

SAUCON RAIL TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2011
Time: 5:00 PM
Location: Lower Saucon Township

Present: Jack Cahalan, Lower Saucon Township Manager; Jerry Holum, Lower Saucon Township Representative; Cathy Kichline, Hellertown Borough Manager; Dawn Kresge, Coopersburg Borough Manager; Tom Beil, Upper Saucon Township Manager.
Guests: Andy Hamilton from the Bucks County Bicycle Task Force; LSTPD Officers Eric Medei and David Roxberry; Roger Jurczak; Stephanie Brown; Ted & Mary Ann Beardsley.

- **Welcome – Township/Borough Managers** – Jack said Andy had sent him an email that he wanted to join us this evening. Officer Medei and Officer Roxberry are the Bike Patrol officers in the Township. Jack asked them to stop by and talk briefly about how they are going to patrol the trail. If there are any issues or questions for them, they can answer them.

Jack said he had the minutes from the March meeting and if there are no corrections, he'll put get them put on the website.

- **Trail Development – Updates**
 - **Tom Beil – Upper Saucon Township**– Tom said their portion of the trail is open. It's the section from the Township Park to the Lower Saucon Township line. He walked the trail last weekend and it really turned out nice. He's very pleased with it. They have their grand opening on June 11th. If anyone wants to attend, they are welcome to. Jack asked if the port-a-john is going to be temporary or permanent on Spring Valley Road? Tom said that's temporary.
 - **Jack Cahalan – Lower Saucon Township** – Jack said their portion is ready to go except for the markings at the two road crossings and signage that was part of the plan for the two crossings. They are planning a short ceremony on May 7th to open their portion and they will join Hellertown Borough. Jack said Lower Saucon wanted to join Upper Saucon when they have their ceremony. He sent an email to Carolyn Lidie who is handling Upper Saucon. The one problem they have is Carolyn mentioned they were thinking of having something down at their park and then walking toward the Lower Saucon line and meeting the LST representatives. Jack's only problem is they don't have any place for people to park on the Lower Saucon Township section of the trail. They have to use the Hellertown end of it. To have something mid-way and have guests to go there, there's no place to park and they'd be on private property. Maybe they could do something at the Hellertown end, which is a little bit further away. Cathy said she hasn't brought this up to her Council yet, but if Carolyn could send her something on that, she can get working on it. Jack said he will forward the email Carolyn sent to him. Cathy asked how do we start at the Hellertown line? Jack said he doesn't think we can do it at the Hellertown-Lower Saucon line. They will have to walk down from Hellertown. Cathy said where is the closest point to get on the trail? Jack said at the Grist Mill or park down at Upper Saucon Community Park and walk towards Lower Saucon. Jack reported the Township is seeking to acquire a two-acre property on Reading Road, which would provide parking and access to the trail, but they are still negotiating with the owner. They really don't have any parking right now and they are trying to discourage parking along the streets. They don't want people going across private property.
 - **Cathy Kichline – Hellertown Borough** – Cathy said they actually have the Water Street crossing light being moved today. They are way ahead of schedule. They poured some concrete this afternoon. They still have the other signage to take care of and some fencing has gone up. She thinks they will be ready by May 7th also.

- **Intermunicipal Agreement & By-Law Status – Update:**

- Cathy said Mike Corriere sent comments to her and she forwarded them to Tom. Tom said their Solicitor is looking at the comments. Dawn said this is on their Council agenda this evening. Their Solicitor had reviewed the first set and then Tom did forward Cathy's comment. Dawn forwarded the comments to their Solicitor. Tom said they are very close.

