

**ARMSTRONG RAILS TO TRAILS ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
01/09/2012**

Attending:

Directors Present: Toni Henry, Dick Starr, Sarah Heppenstall, Joanne Haneke, John Placha, Patty Brunner

Directors Absent : Dennis Hawley

Members and Guests: Louise Baker, Alan Smith, Anita Smith, Chuck Rupp, Angela Burtner, Ron Steffey, Sam Heppenstall

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM

John Placha made a motion to accept the December 2011 minutes, second by Sarah Heppenstall, motion carried.

Due to the electronic transfer and bill pay capabilities of the checking and savings accounts, Sarah Heppenstall made a motion that these accounts be audited prior to every meeting by a board member and that the statements mailed to Joanne Haneke's home address. The motion was second by John Placha; vote was unanimous, motion carried.

John Placha made a motion to move \$2.22 out of the operating fund into the signage fund to cover the balance of a bill. Sarah Heppenstall second the motion, vote was unanimous, motion carried.

John Placha made a motion to accept the financial report, Dick Starr second the motion; Motion carried.

John Placha made a motion to pay the following invoices as submitted for payment:

Sarah Heppenstall postage \$44.00

Vinyl Graphics to AVL T for signs \$315.25

Joanne Haneke second the motion; Motion carried.

Sarah Heppenstall along with Darla Kirkpatrick and Sandy Mateer from the Redbank Valley Trails Association will be meeting with an accountant to verify that both organizations are in compliance with our 501(c)3 nonprofit status. Sarah Heppenstall made a motion to split the \$55/hour cost with the RVTA. Dick Starr second the motion; motion carried.

Committee reports:

Public Relations –

- Many news articles from the last month were collected for the scrap book
- Survey Monkey was posted on the website and sent to all ARTA emails. 40 responses to date have been received.
- Ron Steffey is looking for ideas for the next survey.

Signage –

- "No Motor Vehicle" and "Please Stay Off For Your Own Safety" signs are available. If you need any call Toni Henry.
- Toni Henry is researching funding options for additional signs and kiosks. She will contact UPMC and the gas companies in the area.
- The Kittanning kiosk is moving forward

Adopt a Trail - Sarah Heppenstall will be calling all adopter to reaffirm their commitment to the miles assigned.

Annual Event – we are still looking for ideas

Newsletter – will be mailed in the next couple of weeks. Sarah Heppenstall will continue to obtain email address in lieu of US post Office.

Maps – John Placha made a motion allowing Sarah Heppenstall to sign a contract with Bally's for the redesign and printing, of the new maps for approximately \$3500. Pledges of sponsorship have been received for \$4200.

Advertising – Ron Steffey is working on the ad for the Tourist Annual Magazine.

Fund Raising – Day of Giving this year will include the Memorial Fund. If a person donates over \$25 they can contribute a photograph and story to the Memorial Fund. The photograph will be included in a Memorial Book that will move quarterly from location to location.

Grants – AVL T, ARTA and the RVTA met to discuss various projects and sources of funding.

Allegheny Valley Land Trust Report – The Court of Common Pleas of Armstrong County, Pennsylvania Civil Division sent an order on 12/12/11 saying it is “hereby ordered that Defendants’ Motion be granted and that summary judgment be entered against all remaining Plaintiffs in favor of all Defendants” (Allegheny Valley Land Trust, Armstrong Rails to Trails Association, etc). Congratulations!

OTHER BUSINESS

- An extensive list was compiled of the Armstrong Rails to Trails Association and the Allegheny Valley Land Trust accomplishments for 2011. The list was quite impressive and will be posted on the website. This should be an exercise done each year to remind us of our greatest feats.
- Joanne Haneke has suggested we use some “authentic rail road spikes” for possible public relations tools. This idea needs to be discussed further.
- A volunteer Appreciation Dinner, hosted by the Allegheny Valley Land Trust will be March 11, 2012, 6PM at the Manor Township VFD. Registration will be 6PM; Dinner 6:30-7:30; a slide show of the trails and drawings for door prizes.
- Ron Steffey is looking into Chainsaw training
- March 1- May 30 is the PA Clean up. Please specify sites by mile markers and towns
- The Southern Clarion County Sportsman’s Show is being held in East Brady March 9th -11th. We are registering for a table to be shared with the Redbank Valley Trails Association.

John Placha made a motion to adjourn, Second by Joanne Haneke. The next meeting is February 13, 2012 and will be held at the Kittanning Courthouse Annex at 6:30pm.