

## SAUCON RAIL TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Monday, January 24, 2011  
Time: 5:04 PM  
Location: Hellertown Borough

Present: Jack Cahalan, Lower Saucon Township Manager; Donna Bristol and Jerry Holum, Lower Saucon Township Representatives; Charlie Luthar, Hellertown Borough Manager and Tina Krasnansky, Hellertown Assistant Manager; Dawn Kresge, Coopersburg Borough Manager and Jennifer Wescoe-Shaninger, Coopersburg Borough Representative. Guests: Roger Jurczak, Al Horvath, and Cassandra Yorgey, Hellertown - Lower Saucon Township PATCH; Jack said we don't have anyone here from Hellertown Borough, although the Manager is here. Upper Saucon Township is not represented here also.

- Jack said everyone should have gotten a copy of the minutes from the last meeting. If you have any corrections, let him know. They will be posted on the Township website.
- Jack said when we discussed the meeting start times last year, we all preferred a 5:00 PM start time. Several members of the public said we should make it at 7:00 PM so people could attend. As a compromise, we said we would have two meetings at 5:00 PM and the third at 7:00 PM. He thinks we should just go to a straight 5:00 PM start time for all the meetings. The group was in agreement. He said they will post it as 5:00 PM, but we will still rotate the meeting locations. February 28<sup>th</sup> is in Coopersburg; March 28<sup>th</sup> is in Upper Saucon and April 25<sup>th</sup> is in Lower Saucon. Charlie said on the 28<sup>th</sup>, he and Tina won't be present as they have the casino grant rounds. Jack said he will also have someone here, probably the Assistant Manager.

Jack said he also wanted to introduce Jerry Holum, who is the new representative from Lower Saucon Township. Jerry replaced Chris Stromski, so Donna and Jerry are representatives from the Township. Jerry is important to this group as he lives on a property abutting the trail. He's our eyes and ears for the trail in Lower Saucon Township, as well as Donna.

This is something we've discussed previously. We do not have the final inter-municipal agreement and by-laws from Coopersburg or Upper Saucon Township. Dawn said she thought she had to wait in line for Upper Saucon to approve it and then they would be the final one to sign off on it. Apparently, she found out that she can take her copy and give it to Solicitor for review and then take it to Council for approval. She will see her Solicitor tomorrow night at their Council meeting; so hopefully, they can get the inter-municipal agreement finished. Jack said that's encouraging to hear as there will be three municipalities that are signed on. It is critical that we all be formed into the Saucon Rail Trail Advisory Committee because we're looking towards a spring opening of the trail and there are a lot of critical decisions that have to be made in order to get the trail finished and get an opening arranged and have the trail operate under a joint set of rules and policies. The lack of the intergovernmental agreement has gone on for over a year. The history is that he and Charlie put together a draft back in 2009 and it was passed between the Township and the Borough and they looked at it and adopted it. They then sent copies to Coopersburg Borough and Upper Saucon Township. You've heard at meetings previously that Tom from Upper Saucon said there were some issues that his Solicitor had with the agreement. We're not sure what those issues are as they haven't had any feedback from him. It has gone on for about a year now and we have discussed this at the Saucon Valley Partnership (SVP) meetings, which is a group made up of the Borough, the Township and the school district. At a meeting in December, the SVP voted to send a letter to the Chairman of the Upper Saucon Township Supervisors and the President of Coopersburg Borough Council. Dawn has seen the copy. This kind of laid out the issues with the lack of agreement. It gives a little bit of a history of us obtaining a lease from SEPTA and then forming this advisory committee and meeting on a monthly basis since September of 2009 and we still don't have the intergovernmental agreement which we point out in here that is critical because the development of the trail is going to reach a stage in springtime when we can open sections of it in Hellertown, Lower Saucon and Upper Saucon. There are issues we're trying to deal in with this body and we need a joint committee to make recommendations and then to push them up to the

