

# **Redbank Valley Trails Association**

## **Meeting Minutes – March 7, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM with 15 in attendance at the Brookville Presbyterian Church. Board members present were Phil Hynes, Darla Kirkpatrick, Bernie Marocco, Chuck Marsh, Sandy Mateer, Robert Moss and Galen Shirey. Board Members Pat Conners and Ty Poster were absent and excused. RVTA members in attendance were Pam Henderson, Doug and Dottie Himes, Mark Kirkpatrick, Sandy Marsh, Terry Mateer and John Pozza. Also in attendance was Laura Lynn Yohe (reporting for Jeffersonian Democrat).

1. **Goals and objectives** were read by Darla Kirkpatrick.
2. **Monthly Meeting Minutes.** The meeting minutes for the Board meeting of February 1, 2016, were approved as corrected. (Hynes/Moss)
3. **Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer's report as of Feb. 29, 2016, was reviewed. The current balance was \$103,901.97 with committed and reserved funds of \$97,803.77 and unreserved funds of \$6,098.20. There were no accounts payable. A motion was made and approved to accept the treasurer's reports and file for audit. (Moss/Shirey).
4. **Public Comments.** John Pozza and Pam Henderson reported on the postponement of the June 4<sup>th</sup> dedication to July or September, and plans for the event. Phil Hynes reported on Brookville Borough's Greenways grant application. Terry Mateer reported on sculpture art purchased for the trail.
5. **Volunteer Hours.** 1270.5 for 2015 reported to date. Members and volunteers were asked to report hours on the website, by email and/or paper forms.
6. **Grant Updates; 2015 Projects**
  - a. Climax Tunnel: Type, Size & Location Plans by Senate for Phase 3 were submitted to PUC and the railroad for comment on 1/29/16 and again in February to the railroad before submission to Penn Dot. A petition to PUC was submitted on 2/29/16 to extend the time period for alterations and to allow specified clearances, pending railroad approval, with copies to local municipalities.
  - b. Moore Rd. Kayak Launch. Bernie Marocco reported that grant work was completed except for additional stone to improve the access trail and installation of the signs when received.
  - c. 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 in March and on June 4<sup>th</sup> respectively.
  - d. Phil reported on Brookville's application for the North Central Greenways grant for trailhead development, 1 of 10 submitted, and announced private donations were received for the match.
  - e. An RVTA application to the North Central Greenways Grant Program by Feb. 16<sup>th</sup> for addition of crushed limestone for portions of the trail in Jefferson County was not filed.
7. **Non-grant updates; 2016 Projects**
  - a. Sligo Spur –There was discussion on timing regarding work after frost was gone from the ground sometime in April or May, the terms of the agreement, that costs could not be finalized until quantities of fill needed could be determined, and deleting engineering to instead have a separate contract with the engineer. Darla Kirkpatrick abstained from voting.
  - b. HRRMA Sewage Line Project – Restoration status was discussed with no changes noted.
  - c. 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.
  - d. Trail improvement from St. Charles to the Allegheny River –All crushed limestone was applied except for miles 6 to 11.4 to be accessed via Lawsonham. Additional funding is needed to complete the application of crushed limestone.

e. Middle Run. Work is 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. Mark Kirkpatrick will ask the engineer who expressed willingness to look at the rerouting of the water and the slope of the ramps at Middle Run.

f. Vegetation Management –Sandy contacted company for dates and recommendations on application dates. A separate bid was requested for Brookville Borough to do the Depot Street Spur.

g. Darla reported that mile markers at miles 2 to 5 have been stolen and all signs were removed except those placed high. It was noted that such vandalism could cause problems in an emergency to determine location.

Doug Himes suggested purchase of motion detecting cameras to deal with vandalism. He will present a proposal.

Following discussion of gate vandalism and access violations, a motion was made and approved to purchase 3 gate assemblies and posts to come out of the bridge approach fund. (Kirkpatrick/Hynes).

h. Galen will meet with Scout Tyler Ortz regarding placement of benches and tables with benches possibly at Hawthorn between Mayport and Pine Run, at the turntable, at the soccer field and near the bear statue in New Bethlehem. Tables are to be placed near the Bostonia Spur and above the soccer fields.

## **9. Events & Promotion**

### **a. Fundraiser and Event Scheduling**

1. March 26<sup>th</sup> opening day hike at 9 am will start at Lawsonham and go downstream.
2. Spring Great PA Clean Up/work day will be April 23, 2016 at New Bethlehem, Summerville and possibly Brookville.
3. Day of Giving on May 12, 2016, will follow most procedures as in past with the Richard G. Snyder YMCA Campus and Nextier Bank in Kittanning as sponsors.
4. Hansel Lucas' adventure race will be on May 14<sup>th</sup> in Summerville, Jr. Achievement in New Bethlehem on May 21<sup>st</sup>.
5. Leader-Vindicator and Jeffersonian Democrat articles for April tab have been assigned.

## **10. Old Business/To Do List**

- a. Soccer Association agreement presented to Soccer Association for review. No response yet.
- b. Rutkowski and Melvin Neiswonger crossing agreements to be negotiated and drafted.
- c. Logo Use Policy –committee of Phil, Bernie and Sandy are to review and suggest an update to our policy. No report.
- d. Adopt a Mile Program – More volunteers are needed. Darla is working on a formal policy.
- e. Meeting with Clarion Commissioners – Sandy and Chuck reported on the meeting. Phil Hynes reported on Jefferson County Commissioners.
- f. Post-Gazette Jefferson Award ceremony – TBD – probably early May.
- g. Ryan Sherry crossing agreement was moved to executive session for discussion of terms and concerns.

## **11. New Business**

- a. Phil and Galen were appointed as the 2016 Nominating Committee.
- b. Priorities for 2016 were discussed with no final decision.
- c. Maintenance Manual – Bernie will forward a PDF of a model used by the forest service as an example.

## **12. Executive Session** The Board moved to executive session. (Marsh/Shirey).

- a. Bernie reported on an opportunity in Brookville. A motion was made and approved to expend up to \$200 for a Brookville property issue. (Hynes/Shirey)

b. Climax Tunnel – By consensus, Board approved declining use of \$15,000 from the AVL T Redbank pipe and power account for the Lawsonham washout so that AVL T could use it for cash flow needs on the Climax Tunnel until DCNR reimbursed grant money.

c. HRRMA – water line agreement – AVL T approved allowing us to negotiate with HRRMA with a recommendation to AVL T. Receipt of revised documents is anticipated.

d. Day of Giving reception plans were discussed.

e. The status of the tax parcel identification and conveyance of mile 1 was discussed.

f. It was noted a Hawthorn area resident offered use of barn for tractor & equipment storage.

g. A motion was approved to purchase gravel for landscaping around the New Bethlehem parking area out of the New Bethlehem trailhead reserve fund. (Shirey/Hynes)

h. Ryan Sherry crossing agreement was discussed with suggested terms approved by consensus to include protection of trail surface, discussion of annual fee, 4 way stop and private road sign, trail must be kept clear, utility lines should be marked, to be revisited if problems arise.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM. (Marocco/Shirey)

Respectfully Submitted,

s/Sandy Mateer

Sandy Mateer, Acting Secretary

Minutes Approved: April 4, 2016