

Redbank Valley Trails Association

Board Meeting Minutes – November 6, 2017

The board meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM with 13 in attendance at the Brookville Presbyterian Church. Board members present were Pat Conners, Phil Hynes, Bernie Marocco, Chuck Marsh, Sandy Mateer, Bob Moss (arrived 8:12), Galen Shirey and David Smail. Ty Poster was absent and excused. RVTA members in attendance were Bob Carnes, Gary Kirkpatrick, Terry Mateer and John Pozza. Laura Lynn Yohe (reporting for Jeffersonian Democrat), was also in attendance.

1. The goals and objectives were read by Phil Hynes.
2. **Minutes.** Minutes for the Board meeting of October 2, 2017, were approved as written (Hynes/Conners).
3. **Treasurer's Report.** A summary was presented of the report previously sent by email. A motion was made and approved to accept the report for audit and to approve the 2018 budget. (Shirey/Hynes). It was agreed that other than the match donors' designations for Middle Run and historic markers, any specific designation of funds raised from the December fundraising challenge would be approved at a later date, but that in general, funds would be raised for maintenance and improvements.
4. **Public Comments.** T. Mateer thanked a volunteer for uprighting stone mile marker 40. The owner of a tree stand at mile 28 will be directed to move the tree stand off the trail corridor next year. A volunteer will provide the owner's name. John Pozza announced that the Tour de Brookville was very successful and will be held the 2nd Saturday of October each year. Donations to RVTA were acknowledged. A volunteer requested regrooming of the trail between Coder and Baxter.
5. **Volunteer Hours.** Volunteers were again asked to report hours on website, by paper or email.
6. **New Business** - Approval by motion was given for the Kessa's Blessings Turkey Trot to be held each year on Thanksgiving morning. (Shirey/Marsh)
7. **Grant Updates**
 - a. Climax Tunnel - S. Mateer provided an update on the completed guniting work and additional DCNR grant work to be done.
 - b. 2 bridges on the S. Sligo Spur are to be done as a Winter project under The Pittsburgh Foundation Trail Volunteer Fund grant for bridge materials. Bernie discussed how work may involve cooperation with the Knox to Kane trail groups who want to see how to deck and rail bridges.
 - c. Grant opportunities for 2018 were discussed to possibly include equipment purchases through DCNR.
8. **Non-grant updates; 2018 Projects - To Do List**
 - a. Fairmount City DEP improvements, AMD issue – J. Snyder was awarded DEP contract and should begin work in December upon receipt of DEP paperwork.
 - b. HRRMA Water Line Project – restoration is in progress by Bison Contracting in Hawthorn.
 - c. There was no update on the status of possibly obtaining ties from Rail 66.
 - d. Bernie reported on the PA Wilds Loop meeting held in Brockway which the Mateers and Bob Moss also attended.
 - e. Offered help by a volunteer civil engineer with inventory and maintenance schedule was discussed.
 - f. A new bench request was approved in memory of Herb Landes. (Hynes/Marocco)

g. Mateer reported that the large culvert pipe at Mile 3 had been cleaned out by volunteers with 10 hours of equipment use donated on October 16th and areas on either side of the pipe were cleared by 30 hours of volunteer work by other volunteers before that day.

9. Events & Promotion

a. Town and Trail Regional Initiative report – Sandy Mateer reported on the initiative and mini-grant projects that were underway in New Bethlehem and East Brady. Dave Smail reported on the signage to be put on Rich Conti’s building which will be funded privately.

b. Mateer reported on the May 10, 2018 Redbank Valley Day of Giving.

10. Old Business/To Do List. The following motions were made and approved:

a. Mateer reported on the Walls Timbering Access Agreements.

b. It was agreed that the work day on November 11th will be at 10AM at the Brookville Spur and at 10AM at the Hawthorn turntable. Bernie reported that aerial maps indicated the turntable was not in use in 1939.

11. Additional New Business. Gary Kirkpatrick presented a number of items.

He suggested we purchase a \$16000 wood chipper. He has designed a blower that he is using on the front of a tractor bucket.

He reported on the successful November 3 moonlight trail walk which he would like to see done every couple of months.

He reported on several culvert and drainage issues. A motion was made and approved by consensus to purchase a “spoon” to clean out culverts at a cost not to exceed \$50.

Gary reported that a property owner near the Heathville Strausser Road crossing would like to develop a 10-space parking area on the upstream side of the creek for kayaking on and off of trail property where there is a 100 ft. right of way. It was suggested that they contact Shaun Wessel at the Jefferson Co. Conservation District and Penn Dot for a Highway Occupancy Permit. The Board agreed to provide a sample of an easement.

12. Executive Session –

a. Conveyance – Study status was discussed.

b. Bernie Marocco presented his property report on the Sligo Spur.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

s/Sandy Mateer

Sandy Mateer, Acting Secretary

Minutes Approved: