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Meeting Minutes January 14, 2021
Online via Zoom

Meeting Attendees:

- a. Board: (12) Rob Cronauer, Alyssa Davis, Tom Dittman, Rick Fisher, Ted Hayes, Brandon Lacina, Jack Maher, Mary Grace Muster, Chris Panichella, Vicki Rudge, Stan Rudge, AnnaMarie Stackiewicz
 - b. Absent Board: (9) Gordon Conn, Eileen Elicker, Kerry Jobe, Monica Meehan, Dorothea Motto, John Nagoda, Pat Norton, Bill O'Hara, and Ann Wade
 - c. Guests: Malcolm Sias and Jeff Richards
1. President Stan Rudge led the recitation of "The Pledge of Allegiance" and then called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.
 2. Presidents' Comment – No report.
 3. Public Input/Introductions – No report.
 4. Approval of Minutes –
 - a. A motion was made to approve the December minutes by Dittman, 2nd by Maher, motion carried, minutes approved.
 5. Treasurer's Report – Jack Maher
 - a. No report due to Maher being in quarantine and not able to go into the office to prepare the report.
 6. RTC Report – No report.
 7. TAT Report – No report.
 8. Committee Reports -
 - a. Real Estate and Acquisitions – Malcolm Sias
 - i. Nothing new to report.
 - b. Engineering and Construction – Jeff Richards
 - i. Another parcel closing is taking place soon.
 - ii. Thank you to all of our social media managers for posting the sewer construction updates online.
 - iii. Awaiting a reply on the Lauffer Mine Rd Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Rd grant submitted to the Westmoreland Conservation District.
 - iv. The Middle Gap Feasibility Study report is being sent to the committee for review.
 - c. Fundraising –Rob Cronauer
 - i. Mile post sponsorships are still coming in steadily with sponsorships from Florida and Washington D.C. even!
 - ii. Comedy Night for 2021 is officially canceled due to a virtual version deemed not worth the time and effort and technical issues after further research.
 - iii. The CARES Act funding was allocated by the executive officers after the Dec. meeting. The money was split pretty evenly between numerous interests.
 - a. Allocation of funds consisted of: purchase of maintenance equipment, profit recoup for lost funds from Trail Town Festival, Heritage Festival parking, and reduced memberships; PPE purchases for the United Day of Caring; purchase of four laptops with Microsoft 365 to be given to secretary, treasurer, membership chair, and president for WHT use.
 - d. Public Relations – Vicki Rudge
 - i. WHT now has 2,404 Facebook followers and 101 Twitter followers.

- ii. A Zoom meeting will be taking place within the PR team to discuss the possibility of the Trail Town Festival this year.
 - iii. Work on the cycling shirt merch is still on-going.
 - iv. The next issue of the newsletter is finished and being distributed across social media, email, and in-person.
 - e. Membership –via Stan Rudge
 - i. The WHT broke 300 members for 2020!
 - f. Trail Ambassadors – Stan Rudge
 - i. 28 hours were reported for trail ambassadors.
 - ii. There are no plans for a new trail ambassador training workshop until the spring.
 - g. Trail Maintenance – Zone Leaders
 - i. No problems. Maintenance got new equipment paid for with some of the CARES Act money including a sickle bar, blower, and \$1k worth of Stihl equipment.
 - ii. Fisher reported that he is working on installing the sickle bar as well as solar on the Slickville shed.
 - iii. The Slickville shed is at capacity right now. The new blower will stay at Northmoreland Park with West. Co. Parks until the WHT can find space to store it.
 - iv. Zone 1: No issues.
 - v. Zone 2: No issues.
 - vi. Zone 3: No issues.
 - vii. Zone 4: No issues.
 - viii. Zone 5: No report.
 - h. Delmont Visionary Committee – AnnaMarie Stackiewicz
 - i. Thank you to the WHT for trying to help out. The committee is currently regrouping. If anyone is interested in joining, please reach out to AnnaMarie.
 - i. Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation – Chris Panichella
 - i. A tentative date for March for Parks has been scheduled for March 27. The event will be split between nine locations to split up the crowd. Volunteers will be needed, and more information will follow.
 - ii. Those that were pesticide certified for the trail need to re-up their certification. Reach out to Chris P. at West. Co. Parks (724-961-6559 cell #) to get recertified. The training should last 2-3 hours. Rick Fisher, Malcolm Sias, Ted Hayes, Bill O’Hara, and Pat Norton were all previously certified.
 - j. Municipal Representatives
 - i. No report.
 - k. Historical and Turtle Creek Railroad – Ann Wade
 - i. Stan Rudge reported that Wade and Karen Cercone are working together on implementing the grant for the next round of historical plaques.
9. Old Business
- a. 2021 Board of Directors Elections
 - i. Final nominations for board positions were opened, no new nominations, and were then closed.
 - ii. There are two open “At Large” board member spots up for re-election, and three nominees (Monica Meehan, Dorothea Motto, and Malcolm Sias).
 - i. Votes were taken via Zoom with secretary Davis going through the attendee list and having voting board members call out their votes one by one. Each person voted for two people.
 - ii. Total vote tallies were as follows: Monica Meehan – 12 votes, Dorothea Motto – 0 votes, Malcolm Sias – 12 votes.
 - iii. A motion to approve the election of Meehan and Sias as “At Large” members was made by Maher, 2nd by Hayes, motion carried, new board members elected for three year terms.
 - iv. A huge WHT thank you goes out to Motto for all of her time put into the trail. A letter of appreciation and plaque will be given to her on behalf of the WHT.

- b. 2021 Officer Elections
 - i. The current slate of officers up for re-elections is Stan Rudge for President, Rob Cronauer for Vice President, Jack Maher for Treasurer, and Alyssa Davis for Secretary.
 - ii. A motion to nominate the current slate of officers for re-election was made by Dittman, 2nd by Hayes, motion carried, current slate of officers nominated.
 - iii. A motion to re-elect the current state of officers for another one-year term was made by Muster, 2nd by Lacina, motion carried, current slate of officers re-elected for one-year terms.
- 10. New Business
 - a. Event requests on trail:
 - i. East Suburban Trailblazers would like to host two trail runs on the trail: Apr. 24 & Oct. 16 from Export to the Cozy Inn Cutoff from 8-11 am.
 - A. A motion was made by Muster to approve the trail use for the events, 2nd by Dittman, motion carried, trail use approved.
 - b. DCNR Trail of the Year 2021 Results
 - i. The WHT was not selected as the winner for 2021. The winner was the Delaware and Hudson Rail-Trail in northeast PA. We will submit another application for 2022! Davis will reach out to DCNR for any feedback on our application and report back to the board.
 - c. Meeting Attendance
 - i. Attendance for Zoom meetings is highly encouraged due to the safety and flexibility compared to meeting in person. Board members should be attending at least 60% of board meetings according to their signed Board Member Expectations.
- 11. The next meeting will be on February 11, 2021 online via Zoom.
On a motion by Maher, 2nd by Dittman the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Alyssa Davis, Secretary