

Redbank Valley Trails Association

Meeting Minutes – February 2, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 PM with 7 in attendance at the New Bethlehem Presbyterian Church. Board members present were Darla Kirkpatrick, Sandy Mateer, Galen Shirey, Robert Moss, Ty Poster, and Bernie Marocco. Terry Mateer was the only RVTA member in attendance.

The meeting began with president Darla Kirkpatrick's reading of the organization's goals and objectives.

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Draft meeting minutes for January 5, 2015 and December 15, 2014 were reviewed. The opening paragraphs of the December minutes needed corrections to the spelling, title, and position for meeting attendee **Erin Wiley Moyers Environmental Planner/Regional Advisor for DCNR's Bureau of Recreation and Conservation.**

A *motion* was made and approved to accept these corrections and minutes subject to audit, (Mateer/Shirey)

Treasurer's Report

RVTA Treasurer's report recorded a January 31st ending balance of **\$131,644.78.**

- **Credits** and deposits totaled \$883.11 which, in addition to an accrued interest of \$5.60, included a \$407.51 grant from Clarion County Trails Association for signage, two \$150 lifetime memberships from Nancy Wyatt and Joseph Wyatt, a \$100 donation from Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Siefer, and \$10 individual memberships from Francis Barilar, Dan Bowser, John Coleman, L. David Richards, Ty Poster, Clayton Morrow, and Jeff Wimer.
- **Debits** included **\$1462.50** to **Tech/Ready Professionals** for website development/maintenance and **\$40** for the **Brookville Chamber of Commerce** membership.
- **Allocated/Restricted** treasury funds were at \$113,135.24.
- **Unrestricted** general funds totaled \$18,509.54.

A *motion* was made and approved to accept and file the August *treasurer's report* for audit. (Mateer/Marocco)

Public Comments

- **Bernie Marocco** reported that an email was received from RVTA member **Jim Van Steenburg** offering the use of his winch mounted truck to help retrieve the **concrete milepost (32)** near Heathville. The structure had been vandalized and pushed over a steep bank into Redbank Creek.

Volunteer Hours

Sandy Mateer reported a total tally of **1749 hours** volunteer hours. Members are encouraged to report their volunteer hours.

Punch-list Updates; 2014 Projects

Climax Tunnel:

- There are no updates on the Climax Tunnel project. Phase one had been scheduled to be completed by February; however, work appears to be a little behind schedule.
- The RVTA wants to be present at the next scheduled meeting between Senate's project engineer **Bill Braun** and AVL executive director **Ron Steffey**.

HRRMA Sewage Project (Mayport):

- **Galen Shirey** suggested that he give permission to the sewage line contractor to stockpile their gravel at RVTA's **Mayport parking area**. Spreading and grading the remnants will ultimately provide a hardened sub-base to what is currently an unimproved parking area.

Pennvest point source pollution submittals (Fairmount City and St.Charles):

- **Galen Shirey** worked on shoveling out a backed-up pipe near **M&S Meats** (M.P. 21.5) The HRRMA contractor had agreed to work at opening up the ditch drainage and pipe inlet. This

AMD site was also among those in the list of suggested *point source pollution* sites along RVTA and ARTA corridors that were submitted to **Dave Rupert, Armstrong Conservation District Manager** for **Pennvest** grant funding.

- Another RVTA site suggested in the list of point source pollution submissions was the *severe bank and trail corridor erosion* along Redbank Creek at **St. Charles** and **Fishbasket**.

Rock Run parcel surveys:

- President **Darla Kirkpatrick** has proposed resurveying the boundaries of a former water line easement and two small isolated parcels along and above the RVTA corridor at **Rock Run, Porter Township, Clarion County**. There is potential for developing a short hiking trail to the *scenic heights* of the upper parcel (originally a water storage source for the railroad). **Bernie Marocco** researched the title and boundary records and has agreed to resurvey the parcel and waterline easement boundaries in order to delineate RVTA's ownership for trail construction.

Depot Spur:

- A request for bid proposals for the washout repair on the Brookville Borough spur connector is to be advertised.

Soccer Field Encroachments:

- The Soccer Fields at **Walker Flat Road** in **Hawthorn** have several *encroachments* on AVLT property.
- Some of these encroachments include rest rooms, concession stands, and portions of a parking lot.
- The soccer association leadership had apparently been mistaken in developing the facilities within the limits of their own parcel boundaries and had been unaware the trespass.
- Rather than requiring removal of these encroachments, President **Darla Kirkpatrick** has proposed working with the association leadership to craft a 5 year *renewable lease* agreement that would provide some *trade-offs* to benefit some RVTA trailhead needs at this site including its use of some of their parking areas, restrooms, and the porta-john for specific occasions.

Plowing Snow on to Trail at Hawthorn

After several requests to stop dumping snow on to the Redbank Trail, the owner of a private funeral home in Hawthorn has continued to do so. So far, several requests to stop pushing their parking lot snow across Route 28 and on to the trail have not had positive results.

Model Crossing Agreement for Adjoining Properties (Timber Removal)

The AVLT would like the RVTA to create a *model crossing agreement* for adjoining private parcels for use on all *timber removal operations*. The model agreement would also include liability **insurance** requirements.

Event Calendar: Opening Day Hike

- The **Opening Day Hike** is scheduled for **March 28**.
- The planned route hike will go from **Climax to St. Charles**.
- Participants will be allowed to *park at the Snyder Brothers property* across the bridge from the tunnel. An event use agreement is being crafted for using the Snyder Bros. property.
- A *porta-john* will be rented and staged at Climax.

A *motion* was made and approved to budget \$250 for porta-john rental and snack food/refreshments. (Mateer/ Shirey)

New Trail Maps

- The current trail map count is down to 400.
- A new trail brochure design would keep the current map page, however some changes to the business ads section were recommended.
- Possibly charge \$125 for a business card size insert and \$250 for a double size advertisement.

A *motion* was made and approved to apply for a grant to cover the cost of 4000 more maps. (Mateer/Moss)

Grant Updates

- **Grants Meeting:** *Ron Steffey, AVL Executive Director*, will be hosting the joint AVL, ARTA, and RVTA grants meeting in Kittanning on Thursday February 26th. Ron's hope is that 3 board members from each organization would be able to attend. The session will cover the nuts and bolts of available grant funding organizations.

Non-Grant Updates

- The *opening day hike* is scheduled for the *last Saturday in March*.
- The event will be *renamed* the **Ray Doverspike Memorial Hike**. The location and specifics for the event have yet to be determined.

Old Business

- Current *web site* maintenance and upgrade will need more photos. It is hoped that more trail photos can be acquired that are of the exceptional quality of *Sissy Rutkowski's* work.
- *Chuck Marsh* has agreed to fill the **board** position vacated by the passing of *Ray Doverspike*.
- *Dave Henderson* also has agreed to continue in his replacement position on the **board** if no other candidates have shown an interest.
- **The Leader-Vindicator's** proposed feature insert covering the amenities of the **Redbank and Armstrong Trails** is scheduled for print in **March**.

New Business

- *Scott McChesney, the EQT representative* was unable to attend tonight's meeting. It was agreed that he meet with RVTA board members on Thursday. EQT will have a *counter proposal* for their *Sligo Spur crossing agreement*.

A *motion* was made and approved to adjourn the meeting (Henderson/Poster) at 7:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

s/Bernie Marocco, Secretary

Minutes Approved as corrected: March 2, 2015