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Meeting Minutes April 8, 2021  
Online via Zoom

Meeting Attendees:

- a. Board: (15) Rob Cronauer, Alyssa Davis, Tom Dittman, Rick Fisher, Kerry Jobe, Brandon Lacina, Jack Maher, Mary Grace Muster, Bill O'Hara, Chris Panichella, Vicki Rudge, Stan Rudge, Malcolm Sias, AnnaMarie Stackiewicz, and Ann Wade
  - b. Absent Board: (5) Gordon Conn, Eileen Elicker, Monica Meehan, John Nagoda, and Pat Norton
  - c. Guests: Ron Markos, Michael Bertonaschi, Karen Cercone, and Jeff Richards
1. President Stan Rudge led the recitation of "The Pledge of Allegiance" and then called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.
  2. Presidents' Comment –
    - a. President Rudge recognized board member and fundraising chairman volunteer, Rob Cronauer, for his outstanding work on the mile post plaque sponsorships.
  3. Public Input/Introductions – No report.
  4. Approval of Minutes –
    - a. A motion was made to approve the March minutes by Maher, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cronauer, motion carried, minutes approved.
  5. Treasurer's Report –Jack Maher
    - a. For the month of March, WHT had \$65,000 in the Capital Reserve for the storage building, \$28,000 in the general Money Market account, and \$20,000 in the checking account. Total assets are at \$135,000. Total equity is up \$48,000 from March 2020. All sponsorships, memberships, and donations are up from last year. Revenue was down due to no Comedy Night, but so were expenses. There is only a difference of \$36 between March 2020 and March 2021, which is pretty impressive. Maher thanked everyone for their efforts to continue to bring money into the trail.
    - b. A motion was made to approve the March treasurer's report by O' Hara, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wade, motion carried, report approved.
  6. RTC Report – Rob Cronauer
    - a. No report.
  7. TAT Report – Stan Rudge
    - a. A Laurel Highlands Conservation Landscape Minigrant was submitted to pay for the cost of printing the new brochures.
  8. Committee Reports -
    - a. Real Estate and Acquisitions – Malcolm Sias
      - i. Work is underway on acquiring a piece of land east of Route 66.
    - b. Engineering and Construction – Jeff Richards
      - i. The section of land east of Route 66 mentioned above is about 7/10<sup>th</sup> of a mile long.
      - ii. A support letter from the WHT was requested by Richards for a PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources grant to acquire funding for the acquisition of lands of Richard Kacin for purposes of extending the WHT eastward from S.R. 66. Davis agreed to draft this letter and provide it to President Rudge for review and signature.
      - iii. The FTMSA sewer project is almost finished. Richards thanked the WHT members that attended the inspection walk.

- iv. The pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Tarr Hollow Rd and Route 22 has been proposed to PennDOT and the approval process is ongoing.
  - v. Export is moving forward with their replica train station construction in the next couple of weeks.
- c. Fundraising –Rob Cronauer
- i. Unfortunately there will be no Arts and Heritage Festival this year, so the WHT will not be able to raise funds from assisting with parking. Hopefully fundraising efforts can be put into our Trail Towns Festival later this year.
  - ii. The mile posts continue to go well, and bench installations will be moving forward soon.
- d. Public Relations – Vicki Rudge
- i. WHT now has 2,486 Facebook followers and 108 Twitter followers.
  - ii. Donations have been coming in via private Facebook messages.
  - iii. The spring 2021 newsletter has been sent out via email and added to the website.
  - iv. The Saunders Station, Carson Braun, and Murrysville kiosks need a new volunteer to keep them up to date. Wade volunteered to overtake this task.
  - v. A PR committee meeting will be scheduled soon to discuss the lottery calendar fundraiser.
  - vi. The committee will also be meeting to review possibly moving the Trail Towns Festival to fall 2021.
  - vii. The Ted Hayes Memorial Ride and Walk will be held on June 5 on Zone 1 (Slickville to Saltsburg section) of the WHT. All proceeds will go to the Storage Building Fund. Please register and attend the event and spread the word!
- e. Membership –Gordon Conn
- i. Conn reported via email that the WHT is up to 242 members.
- f. Trail Ambassadors – Stan Rudge
- i. Zero hours were reported for March.
  - ii. A new trail ambassador training course is scheduled for April 20 at 6pm at the Rudge household. There are at least five new individuals signed up. Any interested parties can contact President Rudge to get signed up.
- g. Trail Maintenance – Zone Leaders
- i. Mowing and spraying will begin soon along the trail. A note was made to check on the parking lot near Helltown. WHT received notice from a trail user that the port-a-john at Saunders Station was clogged, and the issue was taken care of.
  - ii. A memorial stone was installed at the Carson Braun parking lot, and due to a neighbor complaining, the garbage can at this parking lot was removed.
  - iii. A few news signs to address people leaving their bagged dog poop on/along the trail will be covered with the A-frame signs in the Laurel Highlands Conservation Landscape Minigrant application.
  - iv. **Zone 1:** No issues.  
**Zone 2:** Fisher reported mowing will start soon, and the Delmont Visionary Committee held a trash cleanup along this section recently.  
**Zone 3:** No issues.  
**Zone 4:** No issues.  
**Zone 5:** Volunteer Mike Bertonaschi reported that there were some branches along the side of the trail, as well as some bags of trash from a cleanup that needed removed. A question about the progress on the Trafford to GAP Trail connection was brought up; there are no updates.
- h. Delmont Visionary Committee – Anna Marie Stackiewicz
- i. Two litter cleanups are scheduled for April 10 and April 24.
  - ii. The group has acquired a Tax ID number and submitted a corporation application. They just need to acquire 501 (c)3 status.
- i. Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation – Chris Panichella
- i. Everyone that took the pesticide certification class should have received their card.
  - ii. A big thanks to everyone for this year's March for Parks!

