



*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](http://www.westmorelandheritagetrail.com))*

## Meeting Minutes August 2023

Pedora Park, Export PA

### Meeting Attendees:

- Board (12): Karen Rose Cercone, Wendy Davis, Chad Emahizer, Elizabeth Ferri, Rick Fisher, Geri Lombardo, Tom Marcin, Pat Norton, Chris Panichella, Malcolm Sias, Annamarie Stackiewicz, Ann Wade
- Absent Board (8): Rob Cronauer, Dale Hollabaugh, Kerry Jobe, Mike Ley, Darren Miller, Monica Meehan, Stan Rudge, Vicki Rudge
- Members and Guests (22): Jerry Babcock, Mike Banda, [Debbie Battaglia\\*](#), [Jim Battaglia\\*](#), [Judith Battaglia\\*](#), [Alvin Cavada\\*](#), Barbara Coulter, Jim Coulter, [Mary Catherine Coucet\\*](#), Mike Desmond, Jerry Detar, Ginny Hayes, Ron Hoffman, Tim Leriottis, Bill O'Hara, Dee O'Hara, Jeff Richards, John Ruccio, [Jean Slezak\\*](#), [Howard Slezak\\*](#), Bob Stackiewicz, Jeff Stone  
\* Residents of Ketchy Court who attended the meeting to ask about Zone 3 plans

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM.
2. President's Comments - none
3. Public Input/Introductions – several residents of Ketchy Court (see names in blue above) attended and asked about Zone 3 plans. A discussion was added to the first Standing Committee report.
4. Approval of Minutes
  - a. A motion to approve the July 2023 minutes with one correction was made by Sias and seconded by Norton. The motion carried and the minutes were approved.
5. Treasurer's Report – Chris Panichella
  - a. The July RTC Parking fundraised netted \$3100 for the trail. Thanks to everyone who assisted!
  - b. As of July 31, 2023, we have \$53,981 in the Money Market account, \$85,408 in the checking account, and \$58,697 invested for a total of \$192,961 in current assets. We have \$18,971 in fixed assets, making our total assets \$211,932. (Note – due to technical issues, the usual treasurer's documents could not be exported for July.)
  - c. A motion to approve the July 2023 Treasurer's Report was made by Emahizer and seconded by Stackiewicz. The motion carried and the Treasurer's Report was approved.
6. **ITEMS FOR ACTION AND/OR INFORMATION**
  - a. No items of official correspondence were received or sent in July.
  - b. For the upcoming year, the Executive Officers recommend that January and February board meetings be held over Zoom to ensure a quorum and avoid weather-related travel issues.
  - c. Upcoming Events – see attached Trail Calendar

## 7. OLD BUSINESS

- a. The annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will be at Piper Bay – Delmont on Thursday, September 14 from 6 to 8 PM. The facility is BYOB at this time, so the trail will get two 1/6 kegs of beer from Helltown Brewery. Attendees are welcome to bring other beverages (wine etc.) to share if desired. There will be no cost to volunteers and their spouse or partner for the dinner.
- b. The Ted Hayes Memorial Bike Ride/Run/Walk – Registrations are coming in for this fundraiser. Donations of auction baskets can still be made to Heather Shearer or Ginny Hayes for this event.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Nominations were opened for the at-large board member seat vacated by Bill O’Hara. Jerry Detar graciously accepted a nomination by Stan Rudge (transmitted by Karen Rose Cercone). Additional nominations (if any members are interested) will be taken at the September board meeting, followed by a vote.
- b. Event approval – Oct 12 WCD Biking for Conservation event with gifts of a free one-year trail membership was approved on a motion by Wade, seconded by Lombardo. The motion carried.
- c. Bicycle repair stations – Ann Wade volunteered to periodically check on the existing bike repair stations to make sure they are functioning, beginning in the fall. A motion was made by Wade, seconded by Lombardo, to submit a Trail Volunteer Grant for an additional bicycle repair station for the Rangos trail head. The motion carried and Karen Rose Cercone agreed to write the grant application.

## 9. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **Real Estate, Planning, Engineering and Construction** – Jeff Richards
  - Residents of Ketchy Court attended the meeting to register their objections to the possible routing of the future Zone 3 trail through their neighborhood. Jeff explained that this is just one of many options for the trail’s future route. The neighbors’ concerns were expressed in detail and duly noted. Jeff Richards and Liz Ferri (Export rep) promised to meet with the residents of Ketchy Court to discuss their concerns further.
  - The Saltsburg to Rangos section of trail is due to be resurfaced – bids are out now.
  - A first draft of a new active transportation plan for Delmont has been posted online with the focus on a spur bringing the WHT to downtown Delmont. Comments will be accepted until Monday August 14, and it will be presented to the Delmont borough council in the fall.
  - The Kacin donation near Route 66 is still hung up by Dollar General’s issues with PennDOT.
  - PennDOT has contacted the county to explore possible future improvements to the trail crossing over Trafford Road in Murrysville.
  - A preliminary grant request to the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission has been approved for a more detailed submission, which is due to be submitted by Labor Day. Jeff Richards will let us know if additional information is needed from the trail.
- b. **Public Relations** – Vicki Rudge (report by Wendy Davis)
  - The WHT’s Facebook followers now stand at 3394 with our Twitter followers at 167 and Instagram at 64. The WHT website got 794 unique visitors in June with 1,685 hits.
- c. **Membership** – Wendy Davis
  - As of today, we have 432 active members, up 3 from the July meeting.

d. **Maintenance** – Rick Fisher and Chad Emahizer

- Mike Banda has agreed to become the Zone 1 Leader. Zones 1 and 2 look good.
- In response to some feedback submitted to our website, Rick and Stan improved the signage at the Sara Steele intersection to help new users follow the trail there.
- New grants are being explored for additional equipment. Please let Rick know if any smaller equipment should be put in the 2024 maintenance budget.
- The dead tree near Griff's has been taken care of, but there are large broken branches that may fall on the trail in the future. Chad and Wendy will investigate, so that the trail can alert the property owner if action needs to be taken.
- The missing PortaJohn on Sportsman's Road has finally been moved to the correct location.
- Zone Leader reports – John Ruccio reported that Zone 5 is in good shape with no trees down.

e. **Fundraising** – Rob Cronauer (report given by Malcolm Sias)

- Malcolm Sias to talk about E-bike raffle for the Five Star Trail

f. **Trail Ambassadors** – Stan Rudge

- No report.

g. **Regional Trail Corporation/Trans-Allegheny Trails** – Stan Rudge

- No report.

h. **Municipal Representatives** –

- **Annamarie Stackiewicz (Delmont)** – Delmont will host their 2nd Annual Cyclocross event at Shields Farms on Veterans Day. All are welcome. Annamarie also has tickets available for an E-bike and regular bike raffle.

10. Next month's WHT Board meeting will take place at the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on September 14 from 6 to 8 PM at Piper Bay – Delmont.

11. On a motion by Emahizer, seconded by Stackiewicz, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 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	WCD
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	Piper Bay - Delmont

### OCTOBER

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
Thur Oct 12	4 – 6 PM	WCD Biking for Conservation	Zone 4
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