



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

September 10, 2026, 7:00-8:00 PM

Pedora Park, White Valley, PA

Meeting Attendees:

- Present Board (16): Mike Banda, Michael Bertonaschi, Karen Rose Cerccone, Rob Cronauer, Wendy Davis, Chad Emahizer, Rick Fisher, Steve Ising, Darren Miller, Tom Marcin, Pat Norton, Stan Rudge, Vicki Rudge, Brooke Russick, Malcolm Sias, Annamarie Stackiewicz
- Absent Board (5): Jerry Detar, Elizabeth Ferri, Monica Meehan, Chris Panichella, Ann Wade
- Guests and Members (6): Sarah Colligan, Barb Coulter, Jim Coulter, Tim Dunn, Tim Leriottis, Bob Stackiewicz

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

- 2. President's Comments** - Stan Rudge noted that attendees at the recent Greenways and Trails Summit were very aware of the remaining connections that need to be made for our trail.

3. Public Input / Introductions - none

4. Approval of Minutes

Pat Norton made a motion, seconded by Tom Marcin, to approve the August 13, 2026 minutes. The motion passed.

5. Approval of Treasurer's Reports

At the end of August, Chad Emahizer reported that the WHT checking balance was \$5664, our Money Market balance was \$110,067, our first combined CD balance is around \$67,278 and our second CD is at \$100,000. WHT's current accounts now total \$283,057 with fixed assets of \$50,353 after depreciation. Restricted funds include \$19,950 in our CNX grant and \$1,163 in our PEC stipend and \$2500 allocated for the new lawn mower. Board allocated funds include \$148,480 for our headquarters building, \$930 for JoyRiders and \$30,000 for the trail emergency fund. Chad Emahizer also noted that Bookminders has begun tracking our PayPal account. Karen Rose Cerccone moved, seconded by Malcolm Sias, to approve the August treasurer's reports. The motion passed.

6. Items for Action and/or Information

- a. Letters issued / emails received
- A total of 49 thank you letters have been sent, including three in August.
 - A thank you letter from the Westmoreland Land Trust was received and read. A second thank you from Leanna Bird specifically lauded the WHT Maintenance volunteers for all of the help they gave to the ribbon-cutting event.

- b. Trail event requests. A motion was made by Annamarie Stackeiewicz, seconded by Michael Bertonaschi, to approve the following trail event requests. The motion carried.
 - Crop Hunger Walk (Duff to Senior Center and back on Oct 11, 1:30-3:30 PM, 35 people)
 - Witches Ride (Export to Cozy Inn and back on Oct 11, 1-4 PM, 100 people)
- c. Updates from the Trails and Greenway Summit
 - Stan Rudge reported that Friends of the Riverfront have been successful in negotiating with Norfolk Southern for the properties from BY Park to the county line. A sales agreement should be finalized by the end of the year, before the merger of Norfolk-Southern and Union Pacific occurs in 2027.
 - Gordon Shaler reported that he also heard a lot of support for the completion of the Westmoreland Heritage Trail when he attended the Trails and Greenways Conference.

7. Old Business

- a. Kiosk Roof Replacement at BY Park – the kiosk at BY Park had its roof replaced by Stan and Zone 5 volunteers so that it will no longer leak and damage the materials. All were thanked.

8. New Business

- a. Trail repair at coffee pot and MSA - Michael Bertonaschi accompanied Nick from EverReady Contracting from the Coffee Pot to MSA, cleaning out the pipes which were completely blocked. Some places are still very muddy and soft, and might need some additional dust added to the trail to absorb the water. Michael Bertonaschi made a motion, seconded by Malcolm Sias to use \$2000 from our emergency fund to cover this repair.
- b. Bridge Repair grant for Simpson Run and Hoss's (Two for the Trails) – Stan has submitted a grant request to cover the purchase of lumber and other supplies to repair these bridges in the spring. A second grant has been submitted to help cover part of the cost of a John Deere lawn tractor.
- c. WLT Request to place and service a garbage bag at the bridge abutment – Stan Rudge explained that this bag is on Westmoreland Land Trust's property and they will be expected to maintain and empty it. If maintenance volunteers note that it is full or damaged, they should notify Erik Raulinaitis of the Land Trust (phone available from Karen Rose Cerccone by request).
- d. Comedy Night 2027 night –Malcolm Sias and Chris Panichella have agreed to co-chair the Comedy Night fundraising events on March 5 and 6 with 400 tickets available on each night. Five Star Trail and County Parks will assist WHT in selling tickets and will share in the funds raised on those nights and throughout the year at subsequent charity bingos.
- e. Committee for the annual Volunteer Recognition Event in December – Ann Wade, Karen Rose Cerccone and Brooke Russick will serve on this committee.