Supervisors and Councils for their approval. This letter went out with a copy of the intergovernmental agreement and by-laws. He's glad to hear Coopersburg will be joining us. He hasn't heard anything from Tom from Upper Saucon and is disappointed that there hasn't been any movement and he really feels bad for the representatives from the Township and Boroughs who have been putting their time and effort into this and we really haven't gotten anywhere. You've come up with a lot of great ideas and recommendations, but they haven't moved forward because of the lack of cohesiveness in this committee. That's a disappointment. He also received an email from Carolyn Lidie who has been attending these meetings as an unofficial Upper Saucon Township representative and she asked whether we were planning to schedule a joint opening of the rail trail and he emailed her back and said we'd love to do that, but there's more important things we need to do and the first thing is to approve the intergovernmental agreement. He asked her if she knew anything about it and she had no information at all about it. It's been complete silence from Upper Saucon Township. They haven't heard anything about what their plans are. That's a concern because the trail is going to open in Hellertown and Lower Saucon Township and it's going to connect with the portion of the trail that goes into Upper Saucon Township so there will be people who are going to be traveling between the communities and there will be some issues and we need some structure for this committee to deal with those issues. Jennifer said her husband went to a Supervisor's meeting at Upper Saucon and he said they were talking about having opening ceremonies for the Upper Saucon portion of the trail, do you know that? Jack said no, he doesn't know anything. The only one he heard from was Carolyn and she said they'd like to do something jointly. He said we need this intergovernmental agreement and it's our priority right now. Jennifer said she was not there, but her husband said it sounded like they had a date set for opening. She'd be interested in reading the minutes. Jerry said Tom has gone on record saying they are very apprehensive about signing it because in the past they had some problems with Coopersburg. Jack said Tom had mentioned before the intergovernmental agreement they signed with Coopersburg years ago and they are still having some issues with that. The point was you have to review these and make sure there are no hidden problems with them. Speaking for the Township, and he thinks Charlie will say the same thing, he doesn't think there's anything in this agreement other than recitations of who we are and what we intend to do. Charlie said it's the standard boiler plate agreement. Jack said we don't have any specifics back from Tom's Solicitor or from their Board of Supervisors. Jennifer said she would prefer they lay it on the table and hash through it. It doesn't make sense that they aren't even looking at it and working through it. Jack said if it's a legal issue, the Solicitors got together previously and worked on the SEPTA lease and they were able to work through all of the legal issues on that. There were some issues with sections of the SEPTA trail in each of the municipalities. Hellertown had some issues. Upper Saucon had some issues with a private property owner. Those were all worked out amongst the Solicitors. If there is a problem with intergovernmental agreement, a call to Mike Corriere or to Linc Treadwell would have solved those problems in no time. As we get closer to the trail opening without this agreement, he's more and more concerned about how the trail is going to be operated if there are some issues. From his and Charlie's perspective, it will be treated as a municipal park, and it will be maintained as a park; it will be policed as a park. They will still be up and running, but it's just disappointing we aren't linked together as four municipalities.

Charlie said it ties into the SEPTA agreement that all four communities are going to work together. They talked about fundraising and the work people will be putting into that and without this agreement, he thinks we are at a disadvantage for any of that. The by-laws, which are a part of that agreement, are a part of that. He's glad to see that Coopersburg will be coming on board. Maybe Tom will come around and we'll see him at the next meeting. It's long overdue.

Donna said is it premature to talk about the opening? Jack said we're not done with the development. We are making progress, but don't have an end in sight yet. He hopes we will be done in March. He doesn't know how his Council will feel about that. Charlie said there could be a formal event set up by all of you when the weather is better. Donna said she has a volunteer for food and a band. Jack said we can discuss that. We definitely want to have something to mark the occasion. Carolyn mentioned something about simultaneous events where we would have short ceremonies at both ends. He doesn't know if Upper Saucon Parks and Recreation are working on the opening ceremony. Carolyn's not here tonight, so we don't have any information.

Jerry said there isn't any money in Upper Saucon's budget for a Phase II, so how can they contemplate doing any kind of ceremony? They took the whole Phase II out. Dawn said they were going to do Phase II this year and her plan for next year when they did Phase III was that they could start their portion and link together, but Tom had told her they weren't budgeting anything for Phase II, so that puts her off another year for their portion as Coopersburg has no parking. People would have to park at the Living Memorial Park to walk to Coopersburg as they have to get on at Upper Saucon. They wrap right around Coopersburg. At the bottom portion of Coopersburg's trail there is a water issue there that she and Tom were going to work on together as it starts in Upper Saucon and goes down into Coopersburg. She has to wait for him to start his Phase III section in order for Coopersburg to start. Jack said what's Phase II? Dawn said the Phase II was the section from Preston to Passer Roads they were supposed to start this year. She said Tom said the third portion would run from Passer Road south to link up with Coopersburg, so he was doing it at three stages, three phases. Jack said even if they did Phase II, that still would not link Coopersburg up? Dawn said correct, she would have one more year, which is fine, but now it puts them another year back. Jack said Phase II isn't going to be done in 2011? The earliest that will be done is 2012? That still will not link Coopersburg up, so that puts them to 2013? Dawn said yes. She said they have a water issue at Coopersburg that comes from Upper Saucon. They can always start the beginning part of Coopersburg, but there is no place to park and get on the trail, so it would just have to be local people whose properties are along the trail. It wouldn't benefit anyone else. Jerry said Upper Saucon already spent over \$200,000.00 on their Phase I. Jack said he thinks it was \$360,000.00.

Jack said going back to the trail development; he has some pictures of the fencing going up on the bridges over the Saucon Creek. The one bridge is down at the Old Mill Road crossing which is in Lower Saucon Township and then the second bridge is the Saucon Creek Bridge, which is behind Neighbors. The right side of it is Lower Saucon and the other side is Hellertown. We share that bridge and are splitting the cost. They are going to do the culvert that is south of Bingen Road along Reading Road. The fencing will be completed except Hellertown Borough has a small portion at Water Street where the Silver Creek intersects. There is 30' on each side. They need to get the fencing done there. They were hoping to use this contractor but his cost was too high. Once that is done, we also have a contract in the Township that we've approved for the gates and bollards at the road crossings at Old Mill Road and Meadows Road, and at a site we hope could be a future trailhead. That will be done in the next couple of weeks. We are working with Hellertown Borough on the surfacing options.

