

Redbank Valley Trails Association

Meeting Minutes – December 7, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM with 11 in attendance at the New Bethlehem Presbyterian Church. Board members present were Pat Conners, Phil Hynes, Bernie Marocco, Sandy Mateer, Robert Moss and Galen Shirey. RVTA members in attendance were David Richards, Tim Welsh and Ron Steffey (AVLT) Laura Lynn Yohe (reporting for Jeffersonian Democrat) and Grace Pesselato (Jefferson Co. Conservation District) were also present. Board members Darla Kirkpatrick, Chuck Marsh and Ty Poster were absent.

- 1. Goals and objectives** were read by Vice President Sandy Mateer.
- 2. Officer Positions.** A motion was made and approved to table acceptance of Darla Kirkpatrick's resignation as President until January and after a letter to be drafted by Galen, Bernie and Ty is sent to request her reconsideration, and that in the meantime, Sandy Mateer will be acting President. (Marocco/Shirey)
- 3. Monthly Meeting Minutes.** Bernie Marocco agreed to help take minutes. The meeting minutes for the Board meeting of November 2, 2015, were approved as written. (Hynes/Conners)
- 4. Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer's report as of Nov. 30, 2015, was reviewed. The current balance was \$88,864.40 with committed and reserved funds of \$73,039.61 and unreserved funds of \$13,824.79. \$31,915.89 in trail improvements and administrative costs were expended in November. A motion was made and approved to accept the treasurer's reports and file for audit. (Moss/Conners).

Accounts payable as follow were approved: Reimbursements for Moore Road expenses to Bernie Marocco of \$6.62 and \$74.93, and \$100 donations each for meeting use to Brookville and New Bethlehem Presbyterian Churches. (Conners/Moss)

December receipts: \$25 from the St. Charles road bond was refunded. Donations were received of \$1500 from EQT, \$100 as a Christmas Gift to Ohio trail users, and a bench donation.

Purchase of a pole saw, 2 chains and accessories after consultation among Darla, Galen and Tim Welsh in an amount not to exceed \$750 was approved. (Hynes/Moss). Purchase of a back pack blower was tabled pending further research.

5. Public Comments. A letter from Rachel Cumberland of Rimersburg thanking the board for its efforts was read. David Richards suggested that purchase of life insurance naming the trail would be a way for supporters to donate funds to the trail, especially for long term maintenance. Christmas gifts were also suggested. Jefferson Co. Conservation District has a trailer mounted blower that we can borrow. Boy Scout project is to be completed in 2016.

6. Volunteer Hours. 1056.20 reported. Website submittal forms were mentioned.

7. Grant Updates; 2015 Projects

a. Climax Tunnel: It was noted that Senate Engineering is still working with contractors for the "Type, Size and Location" Phase 2 design with a planned Spring let. Ron Steffey reported CFA deadline for use of funds is June 30, 2017.

b. Moore Rd. Kayak Launch. Bernie Marocco presented receipts for reimbursement and reported that signs were being ordered with an RVTA check for half to be delivered by Bernie.

c. Industrial Heartland Trail Coalition/Doppelt Family grant of \$8000 was awarded for crushed limestone on miles 6 to 15.

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

8. Non-grant updates; 2015 Projects

a. HRRMA Sewage Line Project – Restoration status was discussed with bond release anticipated after completion of remaining issues: silt bags and fences remain. Signs were reinstalled. Galen will follow up. Still working in Oak Ridge. Some crushed limestone may be donated in Mayport.

b. Work day for soccer port-o-join/trail connection to be set after course is planned in conjunction with signage. No report.

c. Budget for trail improvement from St. Charles to the Allegheny River –All crushed limestone was applied except for miles 6 to 11 to be accessed via Lawsonham. St. Charles road bond was returned with no damage and refund of \$25 of \$125 cost. Additional \$100 fee was paid to Porter Township.

d. EPTA update –Rack card was discussed.

e. Sligo Spur – Hunter reported property owner attempted blockade of trail. Signs will be posted every ½ mile and attempt will be made to contact property owner with letter. Tom Sexton of RTC reported their legal counsel gave the opinion that an alternative route makes railbanking possible even if original corridor cannot be used.

f. Phil and others will be putting up cross country ski courtesy signs up soon.

9. Events & Promotion

a. Great PA Outdoors offer to participate in shows at a cost of \$100 plus the cost of rack cards was tabled by consensus.

b. Fundraiser and Event Scheduling

1. The Board approved the \$5,000 donor funded challenge grant to be conducted through end of year for addition to crushed limestone fund and improvements.

2. A Spring Great PA Clean Up Day was set for April 23, 2016.

3. The Day of Giving joint fundraiser event was approved as proposed, tentatively scheduled for May 7th in New Bethlehem with a budget of \$300. (Connors/Marocco). Board members are to work on list of invitees.

4. Day of Giving on May 12, 2016 to follow same procedures as in past.

5. Hansel Lucas adventure race (triathlon) in Summerville was tentatively approved for May 14, 2016, pending receipt of application, insurance, fee. Ron Steffey commented that application, insurance and fee was required, although waivers for non-profits might be possible.

6. RVTA race/fundraiser was scheduled for June 4th in conjunction with Brookville Dedication.

b. Tri-County Rails to Trails has offered a speaking/meeting opportunity regarding future efforts on the PA Wilds West Trail with a date, time and place yet to be set.

10. Old Business

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

b. Mile markers. Tim, Terry, Galen offered to help with installation of mile markers and historic markers. Gary Kirkpatrick and others have installed several near mile 1 to 8.

c. E-bikes and OPDMD policy – AVLT will send a copy of revised and approved policy.

d. Art installation in notch - removed.

e. Stout crossing agreement - no response.

f. Rutkowski crossing agreement to be negotiated and drafted.

g. 2016 calendar meeting schedule confirmed as 1st Monday alternating odd numbered months in Brookville and even months in New Bethlehem, except that because of holidays and schedule conflicts, meetings will be on second Mondays in Brookville on Jan. 11, July 11 and September 12.

11. New Business

a. After discussion Railroad Street drainage improvement in Fairmount City will be left as is with only modification to be creation of a ditch next to trail.

- b. House demolition – trail use for dumpster. Tabled pending further information and discussion.
- c. Logo Use Policy –committee of Phil, Bernie and Sandy are to review and suggest an update to our policy.
- d. Adopt a Mile – Volunteer Mark Hoover has offered to work on Mile 21 to 22. More volunteers and a formal policy which Darla is working on are needed.
- e. Availability of obtaining some offered rocks for landscaping and barrier use was discussed with no action pending further information.
- f. DCNR annual report summary as presented to Board was approved for submission (Conners/Moss).
- g. 2016 Budget was presented and discussed. A motion was made to approve the budget as presented. (Hynes/Conners).

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

Respectfully Submitted,

s/Sandy Mateer
Sandy Mateer, Acting Secretary

Minutes Approved: January 11, 2016