



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 June 8, 2023

Pedora Park, Export PA

Meeting Attendees:

- Board (15): Karen Rose Cercone, Rob Cronauer, Wendy Davis, Chad Emahizer, Elizabeth Ferri, Rick Fisher, Dale Hollabaugh, Pat Norton, William O’Hara, Chris Panichella, Stan Rudge, Vicki Rudge, Malcolm Sias, AnnaMarie Stackiewicz, Ann Wade
- Absent Board (5): Paul Estok, Mike Ley, Kerry Jobe, Geri Lombardo, Monica Meehan
- Guests (13): Jerry Babcock, Mike Banda, Barb Coulter, Jim Coulter, Jerry Detar, Tim Leriotis, Harold Lester, Tom Marcin, Darrin Miller, Larry O’Toole, Jeff Richards, Bob Stackiewicz, Tammy Valero, Lois Weaver

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.
 - Stan recently met with Jill Cooper, the state representative whose district now includes 75% of our trail. She is very familiar with our trail and supports our efforts to close the gap.
3. Public Input/Introductions –
 - Larry Lepidi of Churchill PA introduced himself as a trail member. He is concerned about the presence of electric unicycles on the trail. These are not allowed on our trail, since they don’t have pedals. Larry noted that unicycles are silent and can go 35-50 mph.
 - Larry suggest that we: 1) Rewrite trail rules to make it clear that only electric vehicles that require pedaling are allowed; 2) Contact each municipal government that the trail runs through to arrange meeting with the police to explain the rule and ask for help in enforcing it; 3) Notify members of points 1 and 2 above and encourage them to report violations to police via 911, as well as let the club know; and 4) Post trail rules facing entrance at access points (e.g. Saunders Station) so they are more visible.
4. Approval of Minutes
 - a. A motion to approve the May 2023 minutes was made by Norton, seconded by Stackiewicz. The motion carried and the minutes were approved.
5. Treasurer’s Report – Chris Panichella
 - a. As of May 31, 2023, we have \$53,954.73 in the Money Market account, \$78,488.33 in the checking account, and \$53,586.48 invested for a total of \$186,214.54 in current assets. We have \$18,971.02 in fixed assets, making our total assets \$205,185.56.
 - b. A motion to approve the May 2023 Treasurer’s Report was made by Wade and seconded by Cercone. The motion carried and the Treasurer’s Report was approved.
6. **ITEMS FOR ACTION AND/OR INFORMATION**
 - Official Correspondence – a letter of resignation from Alyssa Davis was read
 - Upcoming Events – see attached Trail Calendar

7. OLD BUSINESS

- a. About 25 members of the Mance Family were able to see their memorial kiosk on the trail.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Nominations open for at-large seat on the Board of Directors. Darren Miller was nominated by Liz Ferri, seconded by Rob Cronauer. A vote will occur at the next board meeting.
- b. The board will investigate the possible installation of security cameras at Saunders Station as well as posting warning signs about the thefts that have been occurring there.

9. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **Real Estate, Planning, Engineering and Construction** – Jeff Richards
 - No report
- b. **Public Relations** – Vicki Rudge
 - The WHT's Facebook followers now stand at 3360 with our Twitter followers at 165 and Instagram at 57. The WHT website got 1,274 unique visitors in May with 2,690 hits.
 - The 2023 Trail Town Festival was a success, with \$2280.00 in cash taken in on the day of the event. Pre-registration and sponsorships prior to the event brought in \$6085.00, with expenses of \$1622.97. Seventy-seven people participated in the poker race event.
- c. **Membership** – Wendy Davis
 - As of today, we have 427 active members, up 12 from the May meeting.
- d. **Maintenance** – Rick Fisher and Chad Emahizer
 - The Gator has been delivered and is ready for work in the shed. The knotweed has been whacked down in zones 4 and 5.
 - Zone Leader reports – Zones 1 can use some additional volunteers. Zone 3 will have a tour after the end of the meeting. All zones are dusty due to the dry weather.
- e. **Fundraising** – Rob Cronauer
 - Rob emphasized the importance of volunteering at the 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 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).
- f. **Trail Ambassadors** – Stan Rudge
 - Our current trail ambassadors traveled 193 hours / 1140 miles in the month of May.
- g. **Regional Trail Corporation/Trans-Allegheny Trails** – Stan Rudge
 - Motion by Fisher, seconded by Sias, to pay the remaining costs of the Gator above the amount funded by the RTC through their Laurel Foundation grant. The motion carried.
 - Discussions will be held about the Trans-Allegheny Trail website which needs to be updated.
- h. **Municipal Representatives** – no reports

10. Next month's WHT Board meeting will take place on July 13 at 7 PM at Pedora Park, Wilson Road at Old William Penn Hwy, Export (rain or shine).

11. On a motion by Stackiewicz, seconded by Norton, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm.

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
Fri 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