Charlie said there's 30' of fencing on Silver Creek Road that we have to come up with. The price for Lower Saucon was \$25.00 a foot, and Hellertown's price was \$125.00 a foot from the same contractor. They ran into all kinds of problems when they were digging down for the ballasts. The price went up. Jack said it was the way the bridge basin was formed. It was slanted instead of straight down, so they had to move it in another foot or two so they could go straight down. Charlie said they are getting other quotes. They got a quote today for \$2,900.00 and they might end up with chain link fence depending on how much money they have. They need one more quote in order to do it right. In terms of the bollards, he's not sure they are going to be able to do them. They may end up using Jersey barriers. They are working on the trail crossing which is across Water Street, the PennDOT crossing. They should have a visit with Signal Service hopefully by the end of this week. They did get a quote of \$35,000.00 for the crossing and they are going to go out and see if they can get some of that work done with the Township and Borough Public Works people by moving the flashing signal to Front Street. Walnut Street is pretty straightforward. It's just a matter of marking the crossing and they have to wait for weather conditions to improve for that. They may use Jersey barriers for the crossing until they get more funding together. They did get some open space funding from the County for that, so they have some money for that and it depends how the estimates come in for that project. They had hoped to use slag for the surface material from the Thomas Iron Works as they did do a sample patch down at the Grist Mill and it worked very well and compacted very tight. We had a Phase I environmental study done at the Thomas Iron site to look at the slag and there were two or three things that were identified to be checked and there was some spot sampling done last month in December and the slag turned out to be better than what the consultant thought. Our concern is we do not want to have slag used on the trail if it is not environmentally safe. We're probably going to do a Phase II on that slag along the Thomas Iron site because we do want to have that developed as a natural park, and to re-vegetate what is probably 150 tons of slag and to try to use some of it on the trail if we can. That process

will probably take us very long and we have talked about options for the trail surface such as using crushcrete as a base and screenings as a top surface. It may not be the final profile of the trail, but it would be a starting point to use. He doesn't know if we are going to have enough information for the slag to trigger it for the season.

Roger said there was an article in the paper within the last week about a process where they are taking the millings and warehousing them because apparently you can only use about 25% of the millings for recycling. When they do the millings, they take them back to wherever they make the macadam and it has to do with PennDOT standards, but they can only use 25% of the millings to make a whole batch of macadam. It sounded from the article that there was considerable amount of millings stored or warehoused. From what they've talked about in prior meetings, it seems that millings are very popular. It's hard to get them. Is there something between the lines? If there are millings available, and they are being warehoused, then wouldn't that be a material we should look at? At several earlier meetings, we said getting them for use on the trail was pretty difficult to do. Roger said Charlie mentioned they were able to get two loads. Charlie said they used them down on Water Street where the Farmer's Market is, and it does form a good base, but you need an awful lot. Jack said he doesn't know who is storing them. Roger said he has the feeling that when highways are milled and they are not using them or taking them back to the macadam plant and warehousing it there or somebody is finding an alternate use and then recycling. Charlie said is there some reference you can give us, then we can track it? Roger said he would. He thinks he can find the article. It had to do with Whitehall. They paved portions between certain streets and they did a process which is relatively new and they go in and instead of milling, they go down about a foot and they bring up everything. Charlie said it's called a train. Roger said when they do that, it's about 35% more costly to do that than mill and just put new macadam down, but when you bring up the base stone it provides a much sounder base because they are mixing concrete with the stone and they are laying it down and rolling it and the last step is they put the final coating of macadam on it, which is about 2" thick. They are getting a restoration of about a foot. They used that in areas where the traffic is higher in volume and/or the road itself is almost at the point where you have to tear it down and go to the base soil and bring in the base coats and build it up a foot and a half. He's hearing somebody's garbage is our benefit and we can use it for the base coat for the trail. He would think the millings would be great on top of the crushcrete and that's where he would use it. Donna said then basically you have a road you are walking on. Someone said no, because it's not bound together. The millings are just loose stone. If they form together, that means there was a lot of tar when they were milled. Millings are just ground up stone with tar. Charlie said the one thing they saw from what they got off the road, it does form a pretty strong surface. You go down to the park and you can see it. If you have information, they can certainly look into this.

Jerry said what we did on these trestles is we took off and removed the old railings. That railing was right on the edge of the bridge? Jack said yes. Jerry said we put up the wooden fencing now and the wooden fencing is about a foot and a half off the edge, which allows people to get on the other side of that fence. All they have to do is walk up along the side and walk on the inside ledge. Jack said it doesn't encourage that. On the approaches to those fence railings on the bridges, they'll be split rail fences that will transition people off of the bridges onto the regular trail. When the steel railings were up there, which were circa 1917, in some cases, they were pretty shaky. If those were left, it would have encouraged another walkway between the wood fencing and the old steel railings. We didn't want that to happen. We want people on the trail to be travel across the bridges between the two wood fences. If someone wants to go around on the other side, that's something we aren't going to be encouraging. They thought that by leaving the other railing it would encourage that type of behavior. Jerry said it's gone now. It doesn't make any difference. We ought to have some safety on that side so people won't try to walk over that. He can see people trying to fish off the top of the bridge. They are going to be walking on that ledge. Jack said they would have to climb over a fence to do that. Jerry said there's going to be a fence there now? Jack said where your finger was, there's going to be a split rail fence right there that's probably going to go down about 10 or 20 feet. It will be along the trail as an approach to the bridge. There will be two approaches on either side. It's either going to be post and rail fencing or Jersey barriers, and in some cases, we talked about putting some berms made out of material. We want to funnel people as they come from the high areas over the bridges into the bridge approach, over the bridge, and then off on the other side. We are not going to have anything there that you can just go off the edge. Jerry said how much fencing do you envision coming up along to