- **Saucon Rail Trail Rules & Regulations – Update**

- Jack said they took their park use rules and followed the example of what Tom did in Upper Saucon, and added a few extra rules and modified the park rules to use on the rail trail. Right now in their parks you can consume alcoholic beverages below an alcohol content of 12%, like beer and wine. They removed that so all alcoholic beverages are prohibited on the rail trail. They put down that dogs on a leash are permitted. For the unlicensed motor vehicles, they indicated motorized wheelchairs and Segways are permitted. At the end, they added Upper Saucon's example of the "No Smoking" ban. That will continue on the Lower Saucon end. They also added "persons utilizing the trail, shall use the designated trail area only and shall not trespass on private property". These are in advertisement and he hopes they will be adopted at the next Council meeting on May 4th. When they had a discussion with their Council, they discussed the horse issue, and at that time, they indicated to Council that Upper Saucon had prohibited horses on the trail. Hellertown Borough Council had a meeting the previous Monday night and they prohibited horseback riding as well on the trail. Based on that, his Council's position was that with this use being banned on both ends, it was restricted as there would be no parking or access for horses or trailers. Their position is they are going to leave the rules as they are, which prohibits horseback riding on the rail trail as it does in our Township parks. It looks like it will be consistent on the three sections that there will be no horseback riding. One of the things that he did notice was that Tom had posted temporary signs. Jack said they are going to do something similar to that and will put it at each of the road crossings and at any of the entrances. It doesn't list all 27 rules. It just kind of focuses on what's important there. That will make it easier for the police officers to enforce the rules on the trail.

Jerry asked about the dusk to dawn rule? Jack said they are in the park rules that our parks are open from dusk to dawn. Andy said going back to No. 12 of the rail trail rules, one of the things that is coming are E-bikes, electric assist bicycles, which are used for long distances. That might be something you might consider developing a policy on. He will have some knowledge on that later on. From a commuting standpoint, in the winter season, you may have some sort of description you may want to change from dusk to dawn to allow for that extra one hour for people commuting. You won't necessarily have that impact now, but as people are on it more frequently, they may want to use it as a mean of commuting back and forth.

- Cathy said Hellertown Borough Council also adopted the rail trail rules. They basically took their park rules and modified them slightly. They don't allow pets in their parks, but will allow them on the trail under the control, on a leash. The owner has to remove any kind of fecal matter; and they are prohibiting the horses; and you can't have any alcoholic beverages. Their Council wanted to stay silent on smoking. They didn't feel people who would use the trail would normally smoke. Jerry said what is the rule for dawn to dusk in Hellertown parks? Cathy said some of their parks are lighted, so it depends what park you are in.

- **Fundraising/Brochure – Update** – Jack said they don't have anything on fundraising or the brochure. Jerry said he hasn't talked to Jennifer, but his feeling is when they have their ribbon cutting ceremony, they should at least have an idea of things they want to have for purchase for the trail. Cathy asked if they might have anything to hand out by the ceremony? Jerry said at the Coopersburg meeting, they had a sample there. He has some pictures he can share with you, but it has to be a decision. Are we all going to be using the same kind of brochure and what kind of finances do we have. He thinks they should just get the information to the people. Cathy said Steve LaBrake contacted her, and he is going to be offering bike racks, at cost, to any of the businesses that may be interested in placing a bike rack at their place of

business and then getting a map for the kiosk. Anyone coming off of the trail can go to this business and know their bike can be parked in a safe place.

Andy said for benches in their community, they offer people to buy a bench for \$2,500.00 “In Memory Of”. The extra financing received, they started to buy custom bike racks that were designed for the town of Doylestown as a bicycle-friendly community. It’s something you can consider. He used a company Madrax Bike Racks out of Wisconsin. It’s been fabulously successful and they were able to purchase about eight of them. You definitely want to make sure you have a heavy duty bench. The one they purchased is a nice classic black, wrought iron looking, put in concrete and bolted in. They haven’t had a problem with any of them. That’s one thought on benches.

Jerry said they were looking at benches down at Coopersburg and they brought a sample bench. What he liked about it was they wouldn’t have to get their Public Works people get involved in it. You tell them where you want the bench and it’s put there. He talked to a couple of people already who want to purchase benches. You may have people who want to donate money or want a bench under a certain tree on the trail. He showed pictures of benches they were looking at. Jack asked Andy what the actual cost of the benches was? Andy said \$800.00. Jack said they discussed this at a previous meeting and there were two sides to this; that they were trying to raise money by selling benches and the other thing was they would just have people pay for what the cost of the bench was. That’s a considerable amount of money over and above the cost of the bench. Andy said in the end, after installation and the concrete pad, there’s about \$700.00 left over which was going to go directly back into getting some other things for the trail like bridge overpasses or bike racks.

Jack said they saw Roger’s pictures on the green roof for the kiosk and they look very nice. Roger said they are in place. They are basically succulents, so there will be no watering on a regular basis required. The kiosks will be checked once or twice the summer to see how they are doing. The trays are up also.

