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Meeting Minutes July 8, 2021
Pedora Park, White Valley

Meeting Attendees:

- a. Board: (16) Rob Cronauer, Alyssa Davis, Wendy Davis, Eileen Elicker, Kerry Jobe, Brandon Lacina, Jack Maher, Monica Meehan, John Nagoda, Pat Norton, Bill O'Hara, Chris Panichella, Vicki Rudge, Stan Rudge, AnnaMarie Stackiewicz, and Ann Wade
 - b. Absent Board: (5) Gordon Conn, Tom Dittman, Rick Fisher, Mary Grace Muster, and Malcolm Sias
 - c. Guests: Bob Stackiewicz, Don Baker, Ginny Hayes, Joseph Hlista, Alice Grasso, Dan Sigg, Chad Emahizer, Christopher Begeman, Mark Begeman
1. President Stan Rudge led the recitation of "The Pledge of Allegiance" and then called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.
 2. Presidents' Comment –
 - a. The new round of printed historical plaques, "little libraries" and wooden brochure holders were all on display around the pavilion for meeting attendees to view.
 - b. President Rudge highlighted Jack Maher's longtime support and efforts towards the trail to get it to where it is today, including his 10+ year dedication to the treasurer role. A HUGE WHT THANK YOU goes out to Maher and his dedication to the WHT's success!
 3. Public Input/Introductions – No report.
 4. Approval of Minutes –
 - a. A motion was made to approve the June minutes by Norton, 2nd by O'Hara, motion carried, minutes approved.
 5. Treasurer's Report –Jack Maher
 - a. For the month of June, WHT had \$65,000 in the Capital Reserve for the storage building, \$28,000 in the general Money Market account, and \$32,000 in the checking account. Total assets and total equity are at \$147,000. There are no liabilities, and total equity has increased since this time last year.
 - b. Total revenue was \$36,000, total expenditures were \$11,000, and the net revenue was \$24,000. Revenue was up and expenses were down, which is fantastic!
 - c. The Ted Hayes Memorial Fundraiser event raised a total of \$9,400 for the building fund.
 - d. A motion to move \$10,000 into the building fund was made by O'Hara, 2nd by Norton, motion carried, \$10k will be allocated to the building fund.
 - e. Panichella has officially been made a check signer for the WHT.
 - f. A motion was made to approve the June treasurer's report by Panichella, 2nd by Wade, motion carried, report approved.
 6. RTC Report – Rob Cronauer
 - a. No report.
 7. TAT Report – Stan Rudge
 - a. TAT was awarded the Laurel Highlands Conservation Landscape Minigrant award, and the new brochures are being printed.
 8. Committee Reports -
 - a. Real Estate and Acquisitions – Malcolm Sias
 - i. Jeff Richards reported that four hard copies of the Middle Gap Feasibility Study have been printed for advanced printing. They are still waiting on feedback from Durabond and the focus groups.

- ii. At the Export meeting on July 15, there are two agenda items related to the WHT:
 - a. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) has been approached to expand the scope of WHT Ph. IV 750 feet past the future Export train station.
 - b. They are also asking Mackin Engineering to design the additional 750 feet extension.
- b. Engineering and Construction – Jeff Richards
 - i. Cronauer reported that streambank stabilization construction work will be occurring along the trail from August 9-12. The trail section from Forbes Rd in Trafford to the bridge over Turtle Creek between mile markers 20 & 20 ¼ will be closed to trail users due to heavy machinery traveling back and forth. This work is to stabilize the bridge abutment and upstream streambank.
- c. Fundraising –Rob Cronauer
 - i. Another thank you goes out to all who helped make the Ted Hayes Memorial Fundraiser the huge success that it was!
 - ii. Cronauer has been talking with Colton Hall in Claridge and is hoping to book the space for Comedy Night 2022 soon for a Feb. date.
 - iii. Two additional benches are to be installed soon.
- d. Public Relations – Vicki Rudge
 - i. WHT now has 2,618 Facebook followers and 118 Twitter followers.
 - ii. WHT will be partnering again with the Level Green Women’s Club to hold another Amazing Race fundraiser on Oct. 9, 2021. The planning meeting was held two weeks ago. The event will take place between the Murrysville Community Center and School Road. Volunteers are needed to work the event; if you are interested, please contact the PR committee!
 - iii. The next newsletter is in progress; if anyone has anything to include, reach out to the PR committee!
 - iv. Another thank you to the Hayes family for their time and efforts to put together such a successful event to remember Ted Hayes. The family was presented with a card from the WHT.
 - v. President Rudge mentioned to try and keep any social media posts/conversations positive.
- e. Membership –Gordon Conn
 - i. Conn reported via email that the WHT is up to 280 members!
- f. Trail Ambassadors – Stan Rudge
 - i. June was a banner month for ambassador hours; 132.75 hours were reported for the month! Thank you to everyone who has been out riding the trail and contributing hours!
 - ii. President Rudge will be hosting another new trail ambassador training in August. Reach out to Stan Rudge if you are interested in attending. Current ambassadors are required to renew their training every two years.
 - iii. Education on e-bikes and their proper usage will be addressed with the upcoming safety initiative.
- g. Trail Maintenance – Zone Leaders
 - i. Norton reported that there have been lots of downed trees recently. A big thanks to the trail users that are on top of reporting any downed trees to maintenance.
 - ii. **Zone 1:** O’Hara reported there has just been lots of downed trees along the section.
Zone 2: No issues.
Zone 3: No issues.
Zone 4: Norton reported that the herbicide spraying worked well along the trail edges.
Zone 5: More work will be done on the Roberts Parcel entrance where it is washing out again. The big bend is still holding up well.
- h. Delmont Visionary Committee – Anna Marie Stackiewicz
 - i. There will be a bike maintenance fundraiser event on July 10 from 3-5 pm at the Delmont Library. Flat Tire Co. Bike Shop will be there to educate attendees on how to properly maintain their bikes. There is a \$10 donation for entry to the event.
 - ii. There will be a Make Your Own Pizza Fundraiser for kids on July 25 at Lilja’s Premiere Pizza in Delmont.
 - iii. The DVC is still waiting on their 501 (c) 3 and tax exemption status.