Hellertown and Lower Saucon from this point? Jack said it's probably at least 20 feet. Charlie said there was one place it was quite a distance. Jack said down at the Bingen Road where there isn't any of this fencing there are steep drop offs. We are trying to get people to stay in the middle of the trail and we're not going to encourage them to hop a fence and sit on the edge of the bridge or jump off the bridge. Basically people can do that right now, but we felt the steel railings were not safe and they would encourage people to go outside the trail fencing and fish or sit on the side of the bridge. Someone said how will fishermen be able to get down to the Saucon Creek to fish? Jack said they are going to have to go around where the post and rail fencing will be. We don't know where those access points are now and where they are coming and going from. He thinks there are some trails from Reading Road where they come up to the track. He's not sure where they fish on the bridge, if they do at all, but if fishermen come to us and tell us we need to work on some access, that's something we can talk to them about. We haven't heard anything from any of the groups. Charlie said when the trail is done, then there will be people on the committee who will go out and take a look at it and say there is a weakness over here, this is a potential safety hazard. Silver Creek is a good example where we have nothing. It's a requirement there that we get people to look for these kinds of things. Jack said he wants to emphasize that we're not going to open the trail unless these safety features are in place. That was one of the requirements to put something up on that bridge that was safe so people can travel over that. The steel railings were not considered safe by SEPTA or by our engineers. On the Saucon Creek Bridge, there wasn't even a railing on one side. Jerry said it was just one section. Jack said it was the whole western side. Jerry said the height of the wooden fencing is good for safety. Jack said that's the recommended height if someone is on a bicycle, they are still well protected with that height of the railing. The wood rail is done, but the approaches are something that must be worked on. Charlie is going to work on the Silver Creek portion. Donna said is it done on the Bingen Bridge? Jack said no fencing will go on the Bingen Bridge. That's 42" high and we figure they are good enough. There will be post and rail fencing on those approaches as there are steep drop offs. Donna said it looks very good.

Roger said he spoke with Kevin this afternoon. Kevin's birthday is March 13<sup>th</sup> and he's supposed to have his Eagle project completed before his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Where he is with regard to the kiosk, he tells him that all the parts are cut. He has to purchase two components for the bulletin board aspect and he has the fasteners. He said that he needs two more weeks to complete it. He asked him if he would have it completed by the third week in February and Kevin told him yes. We're going to have one kiosk, not two. As many of you know, Kevin's grandfather has a saw mill and has cut all of the materials in terms of their respective sizes. It's all being made out of red oak which is a hardwood and a very superior choice of species. The posts that support the whole thing have been milled and have been sitting under a tarp for a month now. They are the last piece that goes in. The basic aspect of this is the bulletin board which has the doors on both sides. There is a roof that goes on top. Then there are the posts which are separated by horizontals. The key is to get the bulletin board completed as that establishes right where the posts have to go. If they've done it according to the drawing, it should sit on top of the posts. There's a little bit of latitude. In as much as we talked about goals and dates, he knows the lumber has been cut. Three more weeks is realistic. It's going to be a nice unit. How much lead time will the Public Works need if we say the second week of February, can we dig a couple of posts and see the dimensions. He doesn't think we want a long trough, and then the stability of the poles will be marginal. We can drill holes or dig individual holes for the posts. Charlie said he thinks if they put a small bucket on the backhoe, they'd be able to do it and if you give them a week, that's plenty of time. The only issue is snow and everyone gets pulled out for that. Roger said maybe between now and the first week in February if we could meet and define where it's going to go on the trail and then put a stake in the ground. Charlie said sure; tell him when you are available. They met out there with Kevin and talked about the location adjacent to the trail. It will be about 60 feet north of Water Street. Eventually if everything comes to pass, years down the line, there would be a formal parking area there as part of the streetscape plan that was developed for Hellertown, it would have access for Water Street Park and access for anyone who wants to get on or get off the trail. Roger said the trays which have the sedum have been planted and are in the greenhouse. Kevin was curious as to how that was going to coordinate. How he envisioned it was that the kiosks would be in place and the ceremony that relates to the kiosks with the Scout and Eagle thing, and the trays would get applied in April or May when the weather gets warmer. He was at the Council meeting and gave a good presentation.

Jerry said he's not sure how many people saw the finished trail in Upper Saucon. A question relates on the elevated areas of the fencing. In Upper Saucon they put fencing all along the areas that are elevated. It was a safety issue. The question to Lower Saucon is what do we plan to do? Jack said that was the decision Upper Saucon made, but in his opinion it is excessive as far as putting up that much fencing which we don't feel is needed all along the elevated sections. It's a 30' wide trail and we're putting a 10' trail down the middle of it. They didn't see it a safety issue or any need for that much fencing along the sides. Charlie said yes, Upper Saucon does have an enormous amount of fencing. The trail is wide enough and it should be safe in Lower Saucon and Hellertown. Jack said there are rail trails all over PA & NJ where you walk or bike on a railroad grade that has steep drop offs and there's no fencing along them. The railings on the bridges were not safe and that's what they replaced with the wooden fencing. That's the opinion of our engineers and planners who looked at our section and they also recommended that in the areas where there are steep drop offs that we put up something like the post and rail fencing, but not for the whole length of the trail where it is elevated.

