

Armstrong Rails to Trails Association
December Board Meeting
December 12, 2011

Present: Joanne Haneke, Dennis Hawley, Toni Henry, Sarah Heppenstall, John Placha, Dick Starr
Excused: Patty Brunner

Members attending: Angela Burtner, Darwin Burtner, Marty Henry, Sam Heppenstall, Susan Heppenstall, Doris Hicks, Paul Hicks, and Ron Steffey

November Minutes were corrected as follows: the newspaper cited should be Leader-Vindicator; Cooling Tower should be Coaling Tower. Motion to approve by Sarah Heppenstall, second by John Placha, passed.

Motion to accept Financial Report for November and to approve paying a bill of \$64.56 to Sarah Heppenstall for postage was made by Dennis Hawley and seconded by John Placha, and passed.

Motion to appoint Joanne Haneke to Finance Committee and to have signatory power for checking account was made by Sarah Heppenstall, seconded by Dennis Hawley, and passed.

Toni Henry reported that ARTA is working with the Redbank Valley Trail Association (RVTA) to engage an accountant to review all necessary forms, filings, and records applicable to our nonprofit status. When an a qualified accountant is identified and a fee is set, the arrangement will come as a request to the Board.

Ron Steffey reported that the lawsuit is moving forward and should be resolved very soon.

Patty Brunner sent word that the tax exemption from the state should come within two weeks.

The Boy Scout troop project is on hold until the spring. The contact for this is Sam Montgomery.

Toni Henry proposed a meeting agenda format that tracks the five goals set at the Board retreat earlier this year, with every goal being coordinated by a Board member as follows:

Trail Safety, Maintenance, and Improvements – Dick Starr

Total Trail Survey – John Placha

Annual Event – no one assigned for now as no Board member feels competent to handle this task

Public Relations and Marketing – Toni Henry

Fund Raising – Sarah Heppenstall

Angie Burtner reported that the trail will be closed in East Brady for about four months while construction is being done. There will be signs posted in that area and there will be a notice in the Winter Update ARTA Newsletter.

A motion to use the \$633 in the Signage Restricted Account to purchase six “For your own safety” signs and twenty-seven “No Motor Vehicles” signs was made by Sarah Heppenstall, seconded by John Placha, and passed.

Sarah Heppenstall will contact Adopt-A-Trail volunteers to see if they are willing to maintain their mile for 2012.

Angie and Darwin Burtner reported that exciting progress is being made on the turntable reclamation project.

The ARTA ad in the Tourism Bureau publication will focus on the role of volunteers in the trail maintenance, dispelling the notion that the trail is a government project. It will also include contact information.

A motion to join Pennsylvania Great Outdoors (for \$128 in 2012) was made by Dennis Hawley, seconded by John Placha, and passed conditional on Angie Burtner ascertaining that it is not too late for ARTA to be included in PA GO 2012 publications. This membership would also put ARTA in the PA Wilds organization.

Ron Steffey reported on efforts to get detailed descriptions of scope and cost for nine potential projects along the trail. Already some ARTA members have toured these sites in order to give AVLTL input about setting priorities for the work. AVLTL welcomes input from all ARTA members. Ron will use Survey Monkey to solicit input from members. There will also be an article in the Winter Update Newsletter.

Ron Steffey also reported that the residents of Manorville have largely been cooperative about removing encroachments and working with the AVLTL, including members of the Manorville Borough Council.

Toni Henry will be looking into the application process for grants from REI, Northwest Commission, and UPMC Health Plan.

Sarah Heppenstall reported that the campaign for the 2012 map is very successful. All but two advertising spaces have been purchased. RVTA purchased a \$400 panel on the map itself and UPMC Health Plan purchased an acknowledgment on the cover of the map for \$400. There will definitely be enough funds to print 7,000 maps.

A motion to appoint Ron Steffey as ARTA's Erie to Pittsburgh Trail representative and to appoint Mike Steimer as the alternate was made by John Placha, seconded by Dick Starr, and passed.

Toni Henry reported that members of the Boards of ARTA and RVTA, as well as Ron Steffey and, as needed, a representative from AVLTL, will be meeting every other month to coordinate matters of mutual interest. Various Board members will be asked to attend based on the topics on the agenda for each meeting. The next meeting is on January 9, 2012 at 12:30 pm at Fox's Pizza in Kittanning.

The next ARTA Board meeting will be on Monday, January 9th at 6:30 pm in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Armstrong County Courthouse Annex.

A motion to adjourn was made by John Placha, seconded by Dick Starr, and passed.