



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 September Board Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2024

Pedora Park, White Valley, PA

Meeting Attendees:

- Board (14): Mike Banda, Michael Bertonaschi, Karen Rose Cercone, Rob Cronauer, Wendy Davis, Jerry Detar, Chad Emahizer, Liz Ferri, Geri Lombardo, Tom Marcin, Monica Meehan, Darrin Miller, Pat Norton, Malcolm Sias
- Absent Board (7): Rick Fisher, Kerry Jobe, Chris Panichella, Stan Rudge, Vicki Rudge, Annamarie Stackiewicz, Ann Wade
- Guests and Members (12): Gael Carns, Sarah Colligan, Barb Coulter, Jim Coulter, Danielle Edwards, Mike Grimaldi, Steve Ising, Tracey Kelly, Tim Leriottis, David Nigro, Jeff Richards, John Ruccio

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

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. The minutes from the August 8, 2024 meeting were approved on a motion by Wendy Davis seconded by Mike Banda.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT – Chris Panichella (report given by Karen Rose Cercone)

- a. As of August 31, 2024, we have \$14,414 in our Money Market accounts (S&T Bank), \$70,830 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 \$239,421. Our building fund (not included in the total) stands at \$26,745. We received \$203 in memberships (new and renewals) plus \$5030 in donations (includes RTC funds transfer plus public donations).
- b. On a motion by Jerry Detar, seconded by Tom Marcin, the Treasurer's reports were approved.

4. ITEMS FOR ACTION AND/OR INFORMATION

- a. Official Correspondence – none.
- b. Upcoming Events
 - Export Witch's Ride – October 13, 1 PM to 5 PM, Zone 4. Volunteers are needed to assist with road crossings. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the trail. On a motion by Monica Meehan, seconded by Pat Norton, the event was approved.
 - Murrysville Trick or Treat on the Trail – October 26, 11 AM – 4 PM, Zone 5. On a motion by Tom Marcin, seconded by Liz Ferri, the event was approved.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Gateway Arch in Saltsburg – Stan Rudge (report given by Rob Cronauer)
Construction of the archway at Mile Marker 0 (newly paved with asphalt) has begun. Contractor Paul Whitaker helped dig the holes and our WHT and West Penn volunteers have already installed the footers. The arched sign will be made by Multi-Metals with inserts by Mastro Signs.
- b. Noel Grimm and Rey Peduzzi Memorial Plaques – Stan Rudge (report given by Rob Cronauer)
Permission was granted by both families to create the plaques, which are now being designed.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Eagle Scout Project by Titus Colangelo – this item was tabled until next meeting, since Titus was not present.
- b. Export Boro requesting a donation from the WHT to help pay for the Export kiosk - Liz Ferri
Liz reported that the trail will be allowed to post timely information at the kiosk. She will let Export Council know that a bike repair station will only need a concrete pad so they can give us permission to install it. Stan asked at Export Council if the trail could install benches and was given the go-ahead to do that. A motion was made by Mike Banda, seconded by Geri Lombardo, to donate \$1000 toward the cost of the kiosk. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. Volunteer thank-you gifts – Monica Meehan
The Christmas dinner will be held at the Westmoreland Conservation District at our usual second Thursday in December. Several maintenance volunteers suggested that instead of giving out expensive thank-you gifts, the trail donate the money back to its treasury.

7. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **Real Estate, Planning, Engineering and Construction** – Jeff Richards
 - The White Valley Athletic Club has hired a new lawyer to review the agreement document, and nothing has been decided.
 - The County is working with PennDOT on the Route 66 crossing and will soon be putting out a statement of interest to engineering consultants
 - Stream stabilization with riprap was completed along Turtle Creek downstream from Saunders Station parking lot in conjunction with another project stabilizing the banks of Turtle Creek near Duff Park.
- b. **Public Relations** – Vicki Rudge (report by Wendy Davis)
 - Facebook followers stand at 3745, Instagram at 105 and Twitter at 174.
 - The trail is still seeking a brick mason to volunteer their services for the arch pillars.
 - Website views for the month were 1552 with 679 unique visitors
- c. **Membership** – Wendy Davis
 - Membership increased to 493 active members.
- d. **Maintenance** – Rick Fisher and Chad Emahizer
 - A few trees have come down along the trail.
 - Leaf blowing season will be coming up soon.
 - Zone leader reports
 - Zone 4 – maintenance was done where the trail was washing out in Zone 4
 - Zone 5 – drains along the trail need to be cleared out – Malcolm Sias and Rob Cronauer will take a look and see what can be done to prevent future washouts

- e. **Fundraising** – Rob Cronauer
 - Comedy Night next year will be at the LIVE Casino.
 - The Ted Hayes donation will be coming in next month.
 - 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
 - No report
 - h. **Municipal Representatives**
 - Trafford – Signs have been placed at BY Park notifying bikers that bikes are not allowed on the circular path around the park. A dead blue heron was found on the trail and reported to the Game Commission who removed it. No cause of death has been identified yet.
 - Monroeville – the municipality notified Allegheny County that the rumble strips on Saunders Station Road are ineffective and need to be replaced and widened.
 - Export – Export Business Association would like to have several temporary signs directing trail users to park at the far end of the lot. Jeff Richards has offered to pay for one permanent sign. Liz Ferri will bring additional sign requests from Export Council to a future trail meeting for consideration by the board.
 - All zones - Mike Banda reported that trail users have requested keeping a few Porta Johns open throughout the year. Malcolm Sias suggested that he identify which ones would be most useful in the winter and send a request to Chris Panichella to extend the contract for those.
8. Next month's WHT Meeting will be held in person on October 10, 2024 at The Lamplighter.
9. On a motion by Jerry Detar, seconded by Chad Emahizer, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Rose Cercone, Secretary

Upcoming WHT Board Meeting Dates and Locations

October 10 (Lamplighter, Delmont)
November 14 (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>
-------------	-------------	--------------	-----------------

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	All day	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	1 PM - 5 PM	Export Witch's Ride	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