- iii. Panichella will send the letter of donation for the Toros and storage container to Maher to add them into the WHT assets.
  - j. Municipal Representatives
    - i. Stackiewicz (Delmont): A kid with a go-kart has been seen driving on the trail. People were told to keep an eye out for him.
    - ii. Dittman (Murrysville): The Carson Braun parking lot entrance is to be paved this summer.
  - k. Historical and Turtle Creek Railroad – Ann Wade
    - i. Cercone reported that the local historical societies are reviewing this round of historical plaques. She will send drafts to the officers via email to review before printing. There are a few designed that will go on future expansion sections of the trail.
    - ii. Wade reported that she is working on putting a comprehensive timeline together for the trail's history.
- 9. Old Business
  - a. Historical Plaques Round 2 Update – reported on above
  - b. Laurel Highlands Conservation Landscape Minigrant Update
    - i. The application was submitted for \$1,700. Grant announcements should be at the beginning of May.
  - c. Memorial Bike Ride/Run/Walk for Ted Hayes
    - i. Everyone should register and attend if they can!
  - d. Nominations and Vote to fill Ted Hayes' vacated At-Large board seat
    - i. Wendy Davis was nominated at the March board meeting.
    - ii. Nominations were opened. There were no new nominations, and they were then closed.
    - iii. Wendy Davis was approved as the new board member.
- 10. New Business
  - a. Trail Monitor Training – Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 6:00 pm, call 724-312-2200 for registration
  - b. Carson Braun – entrance to parking lot to be paved
    - i. Murrysville will cover the cost of paving.
  - c. Eco-Counter
    - i. The DCNR grant covering the cost of the current trail counter ran out, so in order to re-up the counter, we have been asked to agree to a 3-year contract and pay Rails to Trails Conservancy a \$420/year fee along with a one-time \$140 contingency for a battery backup.
    - ii. Lacina offered to continue monitoring the counter.
    - iii. The new counter could be moved to different locations along the trail.
    - iv. A motion to agree to the 3-year contract and pay the \$420/year fee with \$140 contingency for the battery was made by Maher, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wade, motion carried, approval to move forward.
      - A. Sias and Panichella brought up a possible package of three counters with a one time purchase cost.
      - B. An amendment to the previous motion was made that the executive committee could override the motion if new info on the package shows it is a better deal. Amendment was made by Maher, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sias, amendment carried, executive committee will make final decision on counter(s) and report at the May meeting.
  - d. Pedi-cab Cart on the WHT
    - i. Discussion occurred on whether pedi-cabs/golf carts should be allowed on the trail.
      - A. Sias reported that no commercial entities are allowed on the trail, therefore it would be illegal to allow them on the trail. There is also the existing ADA rule in our trail rules that outlines what is and is not allowed on the trail.
      - B. This issue will be addressed on social media, and the gentleman who brought the pedi-cab on the trail will be contacted as well.
  - e. Trail Use Application Approvals
    - i. East Suburban Trailblazers 4/24/21 & 10/16/21 from 8am to 11am from Export trail head to Toona (Cozy Cut-off)
      - A. A motion to approve the event above was made by Maher, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dittman, motion carried, event approved.

- ii. GCXC Racing 9/11/21 & 10/30/21 from 8am to 1pm from Carson Avenue to Duff Park (School Rd. S)
    - A. A motion to approve the event above was made by Dittman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wade, motion carried, event approved.
  - iii. The Delmont Rotary's event that was previously approved for April 22 has been rescheduled to the new date of June 12.
  - f. Slickville Festival Tabling – Aug 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>
    - i. Jobe will be tabling at the event for the WHT, as well as a few PR committee volunteers.
11. The next meeting will be on May 13, 2021 at outside at the Pedora Pavilion on Wilson Rd, White Valley. On a motion by Vicki Rudge, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cronauer, the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alyssa Davis, Secretary