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Meeting Minutes August 12, 2021  
Pedora Park, White Valley

Meeting Attendees:

- a. Board: (12) Gordon Conn, Rob Cronauer, Alyssa Davis, Wendy Davis, Tom Dittman, Jack Maher, Monica Meehan, Bill O'Hara, Chris Panichella, Vicki Rudge, Stan Rudge, and Malcolm Sias
  - b. Absent Board: (9) Eileen Elicker, Rick Fisher, Kerry Jobe, Brandon Lacina, Mary Grace Muster, John Nagoda, Pat Norton, AnnaMarie Stackiewicz and Ann Wade
  - c. Guests: Don Baker, Ginny Hayes, Joseph Hlista, Jerry Babcock, Dee O'Hara, Jeff Richards, Karen Cercone, Roman Colansply, Mark Begeman, David Nigro, Luke Briola
1. President Stan Rudge led the recitation of "The Pledge of Allegiance" and then called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.
  2. Presidents' Comment –
    - a. All historical markers are now installed on the trail for users to enjoy.
    - b. President Rudge highlighted the Joy Riders on the trail recently and passed around some pics of their recent ride on the trail with a few individuals from Redstone Highlands.
  3. Public Input/Introductions –
    - a. Luke, a new member from Latrobe that works at St. Vincent College, was in attendance and introduced himself.
  4. Approval of Minutes –
    - a. A motion was made to approve the July minutes by Sias, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Maher, motion carried, minutes approved.
  5. Treasurer's Report –Jack Maher
    - a. For the month of July, WHT had \$75,000 in the Capital Reserve for the storage building, \$38,000 in the general Money Market account, and \$16,000 in the checking account. Total assets and total equity are at \$152,000. We've received a \$5,000 donation to be designated for use on the Middle Gap section, which will be placed in a new reserve account.
    - b. Total revenue was \$43,000, total expenditures were \$14,000, and the net revenue was \$29,000. Revenue was up and expenses were down, which is fantastic! Fundraising, grants, donations, and memberships are all still bringing in substantial money!
    - c. Leslie Pierce at RTC has asked Maher to provide a number of items for the yearly audit.
    - d. Next month, Panichella will be giving the treasurer's report.
    - e. A motion was made to approve the July treasurer's report by Conn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by O'Hara, motion carried, report approved.
  6. RTC Report – Rob Cronauer
    - a. Leslie Pierce will be retiring in 2023, so the process to update her current job description and find a replacement has started. The trail groups are currently reviewing and commenting on the job description.
    - b. The "Burma Shave" text to donate signs were not very successful. However, WHT is going to be tweaking the idea and creating some new signs with the text to donate/QR code on them to be included within the safety initiative sign printing.
    - c. RTC has decided to start investing some of their money with their new investment advisor, Wealth Enhancement Group. The executive committee has discussed this option for WHT, and research is

being done on some other options as well. If WHT was to go forward with this, most likely the building fund money would be invested.

7. TAT Report – Stan Rudge
  - a. No report.
8. Committee Reports -
  - a. Real Estate and Acquisitions – Malcolm Sias
    - i. It was discovered that an existing easement specifically designated for a walking/biking trail is located on property near the stormwater basin along Old William Penn Hwy in White Oak.
    - ii. The parcel(s) of land near Rte 66 are still in negotiations, as this is a lengthy process.
  - b. Engineering and Construction – Jeff Richards
    - i. A new stream crossing pipe is to be installed at Lauffer Mine Road that will facilitate the future parking area, trailhead, and trail.
    - ii. A topographic survey was done on a piece of RTC owned property.
    - iii. The new train station at Export will be dedicated at their Export Ethnic Food and Music Festival on August 21.
    - iv. Plans are in place to design the parking area and trail extension from Export.
    - v. A site meeting was held on August 6 at the Westmoreland Conservancy's property at the Morosini Reserve along Morosini Farm Ct in Murrysville to walk the future site of the WHT mutual trailhead. Tom Dittman volunteered to be the WHT/West. Conser. Liason for the project.
    - vi. The streambank & bridge abutment stabilization construction has been completed. A video documenting the process was made by Doug Webster and can be viewed on the WHT YouTube page ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0-YDj\\_dDoWM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0-YDj_dDoWM)).
  - c. Fundraising –Rob Cronauer
    - i. The Poker Run was a success this year, and due to the partnership between Five Star Trail and WHT, we will be receiving approx. \$300 from registrations.
    - ii. Comedy Night will be Feb. 19, 2022 at Colton Hall. Cronauer reported that there are COVID precautions within the contract for this event that we will need to work with.
    - iii. A motion to approve the \$250 deposit for booking Colton Hall for the event was made by Sias, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Panichella, motion carried, deposit to book the venue was approved.
    - iv. All current memorial benches have been installed.
    - v. If any existing memorial benches need new slats, let President Rudge know.
  - d. Public Relations – Vicki Rudge
    - i. WHT now has 2,691 Facebook followers and 127 Twitter followers.
    - ii. Signups for a few upcoming community festivals & events to man the WHT booth and or volunteer were passed around. These include the Slickville Festival, Export Festival, and Amazing Race Scavenger Hunt. Gift baskets, donations, and encouragement of more participants are needed for the Amazing Race as well. If you are interested in signing up to volunteer at any of these events, reach out to Vicki Rudge.
  - e. Membership –Gordon Conn
    - i. WHT is up to 306 members, 79 of which are lifetime members.
    - ii. If anyone else would like to help with the previous member “phone-a-thon”, please let Conn know. Vicki Rudge, Elicker, and Conn will be calling previous members who have not renewed via phone.
    - iii. Conn reported that he attended one of the WHT/GAP connector public meetings, and he encouraged everyone to review their current plan and contribute public comment to look at the abandoned rail trails within the connector's corridor.
  - f. Trail Ambassadors – Stan Rudge
    - i. July was another banner month for ambassador hours; 130.9 hours were reported for the month by 9 total people! Thank you to everyone who has been out riding the trail and contributing hours!
  - g. Trail Maintenance – Zone Leaders

