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Meeting Minutes December 9, 2021
Lamplighter Restaurant, Delmont

Meeting Attendees:

- a. Board: (17) Rob Cronauer, Alyssa Davis, Wendy Davis, Rick Fisher, Kerry Jobe, Brandon Lacina, Jack Maher, Monica Meehan, Mary Grace Muster, Pat Norton, Bill O'Hara, Chris Panichella, Vicki Rudge, Stan Rudge, Malcolm Sias, AnnaMarie Stackiewicz, and Ann Wade
 - b. Absent Board: (4) Gordon Conn, Tom Dittman, Eileen Elicker, and John Nagoda
 - c. Guests: Wayne Nagle, Adam Shutt, Deana Pastor, Louise Fisher, Jerry & Mary Babcock, Jeff Richards, Bob Stackiewicz, Chad Emahizer
1. President Stan Rudge led the recitation of "The Pledge of Allegiance" and then called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.
 2. Presidents' Comment –
 - a. President Rudge thanked everyone for coming out this evening and encouraged them to help themselves to the appetizers and cookies to celebrate the holiday season.
 3. Public Input/Introductions –
 - a. Jeff Cunningham, from the Delmont Visionary Committee, and Wayne Nagle, a trail user, introduced themselves.
 4. Approval of Minutes –
 - a. A motion was made to approve the November minutes by Maher, 2nd by Norton, motion carried, minutes approved.
 5. Treasurer's Report –Chris Panichella
 - a. For the month of November, WHT had \$75,500 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.
 - b. Total revenue was \$52,000, total expenditures were \$23,000, and the net revenue was \$29,000. Grants, donations, and memberships are all still bringing in substantial money!
 - c. A motion was made to approve the November treasurer's report by Sias, 2nd by O'Hara, motion carried, report approved.
 - d. Maher thanked board member O'Hara for his donation to the building fund this year.
 6. Committee Reports -
 - a. Public Relations – Vicki Rudge
 - i. WHT now has 2,757 Facebook followers and 135 Twitter followers.
 - ii. WHT has received a \$500 donation from the Penn Township Recreation Board.
 - iii. WHT has received the check for their portion of the Amazing Race Fundraiser.
 - iv. If anyone is looking for Christmas gifts, don't forget to purchase some WHT merch!
 - v. The date for the 2022 Trail Towns Festival will be June 4, 2022.
 - a. A motion to approve the event date was made by Meehan, 2nd by Wade, motion carried, date approved.
 - b. Fundraising –Rob Cronauer
 - i. Comedy Night 2022 will be held at Colton Hall in Claridge on Feb. 19, 2022. The comedians have been booked. SAVE THE DATE!
 - a. Cronauer had event tickets, flyers, and sponsorship forms for board members to take and sell/distribute. If you are interested in helping sell tickets or solicit sponsorships, please reach out to Cronauer ASAP!
 - ii. Uncle Sam donation signs are now along the trail on the new sandwich boards that include the QR code for the text-to-donate campaign.

- c. Membership –Gordon Conn
 - i. WHT is up to 353 members for 2021, which is a new record! A HUGE WHT thank you goes out to everyone who helped with the phone call tree to reach out to past members who hadn't renewed their membership!
 - d. Engineering and Construction – Jeff Richards
 - i. The designs for the trail east of Rte. 66 and the Export trail extension were displayed at the meeting for attendees to view.
 - e. Trail Maintenance – Zone Leaders
 - i. Cronauer reported on the drainage improvement work that occurred by Adam Eidemiller Inc. near Saunders Station. A drainage pipe was replaced with a larger pipe and numerous inlets of nearby pipes and ditches were cleaned out.
 - ii. Loyalhanna Twp also cleaned out drainage ditches in their section.
 - iii. A proposal to add an additional storage container in the lot along the trail near FTMSA was made. FTMSA is favorable to the idea, and volunteers are needed to decide the exact location.
 - iv. Conn reported that Monroeville has begun working on applying for the permits needed for the pedestrian bridge across Turtle Creek.
 - f. Trail Ambassadors – Stan Rudge
 - i. 60 hours were reported for the month of November! Thank you to everyone who has been out riding the trail and contributing hours!
7. Old Business
- a. Update on Laurel Highlands Conservation Landscape Minigrant – Trail Safety
 - i. President Rudge is working on compiling all of the invoices for grant reimbursement. The feedback on the signs so far has been positive!
 - b. Financial Committee Update
 - i. The paperwork to invest our initial \$60,000 with Wealth Enhancement Group is being finalized.
 - c. Westmoreland Trailblazers Membership Coupon Book Proposal
 - i. The group is leaning toward a membership card for WHT members to present to participating businesses. They would most likely be color coded to distinguish membership years. Window clings for the businesses and support stickers for members are also planned. The window clings will be paid for by solicited sponsorships. The plan is to start approaching businesses at the beginning of 2022, once the holidays are over.
 - d. 2021 Board of Directors Nominees for Election/Re-election
 - i. WHT has received re-appointment letters from the Westmoreland Conservation District and West. Co. Parks to re-appoint Cronauer and Panichella as their respective representatives.
 - ii. A re-appointment letter from Export to re-appoint John Nagoda has not been received, so in accordance with the bylaws, WHT will work on choosing a new representative themselves to present to Export.
 - iii. Three board members are up for re-election for the upcoming year (Elicker, O'Hara, and Wade). Elicker has stepped down from her board position, so there is a vacant board position open.
 - iv. A nomination of Chad Emahizer was made by Vicki Rudge, 2nd by Cronauer.
 - v. A nomination for Chris Panichella for treasurer was made by Wade, 2nd by Maher.
8. New Business
- a. PA Master Naturalist Volunteer Project – Educational Posts on Social Media
 - i. WHT member Carol Byers has reached out to the WHT asking if we would be interested in allowing her to do her PA Master Naturalist Service Project with the trail. Her proposal is to create a series of educational posts about native flora and fauna that can be found along the trail to post on the WHT's social media.
 - 1. A motion to approve Byers' proposal was made by Stackiewicz, 2nd by Alyssa Davis, motion carried, proposal approved.
 - b. Laurel Highlands Conservation Landscape Minigrant for Joyrider Bike Application
 - i. There is already \$1,100 in the WHT funds designated for purchase of a Joyrider bike for the WHT, which costs approx. \$12,000.
 - ii. President Rudge is working on another Laurel Highlands Conservation Landscape Minigrant application to purchase a Joyrider bike. The grant would require 50% match (approx. \$6,000 from the WHT). The application is due Dec. 14, so the turnaround time to submit is super quick.

1. A motion to move forward with the application was made by Vicki Rudge, 2nd by Cronauer, motion carried, grant application approved.
- c. Trail Town Festival – June 4, 2022
 - i. See 6.a.v. above.
9. Next meeting – January 13, 2022 at Lamplighter Restaurant in Delmont.
On a motion by Sias, 2nd by Maher, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Alyssa Davis, Secretary