Andy said he was very interested in the program you have here. He first became familiar with it by the work that is being done in the City of Bethlehem on the south side trail. He looked at the big picture. The reason he is here is Bucks County is trying to make connections. In Bucks County, they never had a bicycle plan. Each municipality or group of municipalities had some sort of planning efforts going on. The municipalities have been doing a great job on a micro level or slightly macro level. They are looking at the large connections between counties and communities and reaching out to all connections they know of in all surrounding counties. He said they should definitely investigate this and do something about it. He has had conversations with SEPTA. When they were at the early part of the planning process for the County plan, the inventory and the public input has just being completed. In Quakertown, they heard loud and clear, let’s get a connection, particularly in Perkasie. There’s a gap in between that he’s been looking at which is the connection here, which makes no sense not to have. It’s the easiest area as it’s not used by any rail operator. There is a rail operator operating up to California Road on the rail line, maybe once a month, and they bring a freight train up there at about 8 MPH. For the big picture, he’d love to see the Lehigh River connected down to Perkasie and from Perkasie up and back over to the Delaware River as one massive loop and then continue south into Philadelphia. They are also working on a river-to-river connection which would be the Delaware River to the Schuylkill River. That would be in Central Bucks County at this point in time. He does have some maps if anyone wants to look at them. Jack said if that portion in Quakertown wasn’t under a contract with the freight operator, would that be available for development as a trail down to at least Quakertown? Andy said it is most likely they could get pretty close to Quakertown from the north. It seems that the operator is using it as a storage yard for trains right now, and every short line is using that. It’s actually bringing down property values in Quakertown and the residents are worried about it. There could be a connection at least to California Road and they could expand upon opportunities there. One of the things that the Bucks County plan has which is different than most other plans are the venues aren’t there. They don’t have greenways very well connected. They are looking at the main arterials throughout the County and municipalities. Eventually they will clearly link to Doylestown and from Doylestown to New Hope to Valley Forge, with a system, from Quakertown. The network is coming and that’s one of the reasons he brought up the E-bikes as he is seeing them populate in southern Bucks County. People are taking that as a way to commute. He sees it as an effort and a reason to bring it to the highest parties of the County. Jack said does Springfield Township have any plans at all?

Andy said there are some advocates up there. They do have some plans, but nothing earth shattering. The road systems are difficult, but they are looking to have a few meetings on that in the very near future. They are really going to be working to make sure that they know what opportunities will be available. Jack said what's the status of the push to restore passenger rail down there? There were meetings in Quakertown about it. Andy said there's a meeting tonight where they are going to have an announcement, as they did a full study. In Quakertown, the potential for rail is not going to happen. The issue now is where it will get to, whether it's a 309 "park and ride" or up to Perkasie. If it does get the first phase done, the actual cost of ridership numbers going north, decline and makes it difficult. Even though it doesn't work today, it may be more difficult to make it even work in the future. As you know, SEPTA takes everything out for 15 to 30 years with a right to come back at any time. He would suggest if they get something going in Bucks County, they match your end date. They are in the early stages and the project is completed significantly from the municipalities with guidance from the County itself. Jack said they will keep in touch and the Saucon Rail Trail has regular scheduled meetings.

