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Meeting Minutes October 14, 2021
Lamplighter Restaurant, Delmont

Meeting Attendees:

- a. Board: (14) Rob Cronauer, Alyssa Davis, Wendy Davis, Tom Dittman, Rick Fisher, Brandon Lacina, Jack Maher, Mary Grace Muster, Pat Norton, Bill O'Hara, Vicki Rudge, Stan Rudge, Malcolm Sias, and AnnaMarie Stackiewicz
 - b. Absent Board: (7) Gordon Conn, Eileen Elicker, Kerry Jobe, Monica Meehan, John Nagoda, Chris Panichella, and Ann Wade
 - c. Guests: Ginny Hayes, Joseph Hlista, Jerry Babcock, Dee O'Hara, Jeff Richards, Mark Begeman, David Boles, John Munsch, Ed & MaryEllen Pisula
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. President Rudge was humbled and honored to accept the Lewis Award at the West. Co. Parks and Rec. Citizen's Advisory Board Annual Green Luncheon last month. An engraved clock plaque was presented to the WHT Chapter.
 - b. Last month's Volunteer Appreciation Night dinner at Penn Murry was a success with a group picture taken of all the volunteers in attendance wearing our new volunteer t-shirts.
 3. Public Input/Introductions – No report.
 4. Approval of Minutes –
 - a. A motion was made to approve the September minutes by Maher, 2nd by Sias, motion carried, minutes approved.
 5. Treasurer's Report –Jack Maher
 - 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 \$14,000 in the checking account. Total assets and total equity are at \$150,000.
 - b. Total revenue was \$46,000, total expenditures were \$19,000, and the net revenue was \$27,000. Revenue was up and expenses were down, which is fantastic! Fundraising, grants, donations, and memberships are all still bringing in substantial money!
 - c. A motion was made to approve the September treasurer's report by O'Hara, 2nd 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 – Malcolm Sias
 - i. The parcel(s) of land near Rte 66 are still in negotiations, as this is a lengthy process.
 - b. Engineering and Construction – Jeff Richards
 - i. Plans are about 50% complete for the parking area and trail extension from Export.
 - ii. White Valley Social Club is working on acquiring a Highway Occupancy Permit.
 - iii. The Lauffer Mine Rd culvert replacement will be taking place within the next few weeks.
 - iv. The new Beaver Run Reservoir bulletin board along the trail had its unveiling and dedication ceremony for Joe Mance. It is located around mile marker 6 ¾ across from the reservoir. A

huge WHT THANK YOU to Maher and President Rudge for constructing the bulletin and installing the roof. An in depth article on the event was in the Tribune Review.

- c. Fundraising –Rob Cronauer
 - i. Cronauer reminded everyone to support the Lamplighter by purchasing some food or drinks during our meetings as a thank you for them letting us use their space.
 - ii. Comedy Night 2022 will be held at Colton Hall in Claridge on Feb. 19, 2022. The comedians have been booked. SAVE THE DATE!
 - iii. Vicki Rudge reported on the successful 2nd Amazing Race fundraiser with the Level Green Women’s Club. A big WHT THANK YOU also goes out to Wendy Davis for representing WHT in the planning between the groups.
 - a. There were less participants this year, but we made more money due to having sponsors for signs along the event path. These signs will be given to all the sponsors to hang in their place of business. In total, the event made \$607 more than last year. A total of \$2,279.77 was split between WHT and the Women’s Club, so the WHT received \$1,139.88.
 - b. This was a great event and a big thanks to all the volunteers that helped out that day!
 - c. A GBU Investments grant has been applied for. They will review the receipts and invoices and give additional money to the groups.
- d. Public Relations – Vicki Rudge
 - i. WHT now has 2,732 Facebook followers and 134 Twitter followers.
 - ii. The Sept. 14 Day of Caring event went well with WHT & MSA volunteers meeting at the Murrysville Community Center to apply new address labels on 9,000 trail brochures.
 - iii. The fall newsletter is late, but should be out within the next month.
 - iv. Murrysville is holding their Trunk or Treat event along the trail again this year on Oct. 30.
 - v. Alyssa Davis provided a website update by passing out a few graphs on visitors and views of the website since it was launched in 2018. To date, we have had over 30,000 visitors and 92,000 views with a consistent bell curve trend of website activity going up in the spring and summer and falling in the fall and winter.
- e. Membership –Gordon Conn
 - i. WHT is up to 330 members for 2021.
 - ii. If anyone else would like to help with the previous member “phone-a-thon”, please let Conn know. Vicki Rudge, Elicker, and Conn will be calling previous members who have not renewed via phone.
 - iii. The WHT is 2nd overall for 2021 membership between all the trails in the RTC.
- f. Trail Ambassadors – Stan Rudge
 - i. September was another banner month for ambassador hours; 173 hours were reported for the month! Thank you to everyone who has been out riding the trail and contributing hours!
 - ii. WHT has a total of 29 Trail Ambassadors now.
 - iii. Tim L. has been helping keep all of the new brochure holders along the trail stocked. A big WHT THANK YOU to Tim!
 - iv. The safety signage to be displayed along the WHT will help to address the e-bike safety issues.
 - v. A trail user bike accident occurred near MSA recently, and a trail ambassador was there to support them.
- g. Trail Maintenance – Zone Leaders
 - i. Lots of trees have been coming down, but everything is going good.
 - ii. Cronauer reported that some drainage work near Saunders Station would be taking place in the next week or two by Eidemiller (contractor). Parks gave the WHT some money to replace an existing pipe with a large 30” pipe and clean out some pipe inlets & ditches.
 - iii. **Zone 1:** No issues.
Zone 2: No issues. The new blower works great!
Zone 3: No issues.
Zone 4: No issues. The Sportzone connecting path has been installed, and volunteers should keep an eye out for any advertisements along the trail that should be moved.
Zone 5: No issues.

