



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 August Board Meeting Minutes

August 8, 2024

Pedora Park, White Valley, PA

Meeting Attendees:

- Board (12): Karen Rose Cercone, Rob Cronauer, Wendy Davis, Jerry Detar, Chad Emahizer, Liz Ferri, Rick Fisher, Tom Marcin, Stan Rudge, Vicki Rudge, Malcolm Sias, Annamarie Stackiewicz
- Absent Board (9): Mike Banda, Michael Bertonaschi, Kerry Jobe, Geri Lombardo, Monica Meehan, Darrin Miller, Pat Norton, Chris Panichella, Ann Wade
- Guests and Members (9): Barb Coulter, Jim Coulter, Allison DeSantis, Ron Hoffman, Steve Ising, Tim Leriots, Jeff Richards, John Ruccio, Bob Stackiewicz

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

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. The minutes from the July 11, 2024 meeting were approved on a motion by Jerry Detar seconded by Annamarie Stackiewicz.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT – Chris Panichella (report given by Rob Cronauer)

- a. As of July 31, 2024, we have \$14,363 in our Money Market accounts (S&T Bank), \$62,466 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 \$64,177 invested with Fidelity (Wealth Enhancement Advisors), making our total funds \$231,005. Our building fund (not included in the total) stands at \$26,745.
- 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 – none.
- b. Upcoming Events
 - A motion to approve the Franklin Regional High School Lacrosse 5K Run / 1 mile Walk on November 9 (Zone 4) was made by Jerry Detar and seconded by Annamarie Stackiewicz. The motion was approved.

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5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Gateway Arch in Saltsburg – A design has been finalized for the gateway arch. 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”. After holding conversations with their board, Stan indicated that the West Penn Trail has offered their support for part of the cost associated with the project.
- b. Noel Grimm Memorial Plaque – our trail chapter has received several donations in honor of Noel, and we would like to place a bronze plaque for him near the wooden bridge over Simpson Run in Zone 5. We are waiting for the Grimm family to let us know if this is acceptable.
- c. In addition, a motion was made by Malcolm Sias, seconded by Karen Rose Cercone, to add a second plaque for Rey Peduzzi in the vicinity of B.Y. Park if approved by the Peduzzi family.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. 2025 Comedy Night – the fundraising committee is looking to switch the venue for Comedy Night from our traditional firehall to the LIVE! Casino at Westmoreland Mall next year. County Parks held a very successful Comedy Night there this past March, and they have booked two dates for 2025. Our date would be either March 7 or March 8. A motion was made by Chad Emahizer, seconded by Liz Ferri, to have the Comedy Night at the Casino. The motion passed.
- b. Stan requested board approval to submit a \$20,000 grant application to the Laurel Highlands Tourism Grant program. If approved, this grant would require a \$5000 match from the trail. A motion was made by Rick Fisher and seconded by Annamarie Stackiewicz to submit a \$20,000 grant with a \$5000 match from the trail.

7. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **Real Estate, Planning, Engineering and Construction** – Jeff Richards
 - Nothing new to report.
- b. **Public Relations** – Vicki Rudge
 - The WHT’s Facebook followers now stand at 3735 with our Twitter followers at 174 and Instagram at 103. The website received 146 visitors last month with 1853 page views.
 - Our clothing inventory is low, and Vicki would like a volunteer to help organize a re-order of t-shirts and hats with a new design. We will be able to sell merchandise on our website.
- c. **Membership** – Wendy Davis
 - Membership remained the same at 489 active members.
- d. **Maintenance** – Rick Fisher and Chad Emahizer
 - Rick reported that a big cleanup was done in Zone 1 this past month.
 - A tax-exempt account has been created at Harbor Freight under Rick Fisher’s name.
 - Zone Leaders – no reports
- e. **Fundraising** – Rob Cronauer
 - See report above under new business
- f. **Trail Ambassadors** – Stan Rudge
 - Stan will hold one more small training class for ambassadors in the coming month.
- g. **Regional Trail Corporation / Trans-Allegheny Trails** – Stan Rudge
 - A portion of the GAP Trail has closed until the first of the year due to pipeline work.

h. **Municipal Representatives**

- Trafford – no report
- Delmont – Annamarie Stackiewicz reported that 174' of trail has been built for the Delmont Connector, thanks to a generous donation of land from Windstream.
- Murrysville – Rob Cronauer reported that preliminary discussions with the Municipality of Murrysville have identified the backside of the Roberts Parcel Visitor Center as the best location for our Corporate Sponsor sign.
- Export – Liz Ferri reported that signage will be developed by the business owners group to mark off sections of the new parking lot for trail users versus business patrons. The trail would like to place a kiosk, bike rack, and repair station at the north end of the parking lot to help attract trail users to that area. Liz Ferri will work with Stan Rudge to submit a letter of request to the borough council.

8. Next month's WHT Meeting will be held in person on September 12, 2024 at Pedora Park.

9. On a motion by Jerry Detar, seconded by Rob Cronauer, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Rose Cercone, Secretary

Upcoming WHT Board Meeting Dates and Locations

September 12 (Pedora Park, Export)

November 14 (Lamplighter, Delmont)

October 10 (Lamplighter, Delmont)

December 12 (Appreciation Meeting, WCD)

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>
Sun Oct 13	TBA	Witch's Ride (tentative)	Zone 4
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
Sat Nov 9	TBA	FRHS Lacrosse 5K Run / 1m Walk	Zone 5

DECEMBER

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
Thur Dec 12	6 - 8 PM	Volunteer Appreciation Meeting	WCD Barn