



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 July 13 2023

Pedora Park, Export PA

Meeting Attendees:

- Board (17): Karen Rose Cercone, Rob Cronauer, Wendy Davis, Chad Emahizer, Elizabeth Ferri, Rick Fisher, Dale Hollabaugh, Geri Lombardo, Monica Meehan, Tom Marcin (appointed this meeting), Darrin Miller (elected this meeting), Pat Norton, Bill O’Hara (resigned this meeting), Chris Panichella, Stan Rudge, Vicki Rudge, Malcolm Sias
- Absent Board (4): Mike Ley, Kerry Jobe, AnnaMarie Stackiewicz, Ann Wade
- Guests (15): Mike Banda, Sarah Colligan, Jerry Detar, Tim Dunn, Joshua Frick, John Frick, Sunny Heyer, Ron Hoffman, Tim Leriottis, Chris Leo, Dee O’Hara, Tom Petrus, Jeff Richards, John Ruccio, Heather Shearer

1. President Stan Rudge led the recitation of “The Pledge of Allegiance” and then called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.
2. President’s Comments - none
3. Public Input/Introductions – none
4. Approval of Minutes
 - a. A motion to approve the June 2023 minutes with one correction was made by Cronauer and seconded by Norton. The motion carried and the minutes were approved.
5. Treasurer’s Report – Chris Panichella
 - a. As of June 30, 2023, we have \$53,954.73 in the Money Market account, \$82,208.33 in the checking account, and \$53,586.48 invested for a total of \$189,934.54 in current assets. We have \$18,971.02 in fixed assets, making our total assets \$208,905.58.
 - b. A motion to approve the June 2023 Treasurer’s Report was made by Emahizer and seconded by Meehan. The motion carried and the Treasurer’s Report was approved.

6. ITEMS FOR ACTION AND/OR INFORMATION

- a. Upcoming Events – see attached Trail Calendar
- b. New events proposed for the trail:
 - Wealth Management Trail Walk (Sat, Sept 14, 2024 9 AM to 2 PM, Export to Carson Braun) was approved on a motion by Sias, seconded by Meehan
 - GCXC Racing Event (Sat, July 15, 7 AM-Noon, Carson Braun to Duff Park) was approved on a motion by Cronauer, seconded by Sias
 - GCXC Racing Event – Sat, Oct 28, 8 AM-1 PM, Carson Braun to Duff Park) was approved on a motion by Cronauer, seconded by Emahizer.
 - Slickville Centennial 5K Coal Mine Climb – Aug 12, 8:30 – noon was approved on a motion by Norton, seconded by Cercone.

7. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Darren Miller was the only nominee and was unanimously elected to fill the open At-Large seat on the WHT board.
- b. The Ted Hayes Memorial Bike Ride/Run/Walk (Heather Shearer) – Event will be held on August 26 in Zone 1 (Slickville) Registration will be \$35 and will cover both a meal and a pack of jerky from Soldier Boy in Irwin. Donations of auction baskets would be appreciated.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. THE WHT Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in September will be organized by Norton, Meehan, Wade, & Cercone. Several possible venues will be checked for price and quality before the August meeting.
- b. Paul Estok has resigned from the board and will no longer serve as the WHT Monroeville Liaison. Tom Marcin was selected by Monroeville Parks and Recreation Board to be their liaison to WHT. His nomination was approved on a motion by Norton, seconded by Fisher.
- c. Bill O'Hara has also submitted a letter of resignation to the board. Nominations will be accepted for his open at-large board seat at the August meeting.
- d. Josh Frick, Boy Scout from Irwin PA, completed his Eagle Scout project at the Trafford Kiosk, which also now has a bench and a charging station, as well as an illuminated flag.

9. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **Real Estate, Planning, Engineering and Construction** – Jeff Richards
 - Dollar General is making some progress in getting its site plan approved by PennDOT.
- b. **Public Relations** – Vicki Rudge
 - The WHT's Facebook followers now stand at 3374 with our Twitter followers at 167 and Instagram at 60. The WHT website got 930 unique visitors in June with 1935 hits.
 - The bike raffle made \$965 after the cost of printing tickets was accounted for. The winner of the bike was Sarah Colligan, with the winning ticket sold by Mike Banda.
- c. **Membership** – Wendy Davis
 - As of today, we have 429 active members, up 2 from the June meeting.
- d. **Maintenance** – Rick Fisher and Chad Emahizer
 - Zones 1 and 2 have been sprayed for weeds and the grass is mowed. Zones 4 and 5 are in good shape with many volunteers helping out. More trimmers will be requested for next year. We are looking for a Zone 1 leader.
 - A crosswalk still needs to be added to the Saunders Station crossing. Allegheny County Maintenance has been alerted by Paul Estok and should be doing the work.
 - The misplaced Port-a-John still has not been moved to its correct location at Sara Steele.
 - Zone Leader reports – none
- e. **Fundraising** – Rob Cronauer

- Rob yielded his time to Malcolm Sias to report on the Arts Festival Parking. WHT volunteers contributed 110.75 hours of parking assistance and earned \$3156 for the trail (\$28.50 per hour). Bill O’Hara alone contributed over 33 hours to this fund-raising effort. Thanks, Bill!
- f. **Trail Ambassadors** – Stan Rudge
- Our dedicated trail ambassadors traveled 228.5 hours / 1828 miles in the month of June.
- g. **Regional Trail Corporation/Trans-Allegheny Trails** – Stan Rudge
- **Tom Petrus (RTC)** – WHT resurfacing project is delayed because of a DCNR issue with funding
 - **Friends of the Riverfront** – design and engineering from the Hot Metal Bridge to Trafford has been initiated, and there is on-going discussion with Norfolk Southern.
 - **The West Penn Trail** – the bridge over Route 22 is finally out for bids.
 - Website updates are planned for all of the Trans Allegheny Trail main website and for each trail’s individual web page. There will be a cost associated with this project.
- h. **Municipal Representatives** –
- **Tom Marcin (Monroeville)** – the permit for the bridge over Abers Creek has been submitted to the DEP along with a bathroom, small pavilion, and a generous parking lot. Review is expected in 8-10 months.
10. Next month’s WHT Board meeting will take place on August 10 at 7 PM at Pedora Park, Wilson Road at Old William Penn Hwy, Export (rain or shine).
11. On a motion by Panichella, seconded by S. Rudge, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 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 / Zone 4

JULY

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
Sat July 15	7 AM – Noon	GCXC Racing Event	Carson-Braun to Duff

AUGUST

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
Sat Aug 12	8:30 AM - noon	Slickville Centennial Coal Mine Climb	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	6 - 8 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	1 - 5 PM	Witches' Ride	Zone 4
Sat Oct 28	8 AM – 1 PM	GCXC Racing	Carson-Braun to Duff

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	Lamplighter Restaurant