- h. Delmont Visionary Committee – Anna Marie Stackiewicz
 - i. The group tabled at the Delmont Apple and Arts Festival representing DVC and WHT.
 - a. They received \$61 in donations, handed out a lot of brochures, and had three people sign up that were interested in becoming members.
 - ii. They donated a basket to the Amazing Race fundraiser.
 - iii. They have their 501 (c) 3 and tax exempt statuses now.
 - iv. 11 out of 12 bike racks have been installed throughout Delmont.
 - v. On Oct. 17, they are planning a bike ride from Rangos to Saltsburg.
 - i. Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation – Chris Panichella
 - i. No report.
 - j. Municipal Representatives
 - i. Brandon Lacina (Trafford): This upcoming Saturday from 9a-3p will be the Coffee and Cars event in Trafford. This event is to encourage people to visit the new businesses in the area and the various non-profit tables that will be set up throughout the event. The rain date will be next Saturday.
 - ii. Pres. Rudge thanked all communities that consistently help out the WHT with maintenance and other needs.
 - k. Historical and Turtle Creek Railroad – Ann Wade
 - i. No report.
- 9. Old Business
 - a. Update on Laurel Highlands Conservation Landscape Minigrant – Trail Safety
 - i. Progress is good. We are waiting on review of the submitted signs.
 - b. DCNR 2022 Trail of the Year Committee
 - i. The application is due Nov. 12, 2021. We need to include more support letters from individual trail users and local businesses. We will also need each municipal rep. to get a support letter from their municipality. Alyssa Davis is heading the committee and will be scheduling a committee meeting within the next week to set up a game plan.
 - c. Day of Caring Report
 - i. See above (d.ii.)
 - d. Trail Summit in Erie
 - i. Sias reported that this was a great event and the WHT presentation went well. He mentioned that other trails have been using traffic speed limit indicators to monitor speed along their trails.
- 10. New Business
 - a. Website Domain and Wordpress Renewal
 - i. Alyssa Davis will submit receipt to Maher for reimbursement. Now that WHT has a credit card, she will change over Wordpress and the Zoom account to the trail credit card.
 - b. Financial Committee
 - i. Research into options to invest the money within our Money Market account has been ongoing. A committee has been created to decide the best avenue to invest this money.
 - c. Trail Maintenance Summit
 - i. A luncheon for all maintenance volunteers will be held at 11:30a on 10/15 at the Slickville Pavilion. Discussions on needs for 2022, ideas, concerns, and feedback will be the focus of the meeting.
 - d. Trail Events
 - i. DNA of Delmont has requested to hold a charity Turkey Trot 5k from Delmont to Athena on Nov. 13 starting at 10:30a.
 - 1. A motion to approve the DNA trail event was made by Sias, 2nd by Maher. Motion carried, event approved.
- 11. Next meeting – November 1, 2021 at Lamplighter Restaurant in Delmont (meeting in lounge area)

On a motion by Maher, 2nd by Norton, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Alyssa Davis, Secretary