

Redbank Valley Trails Association

Meeting Minutes – April 4, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM with 18 in attendance at the New Bethlehem Presbyterian Church. Board members present were Pat Conners, Phil Hynes, Darla Kirkpatrick, Bernie Marocco, Sandy Mateer, Robert Moss and Galen Shirey. Board Members Chuck Marsh and Ty Poster were absent and excused. RVTA members in attendance were Gordon Barrows, Pam and Dave Henderson, Terry Mateer, John Pozza, David Richards, Sissy Rutkowski and Tim Welsh. Also in attendance were Eric Gourley, David Hepler (UVSA) and Laura Lynn Yohe (reporting for Jeffersonian Democrat).

1. **Goals and objectives** were read by Bob Moss.
2. **Well Closures** - Eric Gourley presented his request for an agreement for access to the trail to seal gas wells near Mayport and Lawsonham, pending DEPs award of a grant for such work. A motion was approved to negotiate and enter into an agreement with G&G Gas for such work pending approval of satisfactory terms. (Conners/Shirey)
3. **Monthly Meeting Minutes.** The minutes for the Board meeting of March 7, 2016, were approved as written. (Hynes/Conners)
4. **Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer's report was not available and deferred. The current balance was \$104,005.23. There were no accounts payable.
5. **Public Comments.** It was reported that Headwaters Charitable Trust was purchasing the Knox Kane Trail from Kovalchuk to the Kinzua Viaduct. High trail usage was noted by several members.
6. **Volunteer Hours.** Members and volunteers were asked to report hours on the website, by email and/or paper forms.
7. **Grant Updates**
 - a. Climax Tunnel: A petition to PUC was submitted on 2/29/16 with a hearing scheduled for 4/21 to extend the time period for alterations and to allow specified clearances, pending railroad approval. The SW buttress contract was approved at the February AVLT meeting with funding from DCNR grant funds.
 - b. Applications for 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 4th respectively.
 - c. Moore Rd. Kayak Launch. Bernie Marocco reported that grant work was completed and some signs had been installed. Placement of additional stone will improve the access trail and the large sign will be installed when completed and received.
 - d. Phil reported on Brookville's application for the North Central Greenways grant for trailhead development, that an easement agreement was to be signed with an adjoining property owner and the Rt. 36 sign was in the process of being designed.
8. **Non-grant updates; 2016 Projects-To Do List**
 - a. **HRRMA Sewage Line Project** – Galen reported that restoration status was discussed with a new foreman, a section of pipe may be slid over broken pipe and HRRMA work at a culvert near gate at Mayport is pending. No additional information on water line request has been received.
 - b. **Soccer Field Agreement** - A meeting was held with UVSA representatives to determine the location of the access route that Galen Shirey will work on. Darla said she could ask Bill Kirkpatrick to help with his skidsteer with vibratory roller. UVSA will meet on April 10th to discuss and approve the Agreement re: the existing property improvements, access and signage. A motion was made and approved to purchase gravel for the access route and to deduct the cost from the Mayport parking lot reserve (as that is no longer needed). (Shirey/Conners)
 - c. **Trail improvement miles 6 to 11.4.** Brady's Bend Limestone's offer for a discounted price for a committed quantity was discussed. Darla will estimate quantities needed. AVLT has been contacted to see if they wish to cooperate in committing for a portion of the tonnage.
 - d. **Middle Run.** Possible solutions were discussed regarding the AMD drainage issues behind M&S Meats in Fairmount City which must be resolved before the trail can be surfaced from there to Middle Run. Bernie reported on the 100 foot width of the corridor at the location. Galen agreed to speak

with the property owner. The possibility of grant funding and help from Hedon Environmental was discussed.

e. **Sligo Spur** –A motion was made and approved to approve the separate engineering contract without the options and Mark Kirkpatrick’s proposal. (Hynes/Conners) Darla Kirkpatrick abstained.

f. The **theft of mile markers** 2 to 5 was reported to State Trooper Hageter.

g. **Vegetation Management** – The Board approved spraying of the entire trail including the Sligo Spur by the same company as used previously. Brookville will defer for a year on the Depot Street Spur.

9. Events & Promotion

a. Fundraiser and Event Scheduling

1. A report was presented on the March 26th opening day hike. It was noted that the national date should be confirmed in Dec./Jan. time frame for possible changes due to holidays.

2. Spring Great PA Clean Up/work day will be April 22 at Hawthorn, weather permitting and April 23, 2016 at New Bethlehem, Summerville and possibly Brookville. Darla, Galen, Terry, Tim (before) and Sandy will help at Hawthorn.

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 14th in Summerville, Jr. Achievement in New Bethlehem on May 21st pending receipt of registration forms and insurance.

5. Leader-Vindicator and Jeffersonian Democrat articles for April tab were submitted.

6. Brookville Dedication Committee report – The event will be held July 30th with a benefit breakfast, displays, local sponsors, and bike racks to be purchased. Brookville Borough is providing a port-o-john on the spur. A motion was made and approved to establish a line item in the reserve schedule for donations and expenses for Brookville Depot St. Spur Promotion and Maintenance. (Hynes/Conners)

10. Old Business/To Do List

a. Rutkowski and Melvin Neiswonger crossing agreements are being drafted and negotiated.

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

c. Adopt the Trail Program – Volunteers are needed. Darla requested suggestions for task teams – stewards and scouts were suggested.

d. Maintenance Manual - Bernie is working on the project which will assist the adopting volunteers who are to do maintenance and those who do larger installations.

e. Post-Gazette Jefferson Award ceremony is scheduled for May 5th. Board members were asked to attend.

f. Ryan Sherry crossing agreement – A motion was made to approve the agreement except for pending information on insurance from agent. Approved with Shirey voting against. (Conners/Marocco)

11. New Business

a. A motion was made and approved to purchase cameras to attempt to capture vandals as proposed by Doug Himes. (Conners/Shirey)

b. A motion was made and approved to accept Tim Welsh’s donation for a memorial bench. (Mateer/Shirey)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM. (Marocco/Hynes)

Respectfully Submitted,

s/Sandy Mateer
Sandy Mateer, Acting Secretary

Minutes Approved: May 2, 2016