- **Logo, Website, Facebook, Etc. – Update** – No update.
- **Kiosk Construction** – Update – talked about above.
- **Other Issues**
 - Jack said there have been some security concerns such as trespassing and other types of issues expressed at previous meetings. He thought it was a good idea to invite the Bike Patrol Officers to the meeting. He introduced Officer Roxberry and Officer Medei. Officer Medei said their biggest issue right now is they don't have the parking access. They are going to have cars parked on the road or on private property. They have been trying to tell the residents if they have a problem, they will look at it on a case-by-case basis. They will look at it and if there's an issue, they are going to enforce it. They are going to try to get the word out to people to not park on private property. They are working on trying to get the parking access. It's going to be a problem and people will be cutting across people's properties, but it will get straightened out as people begin to know the rules. They basically ask the resident to call them, and they will handle it. They can't be all over the place. They will look at each situation. It will be tough as people will be curious and think they can just park here. They allowed things in the past because of people fishing. The trail runs along the creek at Reading Drive and on private property. People park there to fish. Now that will be an issue that people may park there also to use the trail. There are certain things they have to look at, so until they can get the parking access, that's going to be a big issue for them. As far as on the trail itself, they will be riding it on their bikes. They don't have the luxury of riding continuously up and down the trail as they don't have enough people. They are going to start at one access gates, take a couple of looks, check things out and let people know that they are there. If anybody has any concerns, he and Officer Roxberry are very open to the public. They are very community-oriented and people come to them if they have problems. They make themselves available to people and they usually try to address the problem when it comes up. They will do their best to get on the trail a couple of times a shift when they are working. If they see something going on, or if it's something severe, then they will take action. With the gates they have now, they are able to get police cars on the trail. From what he saw the other day, and he confirmed it with John Bate from Dewey, ambulances can get on the trail if they need if it's an emergency. It's wide enough to do that. Jack said the emergency responders all looked at the specs for the gate when they ordered them. It has a Knox padlock. Officer Medei said every police officer has access and they have the keys in their cars. All they have to do is get the access code and they can get right on the trail. Officer Roxberry said you may want to eventually put mile markers up starting in Bethlehem as if someone is in trouble, they can tell you what mile marker they are at. Officer Medei said the Chief mentioned a concern with people picking up and throwing stones. If it's an issue, let them know, they will get down there as soon as they can, but they don't know if they are going to be able to stop it, but they will do everything they can to prevent it from happening. Officer Roxberry said he thinks things will be minimized when these things happen and a citation will be issued. They will not just be there from dawn to dusk; they can go on at any time. He has his bike with him at all times and they'll be checking out it

throughout the night to see if there are things going on. Officer Medei said once the word gets out that they are actually patrolling it and see them on it, hopefully it will cut down on the people that are not using it for its intended purpose and that's what message they are trying to send to people. They don't have a lot of rules, but they have rules you have to follow and he truly believes most people will follow the rules. You will have a few that won't and they will deal with those people. Jack said what about ATVs on the trail? Officer Medei said they are prohibited from being on the trails anytime. When it gets cold out, they may have to adjust the issue with snow mobiles. That's going to be another thing. In the Township, it's illegal to ride ATVs and snowmobiles on the road. When they get the calls, sometimes they catch them and they get the message. Most of the things they are going to be dealing with in the beginning will be a case-by-case basis and hopefully the more they deal with things, positive and negative, the word is going to get out that they are proactive on the trail and people are safe and doing the best they can.

Jerry said where will you be getting on and off the trail as you won't be going into Hellertown? Officer Medei said they would get on at the access points set up down by Meadows Road. Reading Drive has a larger area where they can park the car and get on right there. That's very close to the Upper Saucon border and they can go right down from there. They will bring the bike there and drop it on the ground and ride from there. Officer Roxberry said what the Chief expressed is to just park the car in the middle, so people can see the car at different locations at different times. Jerry said have they been on the trail at all? Officer Medei said he has been on the trail briefly. He has not had the opportunity to go all the way down, but he plans on doing that very shortly. Jerry said did you see any part of the trail, from a police aspect that might lead to a problem in the areas you were on? Officer Medei said he wouldn't say it's a problem, but there's a hidden section where you start the entrance point at Reading Drive and then you cross and go towards 412 where it's real low. If you are driving by in a car, you can barely see the trail. That could be something where they might not be able to see people. As you come down, it gets up to where it's level and you can see. There may be a couple of other areas where they will not be able to see it from the road, which may or may not be an issue. Jerry said he's talked to a lot of walkers that are on the trail and he's talked to a number of women who asked him about some isolated areas on the trail, particularly the area south of Meadows Road. From a woman's perspective, they would like to go jogging or walking by themselves, so he told them he wouldn't go down there or just bring something with them. He was wondering what they thought of those areas if they thought there may be problems. In that particular area he has reference to, it's owned by PPL and if you are down there, you can see where kids have been off the trail, either trail biking or on their ATVs. He's seen them on a number of occasions down there having beer parties, and he was just wondering about those areas. Officer Medei said now that Jerry brought that up, they can concentrate on those areas to just let people know they are here. It's hard for them as there are only a couple of Bike Patrol Officers, but they will try to get on the trail as much as they can. It's good they hear these concerns because then they can deal with them. He's never been involved with a Rails-to-Trail program, but he was a Bike Patrol Officer in Virginia, and all he did was ride a bike and patrol in the city and different neighborhoods. As a kid he did walk that whole line with his parents, so he's familiar with it, but he doesn't know what's been done with it now. They will address the places that are a little more susceptible for crime or kids messing around. They will try to get the message out early that they are not going to tolerate this. Right now, it's what he can tell you and they want to keep everybody safe.