9. Standing Committee Reports

- a. Real Estate/Acquisitions & Engineering/Construction – Gordon Shaler reported that County Parks are working on the four-mile gap, with some property acquisitions and easements that need to be finalized. Gordon plans to meet with folks and have some preliminary discussions.
- b. Public Relations – Facebook followers increased again to 4777, Instagram followers rose to 280, and X followers remained at 162. Vicki reminded everyone that the Cub Scout lemonade and bake sale will be held at the Export Caboose on Saturday September 12 and also that same Saturday will be the date for the Trafford Oktoberfest where WHT will have a table.

- c. Website – Chad Emahizer reported that all of our past meeting minutes are now on the WHT website and future ones will be posted there as well. Our website got 2360 views in August, almost the same as it was in July. There were 1168 distinct visitors, an increase from July.
- d. Membership – Wendy Davis reported that the trail now has 617 active members.
- e. Maintenance – Rick Fisher reported that the unusually rainy weather has caused lots of trees to fall. Michael Bertonaschi thanked volunteers from Zone 4 and 5, especially Tom Marcin, for all of their hard work.
- g. TRAILS Maintenance Project – Representatives from PEC were impressed with the work done using their stipend during their recent September 9 trail ride. Rick is working on a way to provide a monthly report from their software platform.
- h. Fundraising – Rob Cronauer noted that one of the 2026 charity bingo events has not happened yet and more funds will be arriving. Gordon Shaler will ask Chris Panichella for a new total.
- i. Trail Ambassadors – Steve Ising reported that 16 Trail Ambassadors recorded a total of 242 hours in August. Dan and Kathy Sigg will be working with Steve to feature the Joyrider bike in the Penn Township Fall Festival Parade on Saturday, September 19 as public outreach.
- j. Regional Trail Corporation / Trans-Allegheny Trails – no report.
- k. Municipal Representatives –
 - Darren Miller reported for Murrysville that the ramp at Roberts Parcel is on the schedule of Murrysville Public Works to repair. The Murrysville Police Chief also welcomed having a conversation about monitoring the trail, and Stan suggested he or a liaison attend the October WHT Board Meeting. Mike Banda noted that policemen from Murrysville have begun patrolling.
 - Tom Marcin reported for Monroeville that Monroeville will publicize the upcoming trail closure if we send them an official notification of the work.
 - Michael Bertonaschi reported for Trafford that a Planning Commission meeting will be held next Thursday. This will only address a lighting proposal for the existing baseball fields. On November 19 the site owner will present his plans for the entire site including the future connection between Westmoreland Heritage Trail and the Turtle Creek Connector. Friends of the Riverfront are spear-heading the negotiations with the site owner for now, but additional negotiations with the county, borough, and other entities such as PennDOT will follow.

10. Next meeting – October 8, 2026, 7:00 PM in person at the Lamplighter in Delmont.

11. Adjournment

Rob Cronauer made a motion, seconded by Pat Norton, to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 PM. The motion passed.

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
	25	8 AM – 4 PM	Norwin AF-JROTC Annual Bataan March	Zones 4 and 5
MAY	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
	28	12 – 5 PM	WHT Info Table at Trafford FlavorFest Event	Trafford B-Y
JUL				
	9	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Pedora Park
	12	7 AM–12 PM	GCGX Murrys ville Monster Race	Zone 4
	16	10 AM	WHT Joyriders	Zone 4
AUG	6	9 AM – 2 PM	Westmoreland Land Trust Ribbon-cutting Event	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
OCT	3-4	All-day	Export 100 Trail Race	All trail zones
	8	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Lamplighter
	11	1 – 4 PM	Witches Ride (Export to Cozy Inn)	Zone 4
	11	1:30–3:30 PM	Crop Hunger Walk (Duff to Senior Center)	Zone 4
	31	8 - 11AM	GCXC Racing Trick or Trot 5K	Zone 4
NOV				
	12	7 PM	WHT Board Meeting	Lamplighter
DEC				
	10	6 PM	WHT Volunteer Appreciation Night	WCD