

Redbank Valley Trails Association

Meeting Minutes – November 2, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM with 13 in attendance at the Brookville Presbyterian Church. Board members present were Phil Hynes, Bernie Marocco, Chuck Marsh, Sandy Mateer, Robert Moss and Galen Shirey. RVTA members in attendance were Carol Briggs, Pam and Dave Henderson, Terry Mateer, John Pozza, Tim Welsh and Laura Lynn Yohe (reporting for Jeffersonian Democrat) was also present. Board members Pat Conners, Darla Kirkpatrick and Ty Poster were absent.

1. **Goals and objectives** were read by Vice President Sandy Mateer. Expressions of sympathy were expressed for the death of Darla Kirkpatrick's nephew.
2. **Monthly Meeting Minutes.** Bernie Marocco agreed to help take minutes. The meeting minutes for the Board meeting of October 5, 2015, were approved as written. (Hynes/Shirey)
3. **Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer's report as of Oct. 30, 2015, was reviewed. The current balance was \$118,779.92 with committed and reserved funds of \$110,192.74 and unreserved funds of \$8,587.18. 2 lifetime memberships of \$300, a \$25 donation, interest of 6.05 and AVL T \$365 reimbursement of conference expenses in the total amount of \$702.10 were received. A motion was made and approved to accept the treasurer's reports and file for audit. (Shirey/Hynes).

Accounts payable as follow were ratified and approved: PA Great Outdoors Membership - \$130, M&M Lime \$32,772.68 (out of Mile 1 to 6 fund), Greg Perry Trucking \$6,480.00 (Mile 1-6 fund), Kline Signs for \$465, St. Charles Road Bonding to S&T Evergreen \$125, Inspection Fee Porter Township \$100 (both out of Climax to Long Point fund), Williams Sanitation \$65, Warren Greenways Conference reimbursements received from AVL T to Bernie Marocco \$75 (one day) and \$290 to Mateers (3-day summit), TechReady for final website revision payment (\$1500 + Maintenance fee of \$75), Buffalo Limestone \$376.20 for 2 loads of 3A Limestone (out of Mile 1 to 6 fund), Brookville and no truck parking sign cost reimbursement of \$96.25 to Mateer, Mark Kirkpatrick \$500 for Moore Rd. Kayak Launch grading work and Bernie Marocco reimbursement of \$242.91 for EarthWorx 2B limestone out of WPC Moore Rd. grant. (Hynes/Shirey).

Additional bills payable to be paid when received approved by motion:

October 14, trucking of \$216.90 to George Trucking for CL plus other trucking bills totaling \$2702.77 and Brady's Bend limestone of \$5,046.66 to come out of Climax to Long Point fund, cross drains from Catalone Pipe of \$326.40 out of Mile 1 to 6 fund and balance of \$489.60 to Catalone out of crushed limestone fund for pipes between Lawsonham and Long Point and stock.

Oct. 16, 22 and 26 trucking of \$8,172.54 for Brady's Bend Crushed Limestone and \$4376.85 in trucking for 908.06 tons are to come out of Climax to Long Point fund for work on St. Charles to mile 11 area.

Oct. 20-21 bills Miles 17 to 19 New Bethlehem area: \$4890.51 for crushed limestone to Brady's Bend Limestone and \$2619.40 for trucking totaling \$7,509.65, totaling \$12,549.39 to come out of crushed limestone fund. (Shirey/Marsh)

A bill for 10 gal. of tractor fuel was authorized. (Shirey/Hynes)

Items for the 2016 budget were requested to be submitted by Nov. 23, 2015 to Ty or Sandy.

4. **Public Comments.** Ms. Yohe commented that historic railroad mile markers were not always accurate and that they should not be moved because other locations are based on their placement. Tim Welsh thanked Galen Shirey for the work done at Mayport gate.

5. **Volunteer Hours.** No report.

6. **Grant Updates; 2015 Projects**

a. **Climax Tunnel:** It was noted that the SW portal buttress engineering proposal was approved by AVL T with the cost to be taken from the Pipe and Power account and with reimbursement out of DCNR grant funding and that Senate Engineering was still working with contractors for Phase 2 design.

b. Moore Rd. Kayak Launch. Bernie Marocco reported completion of route to creek. Signage was discussed and approved. A balance of \$2,428.07 remains for 6 signs. A motion was made and approved to spend the balance of the grant funds in Bernie's discretion on signage and materials. (Hynes/Marsh)

c. Website Revision –Completed. It was noted that it includes time reporting and other new features.

d. Industrial Heartland Trail Coalition/Dopplet Family grant was filed by Oct. 9th for crushed limestone on miles 6 to 15.

e. The EQT Foundation grant application was deferred until Feb. 1 or May 1, 2016.

f. Other grant opportunities were noted: WPC by Nov. 13, TAP Funding Jan. 8, and DCNR April 13, 2016. It was discussed that only about \$1000 might be needed for installation of a launch on the east downstream side of the Rachel Carson bridge.