Jerry said back to the stone throwing, he envisions that to be a problem in his area, only because he's had the problem already. He thinks it's going to increase in the Weyhill area by the golf course. The kids throw the stuff on his property by the golf course, so if you get the wrong kid out there in the Weyhill area, then you are talking big concerns. Officer Medei said they will address it when it happens; and hopefully, they won't have a lot of problems. They look at it as okay, there's an opportunity, but hopefully they can curb that opportunity for these kids. They get the rules up and they are on the trail. They won't be able to stop everything, but they will do their best. If you see something, call them right away. Officer Roxberry said if you call right away, that's key. Officer Medei said if you talk to other people, let them know.

Andy said one thing they advise, depending on the conditions, for communities to consider, when there may be an issue or an inception of an issue, is putting in a solar powered remote camera. If you have the systems in-house, you know what's going on with the trail. As a result, you put some of these in the areas of concern, and the first thing you get is the neighbor may be upset, but it screens on the issue that is in hand. People become aware of it and it doesn't happen as much. He hasn't looked at the cost for about five years, but it may be a Phase II. You are always going to grow your systems.

Jerry said the Police Officer said know your rules. This is a poor example, but it's a good one - no smoking on the trail. Somebody calls and they say someone is smoking on the trail. You go there and that person says he didn't see the rules. How would you enforce that as they have to see the rules? How do you suggest you get that information out to them? Officer Roxberry said if it's posted at each access points, it's possible someone still could not see the rules, but the more you post them at each access point, it's kind of hard that you didn't see the rules. They will get calls and they will go out there and tell that person when they get on the trail, they need to read the rules. They may give them a warning the first time. The smoking ban has stirred up a lot of controversy everywhere. As this is so new to them, it's going to be a case-by-case basis. He would treat it like he treats it with everyone in the Township. If he speaks to someone and they give him an attitude, then there are problems. If he talks to people and they show him the respect he gives them, then usually they can come to an agreement without doing anything further and people understand. It's always going to be a problem. He can't say they are going to be able to stop it within the first five weeks. They get calls for everything. Jerry said how do people call, do they call 911? Officer Medei said there's non-emergency number, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It's Northampton County dispatch. Jerry said how quickly does that get out to you? Officer Medei said as soon as the dispatch gets the call, they call the police. It's almost instantaneously when they get the call. They decide the priority if they are tied up with something else. If they can go right there, they go right there.

Jack said some of these rules are going to be enforced by trail users who will be policing it themselves. Lower Saucon has a dog park in the Township which isn't patrolled and there's a set of rules about do's and don'ts. The people who use it basically keep an eye on the users. If someone is doing something that is not permitted, they will point the rules out to them. He wouldn't be surprised if someone politely said to someone smoking on the trail that that's not permitted on the trail. They may continue to smoke, but at least it's brought to their attention. Officer Roxberry said if they go out there and they give this person a warning, that information from that person still goes into their computer system. If they are out there again for smoking, and John Smith is smoking again, they can give him a citation.

Stephanie Brown said there are people who don't know the difference between Lower Saucon and Upper Saucon and Upper Saucon has a different dispatching system than Lower Saucon. Is the Township going to post an emergency number on the trail? Jack showed Stephanie the sign they are going to post. He said Lower Saucon's will be similar to what Upper Saucon has. They will have the non-emergency number on the sign, and 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Stephanie said her experience with the Township, they prioritize the calls, and she waited hours upon hours for the Township Police to show up for a non-emergency. When you are out on the trail, you don't have hours to wait. Depending where you are on the trail, and you are coming from outside the community, it's very important to know where you are. She goes to the park in Allentown and it clearly states there is a \$1,000.00 fine for any dog without a leash. She saw five pit bulls without a leash. Do you go up and confront the people? No, as long as they are not charging her animals, she leaves them alone as it's not worth it. Unfortunately, this isn't a trail system that has any kind of emergency call boxes. There are lots of times she called for trucks on the bridge on Meadows Road, and waited and waited. She doesn't know how it's going to work for people on the trail. It's going to be a problem. When Bethlehem's trail is linked to our trail, it bothers her what kinds of people are going to be coming in. Officer Medei said they have their concerns too as it's a new thing for them. They are going to try to attack it. He apologizes for any

