

**REDBANK VALLEY TRAILS ASSOCIATION**  
**Board Meeting Minutes—Monday, February 7, 2022**

The board meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM with 8 in attendance at New Bethlehem Town Center. Board members present were Bernie Marocco, Phil Hynes, Sandy Mateer, Terry Schuckers, Galen Shirey, and John Phillips. RVTA members in attendance were David Richards and Gary Kirkpatrick. Board member Ty Poster was absent and excused.

1. The goals objectives were read by Phil Hynes.
2. The board members spent a time remembering and appreciating Chuck Marsh's contribution and service to the RVTA with a moment of silence at his recent passing. We also discussed how we could gratefully remember him in various ways for his efforts in making the RVTA a success in our region. He had served the RVTA from 2015 and his term would have concluded in 2024.
3. **Minutes.** Minutes for the Board meeting of January 10, 2022, were approved as written (Hynes/Morocco).
4. **Treasurer's Report.** The treasurer's report was presented by Sandy Mateer and reviewed. A motion was made to receive the treasurer's report and file it for audit. (Shirey/Hynes). Sandy reported that the Windstream payment finally came into accounts receivable.
5. **Public Comments.** Gary Kirkpatrick spoke about his preference to spot spray and mow more frequently to create a cleaner look along the trail throughout the year.
6. **Grant Updates**
  - a. Eccles Foundation Grant – Galen reported improvements on Sligo Spur: repair of Carwick Road drainage, stone culvert, the Lobaugh Hill Road slide all with the help of Terry Rapp and stone spread at Walker Farm and 68 parking lots. Chuck was checking about convex mirrors for Lawsonham trail head so that will need to be assigned to someone else. Placement of sign for Walker Farm also needs to be completed pending on what the Piney Township supervisors advise with their input.
  - b. Northwest Commission Mini-Grant—Lawsonham Arch—Grant Reimbursements are pending.
  - c. Northwest Commission Next round. We might apply for some drainage pipe where needed. We should also consider safety fencing or a shelter and historic marker at SR 68.
  - d. Trail Volunteer Fund pull behind blower needs to be filed by March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.
  - e. Map Grants—Motion to approve filing for map grants. Shirey/Marocco approved unanimously.
7. **Non-Grant Updates—2022 Projects—To Do List**
  - a. Crushed limestone to refresh surfacing of trail. We'll use what we have and see who can give us the best price if we need to get more.
  - b. Gate Replacement on Main Trail—Galen has the measurements for Climax and will take care of it when frost goes out as another post needs to be installed.
  - c. Maintenance reports and concerns—Jimmy Arner reported on work on Sligo miles 1-2 that he adopted.

- d. DEP and Rimersburg Municipal Authority plans--Kyle of Eads group has preliminary copies of the Municipal Authority plans and there appears to be no interruption to the use of the trail.
- e. Bollards at Brookville—Phil reported that there is not enough room along Depot Street to install the donated bollards there so Board will look for other places where they could be used.
- f. Map update status—Work and ad applications are going well with 1 full panel, 3 half panels and several business card size ads. Sandy passed around maps to review and requested input on changes. The maps are hoped to be ready by March/April.
- g. Brookville Hub Project—Board is interested and will keep informed about the project as it moves forward.
- h. Membership renewals— Several notices have been sent. Board approved sending post cards to remind people by unanimous consent.

## **8. Events and Promotions**

- a. Scheduled events: April 23<sup>rd</sup> clean up day. Schools to be scheduled. There are several small projects that the students will be able to help us accomplish. This is a great opportunity to get outside and enjoy the spring weather and help improve the community.
- b. Day of Giving: May 12—Match sponsors will be sought for fund-raising efforts.
- c. LV Tab Topics—Historic Sites along the Trail may be the topic as a good way to encourage interest in the historic validity of the trail as a reminder of the rich heritage of the Redbank Valley and its railroad and industrial history. Tab may focus on Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance.

## **9. New Business**

- a. Sandy presented some items of new business regarding a letter she had received from Charles Daugherty concerning his property along the trail. There was also a contact from First Energy about trimming some trees near mile 6 of the Spur. There was some cutting with debris left near mile 18.5. We will advise approval with proper cleanup.
- b. A motion by Hynes/Shirey was made and approved that a letter of support for a grant be sent on behalf of Armstrong Trails to PA Wilds Center from RVTA.
- c. Nominating Committee—Vacancy appointment and May terms. Sandy will run again and Bernie agreed to run again. Committee will be Galen Shirey, Ty Poster and John Phillips.
- d. We discussed a bridge memorial for Chuck Marsh at Cherry Run. Motion by Shirey/Marocco was approved that Cherry Run bridge be a memorial of gratitude in honor of Chuck Marsh.
- e. Bernie Marocco brought us a detailed special report on how the property lines are determined from the railroad line survey maps that comprise the trail. He informed the board that it takes a great deal of personal research to comb through the files of historic right of way documents. The property is measured from the center of the road bed with a certain amount of distance measured from the center to determine the outside boundaries according to whether there will be one track or two or a switch, etc. There are three main methods to determine aforementioned right of ways—1. Valuation maps which locate the various structures on the line and where they are located, 2. Title Tables and 3. Deeds. It can be a daunting task to find this information and takes patience and determination on the part of the person doing the research. Bernie brought a few samples to show us as an

example of how to find out what various portions of the rail line are included and how the property owners negotiated with the railroad companies as the railroads were built.

**10. Old Business**

- a. Summerville Station project—license agreement response. Information has been sent out but there are still some questions we have including location and depth of concrete etc.; we will invite them to a meeting in March.
- b. Porto john/pit toilets needed by spring.
- c. Brookville Agreement is still in process.
- d. Logging near Summerville—It will be taken out under the bridge so will not interrupt the trail.
- e. Mile 13.25—A larger pipe may be needed for washouts and debris. Trail user is concerned for dip that could cause problems. This will be checked out and reported on as soon as we can make an assessment of the problem.
- f. Hawthorn—Clyde property access issue (Ty) and monitoring storm water project remains pending.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM. (Hynes/Shirey)

Respectfully Submitted,

s/ John C. Phillips

John C. Phillips, Asst. Secretary

Minutes approved April 4, 2022