- i. Everything is going good. The gas company that needed access to the trail needed to fix a meter, and that work seems to have gone smoothly.
    - ii. **Zone 1:** No issues.  
**Zone 2:** No issues.  
**Zone 3:** No issues.  
**Zone 4:** No issues.  
**Zone 5:** The drainage ditch near the TCWA kiosk close to Saunders Station still needs cleaned out. Monroeville should be helping with this soon.
  - h. Delmont Visionary Committee – Anna Marie Stackiewicz
    - i. No report.
  - i. Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation – Chris Panichella
    - i. August Fun Fest was a huge success with a great turnout.
    - ii. Please volunteer for any upcoming events if you are able.
  - j. Municipal Representatives
    - i. No report.
  - k. Historical and Turtle Creek Railroad – Ann Wade
    - i. No report.
9. Old Business
- a. Update on Laurel Highlands Conservation Landscape Minigrant – Trail Safety
    - i. Work is moving forward on the design on the signs by the committee and Kristi.
  - b. PA Greenways & Trails Summit – Sun. Sept. 19 through Tues. Sept. 21 in Erie, Pa
    - i. 2 members have signed up, and there is still room available for WHT to cover part of the registration costs.
  - c. Joy Riders on the WHT
    - i. A motion to develop a committee to research the purchase of one of these bikes to use on the trail in partnership with the Joy Riders was made by Vicki Rudge, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cronauer, motion carried, committee approved.
    - ii. The bike could be stored at the Fry Garage and charge there. The cost of one is approx. \$10,000.
  - d. Volunteer Recognition Night Updates
    - i. Cercone reported on behalf of the committee on two options for the dinner and two options for the volunteer t-shirts:
      - a. The dinner options were either renting the Export Pavilion where Kickstand Grille would provide the meat and WHT would supplement with drinks and sides (\$240 total) OR have the evening at Penn Murry who would cater the whole thing (\$600 total). These prices represent an estimate of 40 people in attendance.
        - 1. A motion to go forward with the Penn Murry dinner option was made by O’Hara, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Meehan, motion carried, dinner approved.
      - b. Two t-shirt designs were presented; one was the WHT logo with the word “volunteer” (\$8.75/shirt S-XL & \$11.75/shirt XXL and bigger) and the other was a pic of a trail corridor with trees framing the trail (\$14.50/shirt S-XL & \$15.50/shirt XXL and bigger). Each are made of a moisture wicking material.
        - 1. A motion to approve the WHT logo with volunteer design was made by Alyssa Davis, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Maher, motion carried, t-shirt approved.
  - e. Trail Ambassador Training – August
    - i. President Rudge will be hosting another new trail ambassador training on Monday, August 30, 2021 at 6:30 pm. Reach out to Stan Rudge if you are interested in attending. Current ambassadors are required to renew their training every two years.
10. New Business
- a. Murrysville Sportzone sidewalk connection to WHT
    - i. Sportzone is planning on converting a corner of the building to an ice cream shop and building a patio area with a path that connects to the WHT. West. Co. has sent a letter of no objection to them already.
  - b. DCNR Trail of the Year Committee

- i. Alyssa Davis reported that it is almost time to start soliciting more support letters for the reapplication to DCNR's Trail of the Year award program. The committee from last year (Davis, Panichella, Norton, and Lauren Jones from West. Co. Parks) will be meeting soon to come up with a list of additional letters needed. President Rudge requested to join the committee as well.
  - c. Inspections for Bridges
    - i. Jeff Richards will send President Rudge a possible contact (Scott H. at Gibson Thomas).
  - d. Scout Project Kiosk at Meier Hardware Trailhead
    - i. Roman from Troup 205 presented to the board on his Eagle Scout project that he would like to do along the trail. He would like to build a kiosk at the Meier Hardware Trailhead. Construction would likely take place in spring/summer 2022. He will need designs to gather a material list, which the board agreed to send over to him. Richards asked that Roman coordinates the kiosk location with the trailhead construction to avoid conflicts/future need to relocate kiosk.
    - ii. A motion to approve the construction of the kiosk at the Meier Hardware Trailhead was made by Meehan, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Panichella, motion carried, kiosk approved.
    - iii. A motion to support the kiosk construction by WHT donating \$250 towards materials was made by Maher, 2<sup>nd</sup> Panichella, motion carried, \$250 will be provided to supplement Roman's project.
  - e. Day of Caring: Bridge Painting/Labels for WHT Brochures
    - i. Two applications were submitted:
      - 1. Approx. 5,000 WHT brochures need labels applied to update the mailing address information for the trail. 3-5 volunteers were requested for this task. This application was approved and will occur on Tuesday, Sept. 14. Vicki Rudge and Ginny Hayes will be present to assist and oversee the volunteers.
      - 2. The bridge painting application has not received approval yet.
  - f. President Rudge – Lewis Award
    - i. Cronauer read an award letter from the West. Co. Parks and Rec. Citizens Advisory Board addressed to President Rudge acknowledging Rudge as the recipient of the Lewis Award. He will be the guest of honor at the annual Green Luncheon Awards Ceremony. A HUGE WHT CONGRATS to President Rudge on his award!
- On a motion by O'Hara, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Maher, the meeting was adjourned at 8:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alyssa Davis, Secretary