Donna said at our last meeting we went over the rules and regulations we drew up. This was then taken to Lower Saucon's Parks and Recreation Board. They also went over it and made additions, corrections and so forth. Tom Butera from the Parks and Recreation Board re-did it for us and put it all on one page and this is what they have come up with. It's ready to be taken to the different Councils and they can look at it and decide if they want to exclude certain rules, add, or accept it the way it is. She said it just has the changes they have already gone over already at their last meeting. They researched all of the different parks in our area and brought in all of their rules and regulations and all of the ones that applied to us to put this together and there was a lot of research done to get to this point. For those managers who are here, it's ready to go to your Councils and see what they have to say. Roger said how do you decide what is the side of the trail? Donna said that's one of the rules and regulations. It says horses are only permitted on the side of the trail, not on the walking or biking area. Our rail section is 30' wide, but we are putting a pathway on 10' of that. If horses are permitted, then the side of the trails will be finished off by horse clubs and maybe they will put down something like wood chips. Roger said the fencing over the bridges is at what dimension? Charlie said the Saucon Creek bridge should be about 30'. The fencing is less than that, it's about 26'. The others are pretty much the same width. Donna said most places like Jacobsburg and Nockamixon Parks that do allow horses, the trails are like a deer trail. They are not all over the trail. They don't really take up that much room. Roger said he's trying to envision where the dogs and horses are and where the bikes and people are. He's doing a little sketch that we have a 30' wide trail and a trail in the center of that, nominally at 10', and then there's whatever is on the shoulders. He's trying to clarify what side of trail really means.

Jerry said should we insert here with the alcoholic beverages, no illegal drugs. Donna said illegal drugs are a given, where are illegal drugs permitted? Jerry said he doesn't know where alcoholic beverages are permitted in public either. Donna said that was something that was on all the rules and regulations on the parks. When we put this together, it was always listed that alcoholic beverages are not permitted. If you permit alcoholic beverages, then you have beer cans all over the place.

Jerry asked if trash cans are going to be on the trail? Jack said yes, primarily near the trail heads. The maintenance of that gets to be too much if they are all along the trail. Donna said that was one of the things that all the parks follow is a "leave no trace" policy. Whatever you bring in, you take out with you. You want to encourage people to take their trash with them. Jack said they put in for a joint grant for trail amenities and it does include trash cans, picnic tables and other things that we need on the trail. We are waiting to hear from them. It's a DCNR grant and we should hear something soon. Donna said the rules and regulations would be posted at the kiosks at the trailhead.

Mr. Horvath asked if there were going to be any benches along the trail? Jack said yes, that's part of the amenities also. Donna said they have a sub-committee for fundraising and that's part of the fundraising for individuals or groups that want to provide a bench for the trail. They were planning on having different events. The long range plans would be to have bikes races, 10K's, things of that nature. In order to sponsor something like that, you have to have funds. We talked about sections of the trails being sponsored by boy scouts or girl scouts or groups like that.

Jack said what would have to be done if we take this to Council? In order for this to be enforceable, it would have to be put into an ordinance and be approved by his Township Council. They could add this to the existing park ordinance or they could create a new ordinance for the rail trail. There are certain acts in here like no motorized vehicles, no hunting, no fires, etc. that are prohibited so you need to have an ordinance in place for the Police so if they do stop someone and observe them committing one of the prohibited acts, they'd be able to give them a warning or a citation which would be enforceable in court. There are other things on here which are currently prohibited such as the horse issue. They would have to change the park ordinances or create a new ordinance just for the rail trail saying horses would be allowed on the rail trail. They are not allowed in our Township parks. There has to be something separate for the rail trail that says that horses are allowed. The other thing on here that is kind of a concern is that there is not any agreement from the representatives that are here that we all support horses on the trails. He hasn't heard yes or no to that. We haven't had a vote one way or another on that. The other thing about the horses is the parking area for the trailers. That is mentioned on here and that wasn't discussed. Lower Saucon and Coopersburg do not have any parking for horse trailers, which leaves the parks in Upper Saucon and Hellertown as the only available space for this use. That would have to be something the Borough and Upper Saucon Township would have to be on board with. The rest of it is all good and it's a great start and a lot of great work that Donna and Tom have done. It needs some more work, and to go back to the intergovernmental agreement, we're kind of stalled as far as this body saying okay, let's take a vote and push it up to the Councils and Supervisors for a decision.

Charlie said he thinks the intergovernmental agreement is important. The rules and regulations should really be done jointly as he'd hate to go to Hellertown and Lower Saucon and then get flagged as the rules are different in Upper Saucon. If we had that agreement, we could do this a lot faster. Jennifer said this is more like a floating type document right now and do we wait until we see what is happening or should Donna keep plugging away on it and make different versions? Jack said he thinks Donna has done the best job she could and we should push it ahead and see what reaction we get. They may say no to some of these things. We need to find out one way or another, by April, what are we talking about as far as operating rules and regulations.

Jack pointed out that if we are not all on board on these rules, for example if Hellertown and Lower Saucon say yes to horses and Upper Saucon says no, then he doesn't know who is going to turn horseback riders away when they get to Upper Saucon. His Council has asked what are the other municipalities doing and he thinks they'd be influenced if Upper Saucon said no. That may influence their decision. We should move it ahead so they can look at it. This is the best we can do under these circumstances. He can have an answer back by next meeting and let everyone know what the Council said. Donna said where the borders are, like when you leave Lower Saucon Township to go into Upper Saucon, is there always a road there? Jack said right now there's a sign there that Upper Saucon put up that says the rail trail is closed. If the trail is open, unless somebody puts a sign up saying you are entering Upper Saucon Township, you would have no way of knowing. Donna said or saying "no horses beyond this point". Jack said how do you enforce that if somebody decides to keep on going?

