



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 July Board Meeting Minutes

July 11, 2024

Pedora Park, White Valley, PA

Meeting Attendees:

- Board (14): Mike Banda, Michael Bertonaschi, Karen Rose Cercone, Wendy Davis, Jerry Detar, Chad Emahizer, Malcolm Sias, Rick Fisher, Geri Lombardo, Tom Marcin, Chris Panichella, Stan Rudge, Vicki Rudge, Ann Wade
- Absent Board (7): Rob Cronauer, Liz Ferri, Kerry Jobe, Monica Meehan, Darrin Miller, Pat Norton, Annamarie Stackiewicz,
- Guests and Members (15): Jerry Babcock, Zach Bach, John Bolkovac, Gail Carns, Barb Coulter, Jim Coulter, Mike Grimaldi, Steve Ising, Tim Leriottis, John Lukacs, Bill O'Hara, Dee O'Hara, Patrick O'Toole, Jeff Richards, John Ruccio

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM.

- President's Comments – the president thanked the volunteers for all of their hard work.
- Public Input/Introductions – none

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. The minutes from the June 13, 2024 meeting were approved with one correction (date of the meeting) on a motion by Jerry Detar seconded by Chad Emahizer.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT – Chris Panichella

- a. In June, we received income of \$7479.00 including memberships, plaque, bench and cash donations, and fundraising profits. We had expenses of \$1408.35. As of June 31, 2024, we have \$14,319 in our Money Market accounts (S&T Bank), \$48,357 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 \$64,176 invested with Fidelity (Wealth Enhancement Advisors), making our total funds \$216,852.
- b. On a motion by Malcolm Sias, seconded by Karen Rose Cercone, the Treasurer's reports were approved.

4. ITEMS FOR ACTION AND/OR INFORMATION

- a. Official Correspondence –
 - Five thank you letters were sent out for donations made to the trail in the spring.
- b. Upcoming Events
 - A motion to approve the August 7 – Friends of Norwin Trails (Trafford – Export, casual bike ride) was made by Ann Wade, seconded by Malcolm Sias. The motion was approved.

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. The owners chose to instead list it with a real estate agency. Stan will continue to communicate with the owners as time goes on.
- b. Bike Raffle Update – The winner of the bike was Zach Bach, with the winning ticket sold by Barb Coulter. Zach attended the meeting to receive the bike.
- c. RTC Insurance Update – A new waiver form will be developed and a representative of the RTC will attend a future meeting to present the new format.
- d. Gateway Arch in Saltsburg – Mike and Stan attended a meeting with West Penn Trail, and their membership approved a partnership to develop the arch at Mile 0. Brick supports will be placed on either side and a four-tube aluminum arch will hold signs on each side for “Welcome to the Westmoreland Heritage Trail” and “Welcome to the West Penn Trail”. West Penn Trail Chapter approved spending up to \$2000 on the arch. A motion was made by Vicki Rudge, seconded by Karen Rose Cercone, to approve a matching \$2000 from WHT. The motion was approved.
- e. Website Updates – Chad Emahizer has updated our website to a new hosting platform. He has simplified the navigation menu and added a news feed to the Home Page. He will be adding a webstore and other options as time goes by.
- f. Cathy and Dan Sigg have generously offered to take over the responsibilities for trail counters along the trail. They will report trail usage statistics in a more timely manner.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. On a motion by Mike Banda, seconded by Michael Bertinaschi, the location of the September WHT Board meeting will be moved from the Lamplighter to Pedora Park.

7. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **Real Estate, Planning, Engineering and Construction** – Jeff Richards and Rob Cronauer
 - A second appraisal is being conducted for the Turtle Creek Connector railroad corridor.
 - The Valley Park Pedestrian Bridge project was being held up because the Franklin Township MSA was uncertain about the location of their sewer pipeline and could not provide a letter of support. This past week, a hydro-excavation was done to locate the 24” main pipe so that the bridge abutment foundations would not be placed above it. The pipe was located and the bridge abutments will be moved two feet closer to the creek to avoid it. A new hydrologic study will be submitted to DEP and hopefully a permit will be issued soon.
 - PennDOT has secured funding to conduct another traffic study at the Trafford Road Trail Crossing in Murrysville.
 - A four-panel information kiosk will be placed in Export and will have one panel devoted to the Westmoreland Heritage Trail. The Export paving project has been completed.
 - The White Valley Social Club continues to review the easement agreement.
 - PennDOT is now beginning to review plans for the Industrial Drive area. Pre-construction design work will focus on the tunnel under Route 66. Additional funding has been secured that will initiate the trail segment between Industrial Drive and Rangos Trail Head.
- b. **Public Relations** – Vicki Rudge
 - The WHT's Facebook followers now stand at 3733 with our Twitter followers at 174 and Instagram at 92. The website received 745 visitors last month with 1920 page views. Doug Webster is stepping down as our Twitter liaison; Wendy Davis will take that on along with supervision of our Instagram page.

- The Carniv-ALZ event that WHT tabled at was a success, with a good deal of money raised.
- c. **Membership** – Wendy Davis
 - We are up to 490 active members.
- d. **Maintenance** – Rick Fisher and Chad Emahizer
 - Rick thanked volunteers for cutting up all of the trees that have fallen recently.
 - Some weed cutting has been done along the trail with the new tractor attachment. Rick reports that it works very well.
 - Zone Leader Reports – zones 4 and 5 completed painting of benches and mile markers. Zones 1 and 2 are working on painting and have installed all but one mile marker.
- e. **Fundraising** – Rob Cronauer (report by Malcolm Sias)
 - Twin Lakes Heritage Festival Parking (July 4-7) – The Westmoreland Heritage Trail was once again the top earner at the four-day parking fundraiser. It was a huge success, taking in over \$41,000 in parking fees. Each hour worked by a WHT volunteer earned \$52 for the trail.
- f. **Trail Ambassadors** – Stan Rudge
 - Tuesday, June 25 – Trail Ambassador Event. Five new trail monitors and fifteen renewed monitors attended. An additional training event will be held later in the summer – email Stan if you are interested.
- g. **Regional Trail Corporation / Trans-Allegheny Trails** – Stan Rudge
 - A Trans-Allegheny Trail meeting will occur in late August.
 - It will cost over \$7 million dollars to remediate and protect a mile of the GAP trail from the Kennywood rock slide. Most of the funding will be sought from federal and state agencies. When this funding has been secured, other RTC trails may be asked to show their support by donating to cover the final portion of the funding. This project would probably occur in late 2025 - early 2026.
- h. **Municipal Representatives**
 - Trafford – a surveying project is underway on Saunders Station Road with the goal to eventually repair or replace the Saunders Station Bridge.
 - Delmont – a local insurance agent riding the trail helped Mike Banda to clear a tree.
 - Monroeville – the municipality will be installing security cameras at the Saunders Station trail head. The rumble strips have been worn down and no longer make much noise.
- 8. Next month's WHT Meeting will be held in person on August 8, 2024 at Pedora Park.
- 9. On a motion by Jerry Detar, seconded by Ann Wade, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22pm.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Rose Cercone, Secretary

Upcoming WHT Board Meeting Dates and Locations

August 8 (Pedora Park, Export)

October 10 (Lamplighter, Delmont)

September 12 (Pedora Park, Export)

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>
Aug 7	6 PM – 8 PM	Friends of Norwin Trails Bike Ride	Zones 1 and 2
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