



The mission of the Westmoreland Heritage Trail is to manage and maintain the trail from Saltsburg to Trafford, in partnership with like-minded groups, Westmoreland County Parks, and the associated municipalities the trail passes through. The trail will be promoted for walking and biking activities and to provide for recreation, education, volunteerism, tourism, and historic and environmental conservation. (www.westmorelandheritagetrail.com)

Minutes of the WHT Board Meeting

August 13, 2026, 7:00-8:00 PM

Pedora Park, White Valley, PA

Meeting Attendees:

- Present Board (14): Michael Bertonaschi, Karen Rose Cercone, Rob Cronauer, Wendy Davis, Jerry Detar, Chad Emahizer, Rick Fisher, Darren Miller, Pat Norton, Stan Rudge, Vicki Rudge, Brooke Russick, Annamarie Stackiewicz, Ann Wade
- Absent Board (7): Mike Banda, Elizabeth Ferri, Steve Ising, Tom Marcin, Monica Meehan, Chris Panichella, Malcolm Sias
- Guests and Members (13): Gail Carns, Barb Coulter, Jim Coulter, Mike Grimaldi, Jim Kluber, Tom Maleike, Levi Marcus, Jeff Richards, Lisa Sabol, Steve Savko, Bob Stackiewicz, Heather Staub, Reid Staub.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. President's Comments

Stan Rudge reminded board members of the upcoming Trails and Greenways conference, in case there was any interest in attending. He also thanked the Westmoreland Land Trust for protecting 23 acres in the Turtle Creek Gorge.

3. Public Input / Introductions - none

4. Approval of Minutes

Jerry Detar made a motion, seconded by Ann Wade to approve the July 9, 2026 minutes. The motion passed.

5. Approval of Treasurer's Reports

At the end of July, the WHT checking balance was \$4,541, our Money Market balance was \$113,488 and our CD balance is around \$66,228. We also have a new \$100,000.00 CD that just started. WHT's current accounts now total \$284,257 with fixed assets of \$50,353 after depreciation. Restricted funds include \$19,950 in our CNX grant and \$5,567 in our PEC stipend. Board allocated funds include \$83,480 for our headquarters building, \$1,100 for JoyRiders and \$30,000 for the trail emergency fund. A motion was made Annamarie Stackiewicz moved, seconded by Pat Norton, to approve the July treasurer's reports. The motion passed.

6. Items for Action and/or Information

- Export 100 Race (Oct 3-4) – Darren Miller noted that a half-marathon will be added this year along with possibly a trail running festival. Karen Rose made a motion, seconded by Jerry Detar, to grant tentative approval pending receipt of insurance.
- The date for Export Witches Ride this year will be October 11.

7. Old Business

- a. Update on portajohn expenses – Chad Emahizer reported that the expenses came in \$240 higher than we anticipated. Ann Wade moved, seconded by Michael Bertonaschi, to approve the additional expense. The motion carried.
- b. Moving additional money into HQ Board Allocated fund – Chad Emahizer reported that an additional \$65,000 should have been added to the headquarters fund from our various fund-raising endeavor. Karen Rose Cercone moved, seconded by Ann Wade, that this full amount should be moved into the board-restricted headquarters fund.
- c. Update on WHT Joyriders Program – Jerry Detar reported that on July 10, WHT Joyrider volunteers met with the Primms at the Five Star Trail to learn how to operate the bike. The program is now waiting for insurance and additional training to begin offering rides to community members.

8. New Business

- a. Cub Scout Reid Staub of Cub Scout Pack 213 introduced his project to earn his James Stewart Good Citizen Award. He plans to hold a lemonade and bake sale fundraiser near the train car in Export to raise money for trail on September 12 (rain date September 19), and then to complete a 10-mile solo bike ride with pledged donations. Brooke Russick made a motion, seconded by Wendy Davis to approve the fundraiser. The motion passed.

9. Standing Committee Reports

- a. Real Estate/Acquisitions & Engineering/Construction - Jeff Richards noted that GAI Consultants continues to work on the development of the Middle Gap, focusing on mapping and due diligence to achieve a categorical exclusion under NEPA (the National Environmental Protection Act). Geological explorations will be happening soon near State Route 66. Meetings have also been held with the owner of the All-American Baseball Fields in Trafford and a preliminary cooperative agreement is being discussed that would involve the Regional Trail Corporation and All-American Baseball. Jeff also announced that he would be retiring at the end of August and was presented with a plaque of appreciation by WHT President Stan Rudge.
- b. Public Relations – WHT Facebook followers increased again to 4721, Instagram followers rose to 267, and X followers remained at 162. The trail sold \$195 of clothing at the ribbon-cutting event. Lost and found boxes will be installed at our trail kiosks to assist in gathering up lost items.

