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Meeting Minutes June 10, 2021
Pedora Park, White Valley

Meeting Attendees:

- a. Board: (14) Gordon Conn, Alyssa Davis, Tom Dittman, Eileen Elicker, Rick Fisher, Brandon Lacina, Jack Maher, Pat Norton, Bill O'Hara, Chris Panichella, Vicki Rudge, Stan Rudge, Malcolm Sias, and AnnaMarie Stackiewicz
 - b. Absent Board: (7) Rob Cronauer, Wendy Davis, Kerry Jobe, Monica Meehan, Mary Grace Muster, John Nagoda, and Ann Wade
 - c. Guests: Don Baker, Dee O'Hara, John Ruccio, Christopher Begoman, Cindy Wittman, Dan Sigg, Joe Hlista, Alice Grasso, Diana Hand, Marilyn Howard, Bob & Sandy Reed, Heather Peterson, Heather Shearer, Ginny Hayes, 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. This past month has been a banner month with a wonderful turnout for the memorial event for Ted Hayes! The weather was perfect, everyone was very generous, and the Hayes family did a fantastic job organizing the event! A HUGE WHT thank you goes out to everyone that helped make the event happen and made it such a success!
 3. Public Input/Introductions – No report.
 4. Approval of Minutes –
 - a. A motion was made to approve the May minutes by Sias, 2nd by Norton, motion carried, minutes approved.
 5. Treasurer's Report –Jack Maher
 - a. For the month of May, WHT had \$65,000 in the Capital Reserve for the storage building, \$28,000 in the general Money Market account, and \$21,000 in the checking account. Total assets are at \$136,000. Current assets are at \$114,000, almost double from last year's assets at this time (\$64,000). It's been a solid month with great membership and fundraising efforts!
 - b. A motion was made to approve the May treasurer's report by Panichella, 2nd by O'Hara, motion carried, report approved.
 6. RTC Report – Rob Cronauer
 - a. No report.
 7. TAT Report – Stan Rudge
 - a. TAT is still waiting for the Laurel Highlands Conservation Landscape Minigrant award announcements for the cost of printing the new brochures.
 8. Committee Reports -
 - a. Real Estate and Acquisitions – Malcolm Sias
 - i. Work is still underway on acquiring a piece of land east of Route 66.
 - b. Engineering and Construction – Jeff Richards
 - i. The Middle Gap Feasibility Study is soon to be passed on to Durabond for comments.
 - ii. Work continues with talking to additional property owners.
 - iii. The Export replica train station is under construction.
 - A. The plan for adding additional trail parking near the trail station is on hold while news on if leftover money from Ph. IV's DCNR grant can be put towards the project.

- iv. Allegheny County Department of Public Works is hosting a public meeting on Microsoft Teams on June 23rd from 6-7:30 pm to discuss the Turtle Creek Connector Trail Feasibility Study. This study is to hopefully one day connect the WHT and GAP trails.
- c. Fundraising –Rob Cronauer
 - i. Report by Stan Rudge: Two new bench applications have been received, and a HUGE WHT thank you goes out to the maintenance crew for helping install 11 benches!
- d. Public Relations – Vicki Rudge
 - i. WHT now has 2,586 Facebook followers and 115 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. There will be a planning meeting for the event on June 30 if anyone is interested in helping out.
 - iii. A HUGE WHT THANK YOU to Heather Shearer and the Hayes family for organizing such a hugely successful fundraiser in memory of Ted Hayes!
 - iv. New “business” cards for maintenance crew volunteers have been made that volunteers can pick up from Vicki Rudge and fill out with their name to hand to trail users.
- e. Membership –Gordon Conn
 - i. Conn reported via email that the WHT is up to 291 members, with a number of new lifetime members. At the end of 2020, the trail ended with 325 members, so we are on track to surpassing that milestone.
 - ii. The trail had 150+ lapsed members, and Conn proposed to compile a small team to try and contact all of these past members to encourage them to rejoin. If you are interested, please reach out to Conn at gaconn68@gmail.com.
- f. Trail Ambassadors – Stan Rudge
 - i. 47 hours were reported for May (approx. 460 miles covered!). All those who have submitted hours, thank you for volunteering!
 - ii. Rudge is looking to host another new trail ambassador training if a few more individuals are interested. Please reach out to Stan Rudge if you would like to become a trail ambassador, star15644@verizon.net.
- g. Trail Maintenance – Zone Leaders
 - i. Trimming has been ongoing, and a few downed trees have been taken care of.
 - ii. The Hoss’s trail access improvements have been completed.
 - iii. Murrysville will be paving the entrance to the Carson Braun parking lot near the beginning of July.
 - iv. **Zone 1:** O’Hara reported that a downed tree smashed one of the access gates, and a new volunteer helped clear the tree. The section looked great for the Ted Hayes Memorial Fundraiser event!
Zone 2: No issues.
Zone 3: No issues.
Zone 4: No issues.
Zone 5: Ruccio reported that Penn Township took care of the dead tree hanging over the trail. A thanks to Penn Township for helping the WHT!
- h. Delmont Visionary Committee – Anna Marie Stackiewicz
 - i. Report by Cindy Wittman: There have been discussions to build a Delmont Presbyterian Trail Spur behind the church. 12 bike racks have been ordered to install around town.
 - ii. 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.
 - iii. DVC will have a table at the Delmont farmers’ market this summer.
- i. Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation – Chris Panichella
 - i. West. Co. Parks is busy planning a few festivals that weren’t able to happen last year.
- j. Municipal Representatives
 - i. Conn (Monroeville): Some questions have arose if the US Army Corp of Engineers approval of the bridge connecting Valley Park to the WHT would delay the project. The project is also on the

