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Meeting Minutes November 11, 2021  
Lamplighter Restaurant, Delmont

Meeting Attendees:

- a. Board: (13) Alyssa Davis, Wendy Davis, Eileen Elicker, Kerry Jobe, Brandon Lacina, Jack Maher, Pat Norton, Chris Panichella, Vicki Rudge, Stan Rudge, Malcolm Sias, AnnaMarie Stackiewicz, and Ann Wade
  - b. Absent Board: (8) Gordon Conn, Rob Cronauer, Tom Dittman, Rick Fisher, Monica Meehan, Mary Grace Muster, John Nagoda, Bill O'Hara
  - c. Guests: Joseph Hlista, Jerry Babcock, Jeff Richards, Harold L., Dave Kunkle, Bob Stackiewicz, Danielle Willard, Breeann Edgerly, Chad Emahizer
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. President Rudge mentioned the maintenance volunteer meeting on Oct. 15 and thanked all of the attendees for a productive brainstorm session on needs and future plans for the trail.
  3. Public Input/Introductions –
    - a. Breeann and Danielle from the Leadership Westmoreland class introduced themselves.
  4. Approval of Minutes –
    - a. A motion was made to approve the October minutes by Sias, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Norton, motion carried, minutes approved.
  5. Treasurer's Report –Chris Panichella
    - a. For the month of September, 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 \$49,000, total expenditures were \$21,000, and the net revenue was \$28,000. Revenue was up and expenses were down, which is fantastic! Grants, donations, and memberships are all still bringing in substantial money!
    - c. A motion was made to approve the October treasurer's report by Wade, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Norton, motion carried, report approved.
  6. RTC Report – Rob Cronauer
    - a. No report.
  7. TAT Report – Stan Rudge
    - a. Progress continues on the new trail brochure.
  8. Committee Reports -
    - a. Real Estate and Acquisitions – Jeff Richards
      - i. Appraisals for the parcels of land near Rte 66 came in at \$52,500. Other individuals have placed much higher offers to the landowner, so chunks of the parcels will just be designated for the future Rte. 66 tunnel.
    - b. Engineering and Construction – Jeff Richards
      - i. The plans for the parking area and trail extension from Export by Mackin Engineering are out for comment and review. Plans are hopefully for a spring construction.
      - ii. The Lauffer Mine Rd culvert replacement has not taken place yet. It will most likely occur in the spring of 2022.
      - iii. The large potholes at the Meier Hardware trailhead parking lot are to be filled with gravel soon.
    - c. 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!
    - ii. Penn Twp. donated \$500 to the WHT!
  - d. Public Relations – Vicki Rudge
    - i. WHT now has 2,746 Facebook followers and 134 Twitter followers.
    - ii. Facebook statistics indicate that viewers of the page are 68% women and 32% men/ 35-44 age for women and 45-54 age for men.
    - iii. The fall/winter newsletter has been sent out.
    - iv. If anyone is looking for Christmas gifts, don't forget to purchase some WHT merch!
    - v. The PR committee is meeting on 11/16/21 to discuss plans for 2022 and the Trail Towns event.
    - vi. The Amazing Race fundraiser with the Level Green Women's Club netted the WHT a total of \$1,639.88!! This was after splitting the total with the Women's Club and splitting the GBU grant of \$1,000. The 2020 event raised netted the WHT \$532.25, so an awesome job and HUGE WHT thanks to all involved!
  - e. Membership –Gordon Conn
    - i. WHT is up to 332 members for 2021.
  - f. Trail Ambassadors – Stan Rudge
    - i. 151 hours were reported for the month of October! Thank you to everyone who has been out riding the trail and contributing hours!
    - ii. WHT has a total of 27 active Trail Ambassadors now.
  - g. Trail Maintenance – Zone Leaders
    - i. President Rudge thanked Salem Twp, Monroeville, Penn Twp, Loyalhanna Twp, and Murrysville for their help with maintenance on the trail!
    - ii. Jeff Richards commented that the five star work that all of the maintenance volunteers do to keep the trail in peak shape is noticed by landowners and make conversations about land acquisition for the trail a lot easier! People notice the hard work put into keeping the trail in good condition. Maintenance is so much more than just maintenance!
    - iii. Solar lights have been installed at the Ted Hayes Memorial Shed (previously the Slickville Storage Shed) along with the plaque dedicating the shed to Ted Hayes.
    - iv. **Zone 1:** No issues.  
**Zone 2:** No issues.  
**Zone 3:** No issues.  
**Zone 4:** No issues.  
**Zone 5:** No issues.
  - h. Delmont Visionary Committee – Anna Marie Stackiewicz
    - i. Contact information for Windstream and a private landowner are needed. If anyone has any information or would like to assist, reach out to Anna Marie.
    - ii. Delmont received a grant to create a recreation plan, and EPD Consultants have been selected to write the plan.
  - i. Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation – Chris Panichella
    - i. The next Westmoreland Arts & Heritage Festival will take place from June 30-July 3, 2022.
  - j. Municipal Representatives
    - i. No report.
  - k. Historical and Turtle Creek Railroad – Ann Wade
    - i. No official report.
    - ii. Wade reported on the Witches Ride that occurred along the trail from Export to the Cozy Inn cutoff. There was approx. 35 attendees, and the WHT got approx. \$100 from the event.
- 9. Old Business
  - a. Update on Laurel Highlands Conservation Landscape Minigrant – Trail Safety
    - i. All of the printed signs were on display at the meeting around the room.
    - ii. 4 or 5 sandwich boards are now installed along the trail at various spots with signage.
    - iii. Jeff Richards mentioned that the WHT was encouraged to apply for the next round of the Laurel Highlands Conservation Landscape Minigrant.
  - b. DCNR 2022 Trail of the Year Committee
    - i. We have a total of 30 support letters from a wide range of sources to be submitted with the application tomorrow. This includes a support letter from every municipality along the trail. A