Someone said procedurally, you are saying to take this to your Council in Hellertown and Lower Saucon? Jack said yes. It was taken to the Parks & Recreation board and they supported it. The only caveat he has on this is where we all stand with the horse issue. We really haven't taken a vote as we aren't a joint body. Charlie said they don't have a park board, so he and Gail would bring it up at Council. He wouldn't be surprised if they made a decision at the next meeting. Jack said that's why we got to get it up there so they can make a decision. Someone said based on the fact that we're just an advisory group and we've done a lot of work and we're two years in the making. In order to push this to get a yea or nay, maybe we need to voice some thoughts in terms of would we support this wholeheartedly and even if we did and it didn't get by the Councils, we still don't know where it's at. Jack said that his way of thinking is let's run this to the Councils and at least they are hearing what's being done and it should stimulate some discussion on it. Until we get this intermunicipal agreement in place, we should push forward operating it as municipal parks and if Upper Saucon doesn't chose to participate, he's not sure where that leaves us with the SEPTA agreement. Jack said we're okay individually as we all had individual leases. We won't be able to post the

rules for the entire trail. That's the kind of information we'd hope we would have at the kiosk in Hellertown, these are the rules for the entire trail. This is when it operates, etc. That's going to be the difference, but we can definitely operate it as separate municipal parks. Donna said initially the inter-municipal agreement was so we could get governmental type of fundraising. Jack said we even talked about we could go to a backup with a resolution we could adopt. There are a lot of things that the inter-governmental agreement makes easier to do. Charlie said you can't even get a DCNR grant for the trail because of the nature of the lease, but it doesn't mean you can't get some other kinds of grants.

Jerry said if we take these rules and regulations to Council, isn't that a blessing that says we endorse them? Jack said no, he is going to tell his Council that there isn't any endorsement from this group because you haven't taken a vote as you aren't formed into Saucon Rail Trail Advisory Committee. We appointed representatives from Lower Saucon, Hellertown and Coopersburg. You are being asked to vote on a set of rules for all four municipalities. We can't do that without the intergovernmental agreement. What he's saying is take it and he'll explain those circumstances and we'll say we are passing it on to you as the best effort from the group that's been meeting for the past two years and here it is.

Charlie said do we have actual representatives from Coopersburg? Dawn said they appointed Jennifer and a chiropractor, but he can't make it as he has office hours when the meetings are. Jennifer said that a friend of hers wants to become a representative of Upper Saucon and has written a letter, but she doesn't know where that stands right now. Jerry said is there going to be a website? Jack said yes, eventually. Steve approached him about that last year and said he had a gentlemen who he worked with could put a website together very quickly. The issue came down to who was going to pay for his services. There is a hosting fee. The URL for [www.sauconrailtrail.com](http://www.sauconrailtrail.com) we have. Steve was willing to put something together and Jack told him that is something else we're hampered by because of lack of the agreement as that would lay out how the cost would be apportioned among the four municipalities. That got stalled and that's when Steve came up with the Facebook idea.

Jack said they will bring the rail trail rules and regulations to his Council and bring back their feedback next month.

- Jennifer said she did speak with Steve Johnson from L. L. Bean about the fundraising brochure. He sounded very excited about the prospect about being involved. She will be following up with him. She spoke with Sherry Zondlo from St. Luke's Physical Therapy and they are very, very excited and were curious as to when we would have this fundraising brochure ready to go. She did tell her that hopefully in the springtime we would have something for them. She reiterated the situation. She definitely sounded like she was on board. We had talked about the size of the benches and for the fencing for the bridges and how they would be inscribed and that type of thing. Those types of details definitely have to be laid out. If she was a business owner, she'd want to know how her logo was and how the font is and all those details. Donna said the railings won't happen as the railings are up. Jennifer said we could have someone inscribe the company name, or even a plaque would be okay. A plaque might even be better than to have to take someone out there. Donna said it might be better if you are going to raise money and you have it inscribed on a piece of wood and attached to the railing. Jennifer said she doesn't know if we should have it in sections, just an ongoing funding thing. Donna said if someone contributes money, is it going to be permanent like the bench? Jennifer said she would think yes. Someone said that's a lot easier to maintain. That's what they did at the casino and established a bench by the skateboard park. Jennifer said if we could do the same thing for Saucon Rail Trail as it means so much to people remembering their loved ones. We could do plaques on the benches also and just have a basic bench. Charlie said they got some recycled plastic benches from Giant and they are down at our Water Street Park. You can see the Giant insignia. Donna said do they hold up? Charlie said yes. They are plastic and they hold up. It's tough for vandals. Jerry said do we have anything about vandalism along the trail? If we start putting things up like that, we don't want people carving into a railing that we put over Saucon Creek. We don't have any rules about vandalism. Charlie said the rest of the ordinance when you adopt it, will have penalties for violating the rules. There will be certain fees or imprisonment. Maybe you have a line item in there about defacing property. Jack said we can add anything that we feel we need to cover ourselves on. We can put something in there and make sure it's enforced if someone busts something up. Jerry said those benches



