



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

August 14, 2025

Pedora Park, Export PA

Meeting Attendees:

- Board (15): Mike Banda, Michael Bertonaschi, Karen Rose Cercone, Rob Cronauer, Wendy Davis, Jerry Detar, Chad Emahizer, Rick Fisher, Darrin Miller, Pat Norton, Chris Panichella, Stan Rudge, Vicki Rudge, Malcolm Sias, AnnaMarie Stackiewicz
- Absent Board (6): Liz Ferri, Kerry Jobe, Geri Lombardo, Tom Marcin, Monica Meehan, Ann Wade
- Guests and Members (14): Jerry Babcock, Gail Carns, Jeff Contillo, Barb Coulter, Jim Coulter, Tim Dunn, Mike Grimaldi, Steve Ising, Mark Katarski, Tim Leriottis, Ron Markos, Jeff Richards, John Ruccio, Bob Stackiewicz

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM.

- 1. PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS** – Stan Rudge issued a call for volunteers to staff a table at the Murrysville Police Community Connections Festival on September 13 at the Franklin Regional Elementary School on Sardis Road. He confirmed that, as per the July board decision, the old trailer has been sold and the new trailer from Bill O'Hara would be purchased on August 15. Stan also brought the Gateway Arch and memorial plaques for Noel Grimm and Rey Peduzzi for viewing.
- 2. PUBLIC INPUT/INTRODUCTIONS** – Mark Katarski introduced himself as the new Director of the Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation Bureau.
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - a. The minutes from the July 10, 2025 meeting were approved on a motion by Jerry Detar, seconded by AnnaMarie Stackiewicz.
- 4. TREASURER'S REPORTS** – Chris Panichella
 - a. New and renewed memberships for the period through July 2025 amounted to \$1830. Donations came in at \$2416 with event revenue of \$350 and miscellaneous income of \$586. Expenses for June included \$799.57 for visitor amenities plus miscellaneous expenses of \$356.67. On a motion by Michael Bertonaschi, seconded by Pat Norton, the July 2025 Treasurer's reports were approved.
 - b. As of July 31, 2025, we had \$14,896 in our Money Market accounts (S&T Bank), \$23,704 in our checking account (S&T Bank), \$40,990 in one Certificate of Deposit (S&T Bank), \$52,258 in a second Certificate of Deposit (S&T Bank) and \$71,396 invested with Fidelity (Wealth Enhancement Advisors). Our building fund stands at \$29,776, making our total funds \$233,020.
- 5. ITEMS FOR ACTION AND/OR INFORMATION**
 - a. Upcoming Events:
 - Friends of the Riverfront will hold in-person and virtual update meetings about the Turtle Creek Connector Trail on September 9 and 10.

- On a motion by Karen Rose Cercone, seconded by Malcolm Sias, the Franklin Regional HS Girls Lacrosse Fundraiser on November 8 (9 AM – 2 PM in Zone 4) was approved.

OLD BUSINESS

- a) Preliminary planning for Delmont maintenance building – a meeting will be held on site on Thursday August 21 to discuss early planning. Please let Stan know if you plan to attend. A sign identifying the site as a future WHT trail head was made by Rob and installed by Stan and Rick.
- b) The Memorial Bench Committee presented an updated proposal for Memorial Bench donations. Additional suggestions from the board included adding a requirement that bench donors notify the trail of any address changes, and adding an explanation of what happens to memorial plaques after the 10-year lifespan of the bench. Karen Rose agreed to create an updated Bench Form with the additional suggestions and new price of \$1500. On a motion by Michael Bertonaschi, seconded by AnnaMarie Stakiewicz, the new proposal was accepted.
- c) Plans for the December volunteer dinner are firming up, with both site and caterer engaged. Karen Rose asked if workers would like an appreciation gift, but responses were mixed.
- d) The Volunteer Coordination Committee shared their initial ideas and requested additional suggestions from the board. These included creating social media private groups for volunteer coordination or adding a QR code to volunteer t-shirts that would link to a Google form. The committee will continue to work on the task of linking potential volunteers to committees.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a) A new Maintenance co-chair is needed to replace Chad Emahizer. Interested trail members should contact Stan Rudge or Rick Fisher.

7. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **Real Estate, Planning, Engineering and Construction** – Jeff Richards
 - Plans are in the works to create a new public access road into the White Valley Social Club across from Wilson Drive. This will make it easier for us to create a new trailhead there.
 - Our engineering firm (GAI) has finalized their work plan and technical proposal. A final pricing proposal will be reviewed by PennDOT on August 22.
- b. **Public Relations** – Vicki Rudge
 - Facebook followers stand at 3906, Instagram at 181 and X at 163.
 - WHT merchandise will be sold at the West Newton RTC Trail Station
 - WHT will have a table at the Export Heritage Festival on August 16. Volunteers welcome!
 - Trafford is planning to hold an Oktoberfest on September 6, which could be another good venue. Other possible events to attend are Penn Township Festival on 9/19-21 and Delmont Apple Festival 10/4 & 5. Volunteers are always welcome to help staff tables!
- c. **Membership** – Wendy Davis
 - Membership at the end of July stood at 557.
 - When new trail brochures are ordered for 2026, the price of one-year memberships will rise with inflation to \$25 for individuals and \$35 for families. Ten-year and lifetime memberships will not change.
- d. **Website and Merchandise** - Chad Emahizer
 - Views of the website declined in July, which is normal as trail events finish up. New pictures have been added.

- e. **Maintenance** – Rick Fisher
 - Pat Norton reports that a blocked culvert was cleared out on Zone 4.
 - Rick reports that he and Stan cut the grass on the new Route 66 property. Trees came down last month on both ends of the trail, and a post was damaged near Athena Drive. The donated Kubota tractor seems to have a serious issue which Rick will investigate.
 - e. **Fundraising** – Rob reminded board members that a mile-post sponsorships are still available and are a good choice for anyone who cannot afford a bench memorial.
 - f. **Trail Ambassadors** – Stan commended the ambassadors for their work this past month
 - g. **Regional Trail Corporation / Trans-Allegheny Trails** – no report
 - h. **Municipal Representatives** –
 - In Trafford, Michael Bertonaschi reports continuing issues with E-dirt bikes on the trail. He investigated the possibility of involving the PA Game Commission since the trail is part of a cooperative hunting area which they have the ability to police. E-bike riders continue to report that the local police in Murrysville say they are allowed on the trail. The board asked Stan Rudge to discuss this with Murrysville Police when we assist with their community festival on September 13 and help publicize the trail policy on E-bikes.
 - In Delmont, the Visionary Committee will be meeting with their consultant team in September to continue work on their DCNR grant for connecting downtown Delmont to the new Route 66 trail head.
8. Next month's WHT Meeting will be held on September 11, 2025 from 7:00 to 8:00 PM at Pedora Park.
9. By mutual consent, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Rose Cercone, Secretary

Westmoreland Heritage Trail 2025 Event Calendar

Month	Date	Time	Event	Location
JAN	9	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Zoom
FEB	13	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Zoom
MAR	7 & 8	6 PM	Comedy Night at LIVE Casino	Greensburg
	11	6:30 PM	Trail Ambassador New / Recertifying Training	WCD Barn
	13	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Zoom
APR				
	10	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting (with FOTR/PEC reps)	Lamplighter
	22	5 PM – 7 PM	TCWA & WBNC Earth Day Watershed Walk	Zone 5
	26	8 AM - 2PM	Norwin AF-JR-ROTC Bataan March	Zones 4 & 5
MAY	8	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Lamplighter
JUN	7	9 AM – 2 PM	Community Festival / Poker Run	Export
	12	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Pedora Park
	22	12 PM–5 PM	Trafford FlavorFest (WHT Table)	B-Y Park
	29	12 PM-4 PM	Ginni's CarnivAlz Fundraiser for Alzheimers	Ginni's, Export
JUL				
	10	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Pedora Park
	13	7 AM–12 PM	GCXC Murrysville Monster 5K	Zone 4
	19	8 AM – 11 AM	CancerBridges Race (tentative)	
AUG	9	All day	Slickville Community Festival	Zone 2
	14	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Pedora Park
SEP				
	11	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Pedora Park
OCT	9	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Lamplighter
	25	8 AM – 11 AM	GCXC Trick or Treat 5 K Race	Zone 4
NOV	8	9 AM – 2 PM	Franklin Regional Girls Lacrosse Fundraiser	Zone 4
	13	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Lamplighter
DEC	11	6 PM	WHT Volunteer Appreciation Night	WCD Barn