- i. Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation – Chris Panichella
 - i. Two upcoming festivals are being planned:
 - a. August Fun Fest at Cedar Creek Park on Sunday, August 8 from 10 AM to 6 PM.
 - b. Labor United Celebration at Northmoreland Park on Sept 5 (11 AM to 7 PM) and Sept 6 (10 AM to 6 PM).
 - ii. The new address for the trail will be the West. Co. Parks and Rec. office (194 Donohoe Road Greensburg, PA 15601).
 - j. Municipal Representatives
 - i. Lacina (Trafford): A mural on the wall of the Rutledge Auto building in Trafford is in talks.
 - ii. Nagoda (Export): The train station will have its grand opening to the public at the Ethnic Food and Music Festival on August 21. Someone is needed to set up and man the WHT booth at the festival. WHT are not needed for parking this year.
 - k. Historical and Turtle Creek Railroad – Ann Wade
 - i. Wade reported that she found a whole bunch of historical documents for the WHT in a box from Maher. She is in the process of sorting through and scanning them.
 - ii. Cercone mentioned that if anyone notices any mistakes on the historical plaques to let her know.
9. Old Business
- a. Update on Laurel Highlands Conservation Landscape Minigrant – Trail Safety
 - i. An A-frame was on display at the meeting to demonstrate how the new safety initiative signs will be displayed. They will be interchangeable on each side of the display. If anyone has ideas on sign designs, please let the sign committee know.
 - b. Trail Use Rules (Event Limits/Guidelines)
 - i. A max. of 200 participants for trail use events was decided upon. Each individual group will be responsible for organizing parking and road crossing details.
 - c. Calendar of Events
 - i. A new calendar of trail events has been added to the WHT website. This will enable the public to see when there will be trail events and what sections/times they may want to avoid. If there any events relevant to the trail to add to the calendar, let Secretary Davis know (alyssa@wcdpa.com) and she will add them.
 - d. Volunteer Recognition Night
 - i. Our annual Volunteer Recognition Night will be held during the Sept. 9 meeting. A committee to plan the evening has been put together, and details are TBA.
 - e. Library Boxes
 - i. One of the boxes was on display at the meeting. These were originally built to hold water bottles along the Five Star Trail by the Boy Scouts, but they were being used for other things as well, so they were taken down. Sias offered to repurpose them as “little libraries” for along the WHT! Three locations have been chosen so far: Saunders Station, Carson Braun, and Export.
 - a. Library aids for each have been chosen to check on the boxes every so often: Wendy Davis for Saunders Station, Ann Wade for Export, and Alyssa Davis for Carson Braun.
 - f. Five Star Trail Poker Run
 - i. This year’s event on July 17 is virtual. Make sure when you register to check that you want your money to go to the WHT!
 - g. There are two open house public meetings for the GAP to WHT connection coming up: July 20 at 5 PM in Pitcairn and July 24 at 11 AM in Braddock. A support letter from the WHT for the connection will sent to the planning committee of the connection.
10. New Business
- a. Trail Counters Report
 - i. President Rudge reported the average trail users per day for each counter: Saunders Station – 577/day, near Ginny’s Restaurant – 459/day, and near Athena Dr. – 266/day.
 - ii. The other counters that were out across the trail just counted bikes, and that report will be soon.

- b. Bulletin Board near Beaver Run Reservoir
 - i. The bulletin board on Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County (MAWC) property near the Beaver Run Reservoir will house permanent education signage for the reservoir, the trail, and other topics. Volunteers are needed to construct the structure, and there will be an official “unveiling” in fall 2021. The location is near mile marker 6.75 between Athena Dr. and Story Rd.
 - c. Rental of Fry Garage
 - i. Our current maintenance facilities are very full with seasonal equipment.
 - ii. A motion to re-rent the Fry Garage for temporary storage of seasonal equipment for \$600/yr was made by Norton, 2nd by Maher, motion carried, rental approved.
 - d. PA Greenways & Trails Summit – Sun. Sept. 19 through Tues. Sept. 21 in Erie, Pa
 - i. A motion for the first five members who want to attend the summit, the trail will pay half of their registration costs was made by Panichella, 2nd by Meehan, motion carried, payment option approved.
 - e. Ted Hayes Memorial Storage Container in Slickville
 - i. The trail will still install a memorial bench in honor of Ted Hayes.
 - ii. A motion to install a memorial plaque for Ted Hayes near the Slickville storage container was made by O’Hara, 2nd by Maher, motion carried, memorial plaque approved.
 - f. List of Volunteer Names
 - i. President Rudge requested that all committee chairmen provide him a list of their volunteers’ names for recognition on the WHT’s Annual Volunteer Recognition Night in September.
 - g. New Brochure Boxes
 - i. Chad Emahizer and President Rudge built 27 new wooden brochure boxes that they will be installing next week along the trail. These were on display at the meeting.
 - h. Hand Tools and Generator Donation
 - i. A friend of Sias donated a large amount of hand tools and a generator to the trail. A thank you will be sent via email.
 - ii. A motion to make this individual a lifetime member was made by Wade, 2nd by Maher, motion carried, membership gift approved.
- On a motion by O’Hara, 2nd by Maher, the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Alyssa Davis, Secretary