

**Armstrong Rail to Trail Association (ARTA)**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**5/3/2010**

**Attendance:**

Directors: John Placha, Joanne Haneke, Dick Starr, Mike Steimer, Toni Henry, Ron Steffey and Patty Brunner

Members and guests: Marty Henry, Sarah Heppenstall, Joel Warren, Andy Bradigan and Judy Walter

Meeting was called to order by President Placha at 6:33PM.

Minutes from the April meeting were read. Ron Steffey made a motion to accept the minutes as read; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Steimer; all were in favor, motion carried.

Financial Report was submitted. Mike Steimer made a motion to accept the financial report as read; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dick Starr; all were in favor, motion carried.

- Mike Steimer filled the 2009 990N to the Internal Revenue Service.
- A Financial Committee was formed consisting of Joanne Haneke and Sarah Heppenstall with the first order of business to be to get information on the Pennsylvania Bureau of Charitable Organizations and the second would be to propose a preliminary budget for the next meeting.
- Andy Bradigan, President of the Kittanning Rotary Club would like to submit a matching grant for a beautification project along the trail that would need to be accomplished by 6/30/10. Mike Steimer made a motion for the ARTA to work with the Rotary club on a project near the Kittanning High School. Toni Henry 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion; all were in favor; motion carried. Additional funds from the ARTA may be added at the time the grant is received.
- Judy Walter from the Relay for Life is proposing the sale of bricks with engraved commemorative names be sold by the relay teams with the intent of laying the bricks in several key locations along the trail. The bricks would raise needed funds for the Relay for Life and help build a solid foundation for the Armstrong Rail Trail. This project is proposed to continue for many years to come. Mike Steimer made a motion to work with the Relay for Life teams in finding a place for their bricks. Ron Steffey 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion; all were in favor; motion carried.
- Ron Steffey expressed his desire to resign as a Director of the Armstrong Rail Trail Association and nominated Sarah Heppenstall to take his place. Toni Henry made a motion to accept Ron Steffey's resignation and Sarah Heppenstall's nomination for Director. Mike Steimer 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion; all were in favor; motion carried.
- Toni Henry made a motion to pay an invoice to Hampton Publishing company for the map ad done by the Chamber of Commerce. Sarah Heppenstall 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion; all were in favor; motion carried.

**Committee Reports**

**Adopt a Trail** – Sarah Heppenstall will address this at greater lengths in the next newsletter.

**Membership** – the membership drive has started for 2010 with newsletters being sent to over 200 people. A member card was designed and will be sent out with the next newsletter to those who joined.

**Newsletter** - It was suggested to utilize the Tourist Bureau's mailings for the newsletter. Sarah Heppenstall has asked that everyone continue to brainstorm for locations that the newsletter can be posted. Please have some new ideas for next meeting.

**Website**– Joel Warren has volunteered to help with the Website. Ron Steffey is asking that all postings and ideas be routed through him for final approval before posting on the website.

**Maintenance** – Thursday the maintenance crew will continue at East Brady to Phillipston and proceed down the trail. Ron is hoping to have the entire trail cut by the end of May. He has submitted a grant for \$4000 for chips. Sarah Heppenstall made a motion to buy two truckloads of chips from the Chip N Trail funds to start the trail in East Brady. Toni Henry 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, all were in favor; motion carried.

- The Allegheny Valley Land Trust presented updates on the Moody Lawsuit, DCNR grant, Armstrong Trail Survey boxes, Kiski Junction Railroad, AmeriCorps position, the Brady Tunnel and several other topics.
- John Placha will write a letter to the Attorney for the Armstrong Rail Trail Association asking for more information on the finalizing of the lawsuit and the importance of a final court determination.
- The Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Association will meet 6/7/10 at 10AM in Erie at the Penn State Campus. A second meeting at 6PM will be open to the public at Baron Campus. Mike Steimer made a motion to pay 2010 dues. Sarah Heppenstall 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, all were in favor; motion carried.
- Redbank Trail should finalize after a full survey was done in June 2010. They meet the third Monday at the Presbyterian Church in New Bethlehem.
- We discussed getting a dumpster for a week of massive cleanup in November when the snakes have moved elsewhere and the junk is more visible.

## **EVENTS**

The Walk and Wow, appropriately named, was a success with many walks and a tremendous amount of wows! The flowers did not disappoint us. We were all in agreement to do it again next year with hikes over a couple of weeks.

Toni Henry made a motion to adjourn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sarah Heppenstall; all were in favor; motion carried.

Next meeting is Monday June 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM at the Kittanning Courthouse in the Commissioners Conference Room