floodplain, so the Valley Park Improvements project will take some time to figure out the logistics of implementing all the proposed elements.

- k. Historical and Turtle Creek Railroad – Ann Wade
 - i. Wade reported that she found all of the old WHT minutes and board member listings going back to the beginning of the WHT chapter.
 - ii. Cercone reported that the second round of historical plaques have been printed. The next step is to walk to trail and mark the post locations for installation. The posts will be picked up soon, cleaned, and painted to prepare for installation day!
- 9. Old Business
 - a. Memorial Bike Ride/Run/Walk for Ted Hayes
 - i. Heather Shearer passed on a huge thank you to everyone who helped make the day a success!
 - ii. The kick-a-thon at TC Taekwondo raised \$3,318, donations raised \$287, basket raffle sales raised \$1,290, and event registrations raised \$6,275 for a grand total of \$11,170. After expenses were taken out, WHT is receiving **\$9,250** to go towards the storage building fund!!! A HUGE WHT thank you goes out again to Shearer and the Hayes family for all of their hard work to put together such an outstanding event to honor Ted Hayes’ memory!
 - b. West Penn Trail Triathlon – WHT Team
 - i. A kayaker is needed for the WHT team for the event on Oct. 9. If interested, contact Jeff Richards, jrichard@co.westmoreland.pa.us.
 - c. Update on Laurel Highlands Conservation Landscape Minigrant – Trail Safety
 - i. WHT was awarded the full amount of the grant (\$1,785) to purchase multiple A-frames and design and print various trail safety signage to install on the frames. These signs will be interchangeable. Two educational demos of crashed bikes will be mounted near major road crossings to encourage bikers to use caution when crossing roads. WHT will need to provide 50% match, which will be provided with both cash and volunteer hours to implement and install the project.
- 10. New Business
 - a. Trail Safety Committee
 - i. Cronauer, A. Davis, and Christie (from the PR committee) will work on designing the signs for the grant. An additional committee to install the frames will be formed when the time comes.
 - b. Request for Library Box near the gas well sign in Murrysville
 - i. A motion was made to install a library box near the Carson Braun parking lot by Elicker, 2nd by O’Hara, motion carried, installation of library approved.
 - c. Volunteer Recognition Night
 - i. President Rudge requested a planning committee be formed to organize this year’s Volunteer Recognition Night at the September monthly board meeting. Karen Cercone volunteered to help out. If anyone else would like to join, please reach out to Stan Rudge at star15644@verizon.net.
 - d. Storage Building Planning Committee
 - i. A committee was formed to start planning the future of the storage building. The committee includes Sias, Fisher, O’Hara, and Maher.
 - e. Memorial Bench for Ted Hayes
 - i. A motion to have the WHT donate a memorial bench on Zone 1 in memory of Ted Hayes was made by Norton, 2nd by Maher, motion carried, bench donation approved.
 - f. Slickville Community Days 5k Event (WHT Trail Use)
 - i. A representative of the Slickville Community Days asked permission to use the trail for its 5k event on August 14th. He will submit an event application form to Leslie Pierce with RTC. President Rudge said we have approved the use of the trail for this event in the past, so it shouldn’t be an issue.
 - g. Power-Assisted Bikes

- i. Conn brought up a question on the rules for E-bikes on the trail and the safety concerns associated with them. Sias mentioned that we already have guidelines in place, and that this concern will be incorporated into the signage for the upcoming trail safety initiative.
- 11. The next meeting will be on July 8, 2021 at outside at the Pedora Pavilion on Wilson Rd, White Valley.
On a motion by O'Hara, 2nd by Sias, the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Alyssa Davis, Secretary