are very expensive. You are talking about \$800.00 if you are going to get a quality bench. You don't want to have a bench like you have down at Grist Mill. You want to get something that has a little quality in it. Donna said they have to be locked down somehow. She read that there were benches stolen somewhere near here. Jennifer said we can also have trees for fundraising in memory of. Jack said good idea. Jennifer said that's where they are with the fundraising type brochure. There's not a lot of movement since November. They do have the logo and everyone has seen it, via email. Keri Maxfield from Lower Saucon Township created it for us and she sent it out for everyone's approval and that way the Council can approve it. She was going to get in touch with Keri about the clarity of it for enlarging and then present it to our Councils for next meeting. We have to talk to her about paying her. Jack said do you have any idea about the cost? Jennifer said no, she didn't talk to her about the cost. She thought it was going to be presented to the Council and see if it's approved, and then she'll let us know the bill. Donna said don't you think when you present it to the Council you should present the other person's design also? Jack said she's out. Jennifer said she bowed out gracefully. She didn't think anyone was very keen on that logo, and when she sent this one out, everyone was more positive. Someone asked what was planned to do with the logo? Jennifer said it's pretty much to identify it. Mr. Horvath asked if you could put it on T-shirts, etc. Jennifer said that's what they want to do. Jennifer said do you want her to get it enlarged and put it on a board? Jack said he has one he did in color and it's very clear. What he proposed to do was to take it to his Council. Jennifer will re-send it to everyone. Jack said he will bring back Council's comments at the next meeting in February. The cost issue, unless she gives us a bill and splits it four ways and we send it to Dawn, Charlie and Tom.

Charlie said he did talk to Steve about the Facebook, and he said there were about 135 friends. He said last time there were 119, so there wasn't much more activity.

Jack said he'd be comfortable if there was "DRAFT" across the rules and regulations. Jerry said he is working with Jennifer on the historical sites. They've completed the Hellertown side of it and identified fifteen sites and the parameter is within two blocks of the trail. Later on this week, he will be conducting his interviews with three historians from Bingen to compile their historic sites. The historic value in Bingen is going to be a lot more extensive than any other area along the trail. Jennifer said they did Upper Saucon and they had a lot of information and was very helpful. Donna asked if they got Landis Mill and the Landis Mill Farmstead? Jennifer said yes. They also got Hofford General Store, Nancy's General Store, Bachman Mills, Kuhn's Mill. They do not have as many sites as the Lower Saucon and Bingen area, but they have something now. Ted Apack, Cliff Benner, Jimmy Shaeffer, and Evan Brown were very helpful. Jerry said the question to be resolved how they were going to put these things together to present it. Donna said we have a website, so maybe that's the place to do it. Jennifer said she talked to Keri about this so that the sites they have they are going to locate them on the trail and then she's going to plot them in the map. The other map she has shown everyone was a lot more aesthetically pleasing than this, but it will correlate with the number of historical sites which will be briefly described in the brochure. Her goal is to keep it all in one and have it longer and more informational rather than having things pulled out. She understands that it would be a fundraising and informational brochure, but they would want to push to keep it altogether and if they'd have to make it a little longer, that would be okay too. Jack said that's good. Jerry said they are going to have so much and he thinks it's going to be a big brochure. That's what they are shooting for. They are using only two sentences in the brochure, but when it's put at the site, that's where the long description and history of it would be. It would also be on the website. Jerry said they'd want to have it available to walkers and people who go out there to the trail. The design of it would be two parts of it. They would have the logo on it, but there's the other thing he's researching right now is the logo from North Penn Railroad, which is what this trail is all about. He's presently trying to find that logo. No one seems to have it. He has to go out to the historic museum out in Strasberg near Hamburg. Jennifer said you want to try to keep it true to the North Pennsylvania Railroad versus the Reading Railroad. Jerry said what he was able to find was an old railroad ticket that when passengers were on the railroad, they had to have a ticket. He has one of the old railroad tickets, and it's from Philadelphia to Wilmette which is out near Johnstown-Altoona area. He was thinking if they didn't have a logo, historians that know things about trains say they don't have anything like that, is there such a thing like that. He thought everyone would have a logo. They might be able to use a logo and insert from Hellertown to Coopersburg instead of Philadelphia to Wilmette. He thinks the ticket stub would be good for a back drop on something like this in

addition to the logo. Donna said if you could give her the name of the railroad with the logo, she has a friend who is a railroad historian and could track it down. Jerry said it's North Penn Railroad.

Jack said a question about the sites and the access from the sites on the trail. If somebody is on the trail, they are only going to be able to get on and off at the various access points. When you say these are within two blocks, is that two blocks from the access points? Jerry said two blocks from the trail itself. Jack said how do you get off the trail to access the site? Jerry said the ones we identified were all the ones in Hellertown. Jack said even in Hellertown, the only access points are the Grist Mill Park and Water Street Park for now. In the Township, there is no access except to the Heller Homestead, which you can get to from Water Street. Donna said where the Meadows is, there's a bridge there. Jack said there you are getting off the trail and are going to have to walk along the road. Donna said it's within walking distance. Jack said we have to look at these sites. You said some are alongside of the trail. Do you have to go down to the next crossing? Jerry said you can physically see the location from the trail. For example, a common one on Meadows Road is the bridge. You can't see that from the trail. What you are saying is we shouldn't be looking at something that is physically further than you can see? Jack said you have to take into account how people are going to access that. Donna said what he's concerned about is how to get there. Jack said what if there is something alongside the trail and you say there's a historic site over there, are people going to go on private property to get to the historic site? You can't go there, that's private property. Jerry said the Heller Homestead, would that be off the board? Jack said no, that's the one thing in Lower Saucon you can get to as you can get off at the Water Street and go across the bridge and go to the Heller Homestead. That's the one site where there is access that you can walk to from the trail.

