

Redbank Valley Trails Association

Meeting Minutes – February 1, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM with 16 in attendance at the New Bethlehem Presbyterian Church. Board members present were Pat Conners, Phil Hynes, Darla Kirkpatrick, Bernie Marocco, Chuck Marsh, Sandy Mateer, Robert Moss and Galen Shirey. RVTA members in attendance were Mark Kirkpatrick, Sandy Marsh and Terry Mateer. Also in attendance were Greg Faller and Layne Ghering representing the Clarion Co. Trails Association, Hansel Lucas, Tyler Ortz and Laura Lynn Yohe (reporting for Jeffersonian Democrat).

1. **Goals and objectives** were read by Sandy Mateer.

2. **Officer Positions.** Darla Kirkpatrick was asked if she would continue as President and she declined with thanks. A motion was made and approved to appoint Sandy Mateer as President. (Marsh/Moss). A motion was made and approved to appoint Bob Moss as Vice President. (Shirey/Marsh).

3. **Monthly Meeting Minutes.** The meeting minutes for the Board meeting of January 11, 2016, were approved as written. (Hynes/Moss)

4. **Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer's report as of Jan. 29, 2016, was reviewed. The current balance was \$103,034.88 with committed and reserved funds of \$98,380.40 and unreserved funds of \$4,654.48. There were no accounts payable. A motion was made and approved to accept the treasurer's reports and file for audit. (Conners/Marocco).

5. **Public Comments.**

Tyler Ortz presented his Eagle Scout project to the Board. A motion was made and approved to approve the project with thanks. (Conners/Marocco).

Hansel Lucas presented his proposal for an Adventure Race/Triathlon to be held between Summerville and Moore Road on May 14, 2016. The event was tentatively approved pending receipt of application and proof of insurance.

Layne Ghering and Greg Faller requested updates for the Clarion County Trail map by 3/1/16, discussed CCTA meeting dates and popular North Country Trail walks.

6. **Volunteer Hours.** Members and volunteers were asked to report hours on the website, by email and/or paper forms, especially for work done between Climax and Long Point. Forms were distributed.

7. **Grant Updates; 2015 Projects**

a. **Climax Tunnel:** SW Buttress design was put out for bid with bids due by Feb. 18th. Plans for Phase 3 were submitted to PUC and the railroad for comment before submission to Penn Dot. Details of plans were discussed. No trespassing signs are to be posted at the tunnel.

b. **Moore Rd. Kayak Launch.** Bernie Marocco reported status. Additional stone has been delivered to improve access trail. There was no objection to putting the launch sign in a better location at the parking area instead of near the creek. Launch signs will be located near the actual launch to advise those on the creek of its location.

c. **RTC/IHTC/Doppelt Family Trail Development Grant** of \$8,000 was received, used and the report filed.

d. Applications for both the EQT Foundation and Doppelt fund grants were filed by Feb. 1 and Jan. 31 respectively for crushed limestone and washout engineering and work with responses anticipated by March 1 and June 4th respectively.

e. Phil reported on Brookville's application for the North Central Greenways grant for trailhead development and announced that private donations were received to be used for the match.

f. A motion was made and approved for Sandy Mateer to submit an application to the North Central Greenways Grant Program by Feb. 16th for addition of crushed limestone for portions of the trail in Jefferson County if there weren't many anticipated applications. Darla is to provide estimated costs and locations. (Conners/Shirey).

8. Non-grant updates; 2016 Projects

a. HRRMA Sewage Line Project – Restoration status was discussed with no changes noted. Galen will move a “no motorized vehicle” sign to deter some apparent ATV violations near the gate at Mayport.

b. Work days for soccer port-o-join/trail connection to be set in Spring after course is planned in conjunction with signage, and Tyler Ortz picnic table, as weather permits.

c. 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.

d. Middle Run. Work is also needed between Middle Run to Fairmount City, including AMD drainage issues behind M&S Meats, with application of crushed limestone. It was noted that AVL T needs to mark the property lines behind M&S Meats so that ditching can be completed to deter damage.

e. Sligo Spur – Mark Kirkpatrick presented his proposal to repair the washout near Lawsonham. A motion was made and approved to authorize Mark to clean out the culvert box and pipes as soon as possible to prevent further erosion at a cost of \$1,000.00 (8 hours at \$125/hour). (Conners/Marocco) Darla Kirkpatrick abstained from voting. There was discussion on the timing of the main washout repair not being possible until after frost was gone from the ground sometime in April or May and that costs could not be finalized until quantities of fill needed could be determined. It was agreed that a decision to award a contract would be made at the March 7th meeting. Further discussion on the proposal and funding was deferred to executive session.

f. Vegetation Management – Darla Kirkpatrick will contact company for dates and recommendations on application dates. A separate bid will be requested for Brookville Borough to do the Depot Street Spur.

9. Events & Promotion

a. Fundraiser and Event Scheduling

1. March 26th opening day hike location is to be determined at the March meeting.

2. Spring Great PA Clean Up/work day - April 23, 2016. A clean up may also be held on the Sligo Spur on that day or another convenient to the girl scouts who have agreed to participate starting at Walker Farms Road. Work days are to be scheduled as weather permits to pick up a tremendous amount of accumulated garbage. Chuck Marsh will check on dumpster availability and placement.

3. The Day of Giving joint fundraiser event is set for May 7th in New Bethlehem. Board members were asked to plan to attend.

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

5. RVTA race/fundraiser is tentatively 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. Rutkowski crossing agreement to be negotiated and drafted.

c. 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 July 11 and September 12.

e. Logo Use Policy –committee of Phil, Bernie and Sandy are to review and suggest an update to our policy. No report.

f. Adopt a Mile –More volunteers and a formal policy which Darla is working on are needed.

11. New Business

- a. Meeting with Clarion County Commissioners to be scheduled. Sandy and Chuck will attend.
- b. An article appeared in the Pittsburgh Post Gazette on January 25th, was distributed and drew trail users from Pittsburgh on Jan. 31st.
- c. Terry Mateer presented a design for new trail art sculpture in the form of an owl which appeared to receive support. Cost and availability are to be determined before a formal request for approval is submitted to the Board.

12. Executive Session The Board moved to executive session. (Conners/Marsh).

After discussion, and in open session, the Board approved a motion that \$60,000 of the Sligo Improvement Fund be reserved to cover repairs to the Lawsonham washout. (Conners/Marsh). Darla Kirkpatrick abstained from the vote. It was agreed by consensus that a written contract be prepared for review and approval at the March meeting.

The Board recommended insurance requirements of \$1 million/\$2 million aggregate for the project.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 PM. (Marsh/Hynes)

Respectfully Submitted,

s/Sandy Mateer
Sandy Mateer, Acting Secretary

Minutes Approved: March 7, 2016