7. Non-grant updates; 2015 Projects

a. HRRMA Sewage Line Project – Restoration status was discussed: Seeding was underway at Fishbasket, didn't roll edge near Mayport and left "curb", near Pine Run was less than 4 inches, may be done in Mayport, 536 to Pine Run left a curb on creek side, 536 east to gate-left curb, silt bags and fences remain. Still working in Oak Ridge.

b. Depot St. Spur - A grand opening celebration was discussed with date deferred to June National Trail Day pending parking area and signage improvements by Borough. Phil is working on signage, timbers and other improvements. John Pozza, Carol Briggs, Pam Henderson agreed to serve on a planning committee with Phil Hynes. It was noted that people are very happy with new access. Discussed bike racks in town. Race (with colored dry-fit shirts recommended) and reception as part of celebration was discussed.

c. DEP Well Plugging; Madison Twp. –no new action. Tabled.

d. Brookville H S Art Bear Installation near Liberty Street was completed.

e. Work day for soccer port-o-join/trail connection to be set after course is planned in conjunction with signage.

f. Budget for trail improvement from St. Charles to the Allegheny River – Darla's work was noted, acknowledged and she was thanked for all the hard work, for negotiating great pricing on trucking and limestone, and for getting the crushed limestone applied without damage to St. Charles Rd. from St. Charles to near mile 11. Ty and Terry were thanked for helping video the road to document its condition. Bonding is to be lifted. Darla recommends remaining miles 6 to 11 be accessed via Lawsonham.

g. EPTA update – Sandy is attending their meetings. They are working on uniform signage.

8. Events & Promotion

a. Brookville YMCA color run. It was reported that there would be no sharing of funds.

b. Fundraiser Scheduling – the need to schedule fundraisers to fund continued improvements and operating costs was noted.

9. Old Business

a. Soccer Association agreement presented to Soccer Association for review. No response yet.

b. Joint Day of Giving Fundraising event in New Bethlehem is still pending response by other groups.

c. Mile markers. Tim, Terry, Galen offered to help with installation of mile markers and historic markers. (Bernie's research showed railroad mile markers were not always accurate and that we should add to map that mile markers may not reflect actual mileage. It was agreed that placement of historic mile markers would be at locations as near as possible to locations indicated on valuation maps, where original railroad markers are found and if missing to place the markers as accurately as possible. It was also agreed to take GPS locations of markers for 911 and emergency purposes.

d. E-bikes and OPDMD policy – AVLTL recent action was reported. It was agreed by consensus that RVTA wishes to allow E-bikes up to 750 watts and as limited by statute and that policy was tentatively approved pending formalization of policy by AVLTL.

e. Art installation in notch – Phil will speak with the artist about removal now that it has been vandalized and/or deteriorated.

f. Stout crossing agreement - no response.

g. Rutkowski crossing agreement to be negotiated and drafted.

10. New Business

a. Logo Use Policy – issues were discussed and a committee was formed consisting of Phil, Bernie and Sandy to review and suggest an update to our policy.

b. 2016 calendar – It was agreed due to schedule conflicts with Borough organizational meetings and holidays, that we would move the meetings from the 1st to the 2nd Mondays in January, July and September, all in Brookville. John Pozza agreed to check with the church for its availability. All other meetings will be held as usual on the first Mondays alternating with odd numbered months in Brookville and even numbered months in New Bethlehem at 7 PM.

c. Equipment - Darla's request to add a small tools fund to the 2016 budget including a pole saw and leaf blower back pack was approved. A Stihl brand pole saw at a cost of about \$350 or more was recommended. Tim, Galen and others offered suggestions on types and suppliers of equipment with more suggestions to be brought to next meeting.

d. Adopt a Mile - Darla is working on an adopt a mile program policy to present to the board. It was noted we need to encourage more people to adopt a mile.

The meeting then moved by motion to **executive session** at 8:40 PM. (Mateer/Shirey)

Sligo Spur. It was agreed to pursue negotiations if concerns could be resolved at a cost of \$5000 plus legal fees not to exceed \$2000. (Hynes/Moss) Sligo Borough will be asked to help raise funds to reimburse costs if negotiations are successful.

Conveyance. There was discussion regarding the conveyance of the first ½ to 4 miles related to tax map and parcel numbers.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM. (Hynes/Moss)

Respectfully Submitted,

s/Sandy Mateer

Sandy Mateer, Acting Secretary

Minutes Approved: December 7, 2015