at Parkside Plaza, and its books have been removed until that is completed. Finally, Michael asks all maintenance volunteers to make sure he has their emergency contact information in case it is needed.

f. Fund-raising – no report

g. Trail Ambassadors – Steve Ising sent in a report by email that 15 Trail Ambassadors recorded a total of 206 hours in May. A training session will be held on Wednesday, June 17 for five additional ambassador volunteers. Others are welcome to attend – contact Steve if you are interested.

h. Regional Trail Corporation / Trans-Allegheny Trails – no report.

i. Municipal Representatives – Tom Marcin reported for Monroeville that council has requested Allegheny County to begin replacement of the Saunders Station Bridge. The road to the trail head will remain closed on one side for an unknown period.

Michael Bertonaschi reported for Trafford that movie filming will occur on June 15th and 16th near Saunders Station but will not disrupt the trail itself.

Lizzie Ferri reported for Export that she would like the WHT Board to send a note of support and sympathy to the trail user who recently experienced an attack while on the trail. Michael Bertonaschi noted that Trafford and Murrys ville police are now more interested in patrolling the trail and suggested that Penn Township and Monroeville Police also be asked to increase their presence. Mike Banda suggested contacting the Westmoreland County Park Police as well to see if they can assist.

10. Next meeting – July 9, 2026, 7:00 PM in person at the Pedora Park in White Valley.

11. Adjournment

Vicki Rudge made a motion, seconded by Jerry Detar, to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 PM. The motion passed.

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	6 & 7	6 - 9 PM	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 Annual Bataan March	Zones 4 and 5
MAY	14	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Lamplighter
JUN	6	9 AM – 2 PM	Poker Run Fundraiser	Trafford B-Y
	11	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Pedora Park
	28	12 – 5 PM	WHT Info Table at Trafford FlavorFest Event	Trafford B-Y
JUL				
	9	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Pedora Park
	12	7 AM–12 PM	GCGX Murrysville Monster Race	Zone 4
	16	10 AM	WHT Joyriders	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
	31	8AM-11AM	GCXC Racing Trick or Trot 5K	Zone 4
NOV				
	12	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Lamplighter
DEC				
	10	6 PM	WHT Volunteer Appreciation Night	WCD