Roger said maybe in the finality, the accessibility is specific and pertinent, but initially to identify these points, would there be any harm in identifying them? Jack said what they are doing is terrific. They are doing the research and putting it all together. He's just saying if you are doing a map and you are going to give it to someone who is walking on the trail, they may say there's a historic site, and how do I get over there? Donna said her concern when she was researching it for every road that passed over the trail what historical sites were there that people could see is that like the Landis Mill Farmstead, which was built during the 1700s, it's private property and she was going to go to each individual private property owner and ask them do you mind if this is put on the website. If you have a private residence and someone is coming and looking in the windows because they think it's a historical site, it could be an annoyance. Jennifer said that's where they are going to have to go and knock on some doors. Jerry said yes and no. He's not sure that he agrees with that.

Donna said down at New Hope, there are plaques on the historic buildings saying this was built at such and such a time, "Private Property". There's a sign or plaque there. We didn't deal with this yet. Roger said as it relates to the brochure, the brochure is roughly 4"x11". Just a reminder, the kiosks bulletin board is two sided and his thoughts are one side would have these types of notices and on the back side, would have a map of that Township's part of the trail and it's going to be 36" wide and 48" high. You could take 50 different locations and have it readable and large enough that you can identify those points. You are walking from Hellertown, the first kiosk, and let's say there is going to be a kiosk at Bingen Road where that rail side is, you have another kiosk. You could have them there and it would be large enough and the ones that are private property and not accessible would be listed in red. The ones that are accessible would be in gray or black. From a color perspective, at least you could identify the ones you could go to and the ones you can't go to. There's a lot of interest in areas you can't get to, but yet, you'd like to know they are there. In terms of the mechanics of what you do if someone wants to see Charlie's Smokehouse, a private property, you have it identified on the map. Donna said on the map, you could have small pictures. On Meadows Road, right off the trail is the former mill keeper's house, next to that is the old mill, then there's the Moyer Bridge and so on. They are all right there, but there are no sidewalks. There's barely area to walk on the side of the road and what kind of liability do we take.

Jack said he doesn't want to encourage people to go down to the Meadows Banquet Facility and just park their car there and get on the trail. Donna said he's already given permission for that. Jack said he doesn't want to encourage people to park there as there may be some issues with that. It's totally in the flood plain. That isn't something the Township wants to designate as a rail trail access point. Donna said you don't

want it on your map, but Russ could put a sign out there saying they can park there. Jerry said what Donna is saying there is no access to get down to the Meadows Bridge as there is no sidewalk there, so if there is no sidewalk there, are we encouraging them to walk on the street and as a result, there's a liability. Jennifer said she thinks it's important to have all historic sites for the layout. Jack said there are areas all over that you don't have access to. We need to work on getting some connectivity from the trail to these sites. He's saying he doesn't want to encourage people to get on or off the trail at the Meadows Road. There's no parking, no sidewalks, no marked lanes. Donna said there are three places on Old Mill Road. There are three historical sites – the iron bridge, the whole district and two other buildings. Jerry said do you think Glenn Kern would like to have his house mentioned? Jack said he didn't know, but if you go on the Township website right now, it mentions the Ehrhart's Mill Historic District and all the contributing resources and his house is on there. If people were to come in and look in the windows, he wouldn't like that very much. Someone said on each kiosk there should be a statement of understanding that says the following are private property. They are here for your educational aspect. You are to respect the privacy of the ownership. Jerry said you are talking about addition to the rules and regulations, which is a good idea. Someone said if you repeat that on a separate item, he's seeing the rules and regs being on one side and this being on the other side of the kiosk.

Donna said everywhere there is a historical site, you can say underneath it that it's a private residence. Roger said as it develops, sensitivities would be applied. When you were talking about listing of the historic names, do you have a template that says this is the name, a format that is identical in everything you do. Maybe the name of what it is, then the perceived origin date, then a one line sentence that tells what it is that is specific. If you had that in mind, then as you go through the municipalities, it will all be in the same format. Jerry said he doesn't know how a template would work as there's such a wide range, anything from an iron plant to a quarry. Someone said the template, it's not its size or format, what is it, like Heller Homestead built such and such a date and what is the Heller Homestead, what's the significance. That's what he means about a template. Jennifer said she could do a spreadsheet type format. Someone said in his experience, when he had to list a lot of things, the narrative is good, but having a template helps you write a better narrative. The narrative you can devote a page to. If at least you had the template, you could list everything in the same order. Jack said eventually that could be used for the hyperlink for the website if there are any. Just click on Heller Homestead and it brings up their website. Jennifer said that's a great idea.

Meeting adjourned. The time was 6:57 PM. Next meeting – February 28, 2011 @ 5:00 pm at Coopersburg Borough.