Vicki Rudge asked if WHT should be doing more outreach to police departments to encourage them to monitor inappropriate e-bike use on the trail. Darren Miller promised to

follow up with the Murrysville Chief of Police. Stan Rudge suggested also getting in touch with Samantha Malik, the officer in charge of the trail program. Michael Bertonaschi noted that since the police began monitoring the trail, e-bike activity has slowed down.

- c. Website – Chad Emahizer reported that our website got 2364 views in July, fewer than in June, with the number of website visitors dropping as well. He noted that this trend is normal following the Poker Run event and will continue into the fall.
- d. Membership – Wendy Davis reported that the trail chapter now has 616 active members, which is another new record.
- e. Maintenance – Rick Fisher reported that new gates have been installed in Zones 1 and 2. Michael Bertonaschi reported that Zone 4 has some low spots with water collected from the rain. These have been marked with orange paint and will be filled with dust soon. The air pumps at Roberts Parcel and Saunders Station are not working and will need to be repaired. Michael also recommended that any expired yard signs be collected because the trail can use the metal stanchions for other signs.
- g. TRAILS Maintenance Project – Stan Rudge announced that on September 9, trail chapter members will hold a planned trail ride with members of PEC.
- h. Fundraising – no report.
- i. Trail Ambassadors – Karen Rose reported for Steve Ising that 19 Trail Ambassadors recorded a total of 285 hours in July. The total hours for 2026 has now exceeded the total for 2025. Michael Bertonaschi noted that ambassadors are getting thanked by our trail users.
- j. Regional Trail Corporation / Trans-Allegheny Trails – no report.
- k. Municipal Representatives – Michael Bertonaschi read a statement from Jeff Contillo, the President of the Trafford Economic and Community Development Corporation, thanking Jeff Richards for all of the work he has done for the trail over the years. Michael and Annemarie Stackiewicz also added their personal thanks to Jeff for his collegial work with them.

10. Next meeting – September 10, 2026, 7:00 PM in person at the Pedora Park in White Valley.

11. Adjournment

Jerry Detar made a motion, seconded by Pat Norton, to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 PM. The motion passed and retirement cupcakes were enjoyed by all.

Westmoreland Heritage Trail 2026 Event Calendar

Month	Date	Time	Event	Location
JAN	8	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Zoom
FEB	12	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Zoom
MAR	6 & 7	6 - 9 PM	Comedy Night at LIVE Casino	Greensburg
	12	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Zoom
APR				
	9	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Lamplighter
	19	8 -11 AM	Burn Boot Camp 5K Race & MDA Fundraiser	Zone 4
MAY	25	8 AM – 4 PM	Norwin AF-JROTC Annual Bataan March	Zones 4 and 5
	14	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Lamplighter
JUN				
	6	9 AM – 2 PM	Poker Run Fundraiser	Trafford B-Y
	11	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Pedora Park
JUL	28	12 – 5 PM	WHT Info Table at Trafford FlavorFest Event	Trafford B-Y
	9	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Pedora Park
	12	7 AM–12 PM	GCGX Murrys ville Monster Race	Zone 4
AUG	16	10 AM	WHT Joyriders	Zone 4
	6	9 AM – 2 PM	Westmoreland Land Trust Ribbon-cutting	Zone 5
	8	8 AM - Noon	Slickville 5K race and 2-mile fun walk	Zone 2
	13	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Pedora Park
SEP				
	10	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Pedora Park
	12	TBA	Reid Staub Fundraiser (rain date Sept 19)	Export Train Car
OCT				
	3	All-day	Export 100 Trail Race (pending insurance)	All trail zones
	8	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Lamplighter
	11	TBA	Export Witches Ride (pending approval)	Zone 4
NOV	31	8AM-11AM	GCXC Racing Trick or Trot 5K	Zone 4
DEC	12	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Lamplighter
DEC	10	6 PM	WHT Volunteer Appreciation Night	WCD