

SAUCON RAIL TRAIL OVERSIGHT COMMISSION MEETING

Date: Monday, April 22, 2013
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Hellertown Borough

Present: Lower Saucon Township: Jerry Holum, Roger Jurczak
Hellertown Borough: Steve LaBrake, Joe Pampanin, Charles Hampton, Cathy Kichline
Coopersburg Borough:
Upper Saucon Township: Peter Jarrett, Allen Cassaday, Susan Anderson, Joe Geib

I. Call to Order/Roll Call – Chair

Roger Jurczak welcomed everyone and had all the representatives introduce themselves.

II. Information Items

A. Updated list of 2013 Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Commission Representatives, Term Dates

The commission welcomed new member, Allen Cassaday, representing UST.

Roger introduced Karen Samuels who is proposing a smart phone app of the SRT that could be developed to convey areas of historical significance, ecological and geological areas, retaraunts and other items of significance. Ms. Samuels demonstrated to the committee an app that was developed for the Bethlehem Green Way that identifies pictures of places, notable monuments, parks and trailheads. Ms. Samuels indicated the app is free to develop and proceeds of the sale of the app would be split among the three historical societies. The mechanics of implementation were discussed. The group discussed support and moved to have each municipal representative prepare items of interest that could be presented at the next meeting.

III. Public Comment – Jerry Steward presented a Saucon Rail Trail Event request to the committee. Jerry is seeking approval for a 5K run on June 9, 2013 that would benefit the Boston One Fund. The run would begin at the Grist Mill, proceed to the Reading Road Trailhead, turn around and return to the Grist Mill. The organizers of the event would provide volunteers at the two road crossings as well as clean up after the event. Parking would be at the Grist Mill. Upon motion by Steve LaBrake, the committee conditionally approved the event pending approval of Lower Saucon Township and Hellertown Borough. Mr. Steward was invited to attend the respective Council meetings.

IV. Presentations / Trail Business

A. Rail-Trail Vision – Map Review by Section

i. Organize Subcommittee

No updates were available.

B. Trail Vegetation Planning, Recommendations (Penn State Master Gardeners)

Charles Hampton reported that Erin Frederick and two master gardeners are having a meeting to formalize items to address develop a map of invasives. Mr. Hampton will coordinate to help develop recommendations. The intent is to train individuals to identify and map areas of invasive species.

C. Hellertown Train Station, remaining footing /curbing

A discussion was held with regard to uncovering the footings of the Hellertown train station to memorialize its location. Mr. Pampanin suggested this project be coordinated with the Water Street Park improvements project being planned by Hellertown. The committee suggested perhaps this could be an Eagle Scout project. Some members of the committee thought this may be too large for an Eagle Scout project.

D. Update on LST Trail Head Construction

Ms. Kichline reviewed with the committee project benchmarks as provided by Mr. Cahalan. The water line is installed and parking lot excavation and paving has begun. Estimated date of completion is May 18th. Mr. Hampton asked if there will be a ribbon cutting. Ms. Kichline will forward the question to Mr. Cahalan.

E. Water Fountain Donations

The committee reported there have been approximately \$650 in donations received this far. Mr. LaBrake will speak with Mr. Cahalan about erecting a fund raising sign at the site to generate donations.

F. Pennsylvania Highlands Trail Grant Opportunity

Mr. LaBrake informed the committee the are grants available to erect way finding and informational signage along Pennsylvania Trails. Mr. LaBrake suggested two signs signifying the historic train stations along the trail. Mr. LaBrake indicated there are rolling grant periods available. Mr. LaBrake will provide a design and cost estimate at the next meeting.

V. Miscellaneous Business Items

A. Minutes of March 25 Meeting

Upon motion by Mr. LaBrake, seconded by Mr. Jarrett, the minutes of March 25th were unanimously approved.

B. February Financial Report

Upon motion by Mr. LaBrake, seconded by Mr. Jarrett, the March Financial Report was unanimously approved.

C. Bills to Pay (if any) – None

VI. Public Comment / Citizen Non-Agenda Items – None

VII. Commissioner Individual Statements & Updates

A. By Municipality

- Mrs. Anderson informed the commission of a large amount of debris just below the Meadows Road crossing. The committee did not believe this was on SRT property, but requested that Mr. Cahalan look into it,
- Joe Geib presented an update to the Phase II UST improvements.
- Mr. Jarrett informed the committee of recently discussions with John Bruner regarding the Quakertown connection moving northward.
- Mr. Jurczak presented information to the committee on the preliminary design of the High Street bridge.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Next Meeting

June 24 @ Coopersburg Borough (Note no meeting in May due to Holiday)