HUGE WHT Thank You to all of the municipal reps and the TOTY committee for all of their hard work in putting together this year's application! Cross your fingers for the nomination at the beginning of 2022!

- c. Financial Committee Update
  - i. The committee, made up of the officers, Chris Panichella, and Malcolm Sias, have looked into a few options for investing and are recommending that the WHT follows in RTC's footsteps and use Wealth Enhancement Group (WEG). They are a fiduciary.
  - ii. Currently WHT is only getting .02% interest in our accounts.
  - iii. Maher recommended that WHT invest a minimum initial amount of \$60,000.
  - iv. A motion to use Wealth Enhancement Group for investing and invest and initial amount of \$60,000 was made by Wade, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Elicker, motion carried, investment group and initial amount approved.
- 10. New Business
  - i. Westmoreland Trailblazers Membership Coupon Book Proposal
    - 1. Breeann and Danielle introduced themselves as representatives from the Westmoreland Trailblazers, a team of five in this year's Leadership Westmoreland class.
    - 2. As their required group project for the class, they have chosen to support the WHT with their proposal of a coupon book or membership card w/discounts, deals, and other offers from local businesses that can be given to WHT members. This project would focus on creating new relationships with businesses along or in the trail corridor that WHT does not have existing relationships with. This would be an item that WHT could provide to existing members as an incentive to renew their membership and new members to sign up.
    - 3. A motion to accept this partnership offer with the Westmoreland Trailblazers was made by Norton, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vicki Rudge, motion carried, partnership approved.
  - b. 2021 Board of Directors Nominees for Election/Re-election
    - i. Three municipal representatives are up for re-appointment (Chris Panichella – Westmoreland Co. Parks, John Nagoda – Export Borough, and Rob Cronauer – West. Conservations District), and letters notifying the municipality/organizations have been sent.
    - ii. Three at large board members' terms expire after Dec. 2021 (Eileen Elicker, Bill O'Hara, and Vicki Rudge). Nominations will be opened at the December meeting.
  - c. Trail Events
    - i. Norwin Air Force ROTC have requested to hold an event on 4/23/22 from 8a-4p from Trafford to Export.
      - 1. A motion to approve the ROTC trail event was made by Sias, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wade. Motion carried, event approved.
  - d. December Meeting Holiday Celebration
    - i. Wade volunteered to chair the committee to organize the small holiday celebration at next month's meeting.
    - ii. A motion to approve a \$500 budget for food was made by Norton, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Panichella, motion carried, budget approved.
  - e. Little Libraries
    - i. The Slickville Little Library along the trail has been installed. Pictures and more information can be found on the WHT Facebook page.
  - f. Slickville Fire Department Trailhead Parking
    - i. Jobe brought up that Slickville Fire Department has asked that WHT provide additional trail parking signage to encourage trail users to not park in the areas of the lot closest to the fire station. They are sometimes in the way of the fire trucks entering and exiting the garage. It was discussed that there is existing signage already there, but WHT can provide additional signage if needed.
- 11. Next meeting – December 9, 2021 at Lamplighter Restaurant in Delmont.  
On a motion by Elicker, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jobe, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alyssa Davis, Secretary