

Steel Valley Trail Council

Minutes for meeting of June 20, 2016 in Whitaker Boro Building.

George Schmidt ran the meeting, which started at 6pm.

ATTENDING: Board members: George Schmidt, Bob MacGregor, Sara Petyk, Mike Sabo, Paul Coleman, Amy McCall, Paul Heckbert, Yale Cohen, Jim Taggart. Guests: Bob Holder, Roy Weil, Donna Green, Jerry Green, Roy Bires, Al Race.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES. May's minutes were approved.

BOARD CHANGES. Bill Maher resigned from the board, by letter.

TREASURER'S REPORT. Earl was not present. Our rescheduled Day of Giving date has not yet been set by the Pittsburgh Foundation.

REVISION OF BYLAWS. Amy's reading of the current bylaws says that checks can't be cut without two-party consent. She shared a draft of bylaw revisions with George. She recommends we form a committee to revise the bylaws. Paul H and Yale agreed to be on the bylaw committee.

FUNDRAISING. One of the eagles fledged. The eaglets will probably be gone in another month. We've made \$280 in the Support-a-Potty campaign so far. We debated when to terminate the Haysglen St. port-a-john. Most thought it would be good to keep it through the summer. Roy B. suggested we keep it until late July, at least. People want a garbage can near Haysglen. There was a motion to buy a garbage can to place there. Yale suggested we get the city to place a garbage can there. Paul will ask Jeff McCauley about garbage can placement and port-a-john subsidy.

George proposes a fundraising event for the 125th anniversary of the Riverton Bridge, in August.

MCKEESPORT TRAIL COMMISSION. Bob M. says the hostel is near completion; expected opening in July.

MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE. Mike says there's graffiti on the inside of the port-a-john near the equipment container. Yale says the trail bumps (from tree roots?) are getting worse in Duquesne between Grant Ave and the Riverton Bridge. He suggests we might want to fix it in future years. In the meantime we could mark them with orange paint.

When a tree fell across the trail near Kennywood, Bob M. solicited help from passers-by with a sign and some elderly people stopped to help. Bob M. passed around a hand chain saw - length of chain with two handles. Roy W. knows of a better model. We'll probably order a few. Bob M. has 50 feet of fencing to put up, and solicited helpers. He plans to put it near the Vahosky cross. Marc Yergin and a person from Ambridge are interested in maintenance. Bob M. plans a training session.

George will contact Rick Smith again about slides encroaching on the trail. It's \$2,500 a day for backhoe plus dumptruck.

Paul will contact Vanessa (Ron Vahosky's cousin) to schedule maintenance events with the Vahosky family.

Lake near Keystone on Three Rivers Heritage Trail (TRHT). Jeff McCauley of FOR is looking at it. One option is to install a sump pump.

Regarding the new graffiti on SVT and TRHT (elephant drawings) suspected to be due to Baron Batch: Tom Baxter sent email. He has been in contact with "the artist". The artist has agreed to not mark the trail further but has not publicly admitted to tagging the trail, yet.

AMENITIES / TRAIL INTERPRETATION. Bob M. proposed we put signs saying "Great Allegheny Passage / Restrooms" on the trail near Mitchell's restaurant. Roy B. offered to make a bench to put in near the Kennywood gate.

ATA/RTC. Donna says RTC wants all trail councils to use "Great Allegheny Passage" on all materials. She reminded them that for fundraising, it's important to keep some local identity. The GAP was repaved near Durabond (in Liberty, across the Yough from McKeesport) from River Rd to Dead Man's Hollow - nice asphalt now. RTC wants volunteers to help park cars at Twin Lakes Park and in return we would bring money to the SVTC.

PA BIKE ROUTE 50 COMMITTEE. Jim says we might need to remind PennDOT to put up signs throughout the route in 2017.

NORTH BANK COMMITTEE. Paul H. talked to Michael O'Connor of Parsons Brinckerhoff, a civil engineer, about a preliminary design for a ramp from end of Duck Hollow Trail up to Glenwood Bridge. Michael would be doing this in an unofficial capacity, not for work.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.
recorded by Paul Heckbert