issues she may have had. They try to get there as soon as they can. They are not a big city department. They put three guys on the road and if they have something that's severe, all three guys have to go.

Officer Medei said hopefully they can maybe get some markers on the trail. They don't have to spend a lot of money. This way the people can let the Police know where they are. If they do have a problem, they can tell them what mile marker they are at and then the Police at least know where to go and where to park. Officer Roxberry said from his experience, they do respond to all calls no matter how minor. They do the best they can, but they will respond.

Jerry said there are a lot of people on the trail already, when will you be able to patrol? Officer Medei said he hopes to be able to patrol tomorrow and Thursday, he's on day shift. He's going to make it a point to go out there as he wants to see what it's like. From here on out, basically, it's not open yet, but they know people are out there, they will drive on it. Officer Roxberry said he'll be out tomorrow night. The sooner they get out, the better.

Jerry said he thinks the stone throwing issue is a big issue. It's a safety issue. His feeling is the Township should be more proactive and not wait until something happens and then react. He has given the Township an idea, but they haven't followed through on it, and maybe if you went out and evaluated his idea as it relates to a possible land survey, with not a lot of cost, maybe he could be satisfied. Jack said the officers will be looking at it from a police enforcement perspective. If you are talking about the surface - what could be done to the ballast stones - that's more of an engineering type of thing. Jerry said the remedy is to simply cover the ballast stone with more screening. It's that simple. Officer Roxberry said he can absolutely pass on some recommendations on his observations. Jerry said the last thing he wants to do is be a pain to the Police Department. He doesn't want to be calling and saying there are people throwing stones in the trestle. Jack said how many times has this happened? Jerry said it just happened last week. Jack said does it happen every day? Jerry said no, it's just when you get the wrong individual down there; it doesn't happen every day. Officer Roxberry said it kinds of sounds like a no-brainer to cover it, but then it comes down to cost.

Roger asked about the fences? Jack said they will be out working on some of the fencing buffering that Council approved. With that, split rail fencing will be put on the approaches to the bridges. The Bingen Bridge has some steep drop off areas so they will be focusing on those. There's also the Saucon Creek Bridge at Old Mill Road. That will be going up as it's a priority.

Stephanie asked about the crossing signs at Meadows Road. Who has the right-of-way? What if someone gets hit there? It's a difficult intersection and she hasn't gotten a straight answer yet. Jack said the trail users are supposed to dismount from their bike and then stop and cross the road. The motorists have a Stop Sign and they should stop before they proceed. The rules would be to yield to anybody at the crossing. Officer Roxberry said anyone who approaches an intersection like that needs to have common sense, pedestrian or person in a vehicle. If you are a pedestrian, and there's a car already starting to go, don't walk out. There's also a section of the vehicle code that pedestrians have to yield to the cars too as much as we have to yield to pedestrians. It all comes down to common sense when you are crossing at an intersection. If everyone uses common sense, we'll be okay. It's very simple.

Jerry asked if Upper Saucon going to be patrolling their section? Tom said they will be patrolling, but it will be like everything else. The trail won't get any extra patrols. They have many demands on the Police Department. There are limited resources, both money-wise and manpower-wise. You got to deploy the resources where there is the greatest need. If you look at other communities and their Rails-to-Trails, the greatest need isn't there. That's not where your crime is going to be. It's a good idea to patrol, but they've got 25 square miles and 2 miles of trail. They are going to treat it like anything else.

Officer Medei said when they go out, they are going to let people know what's going on. If they don't have a lot of problems, they might not be on the trail every day. If things become an issue, they will do the best they can to stop it from happening. Tom said it's a simple thing. You deploy the resources where they are needed. If they are needed on the trail, you deploy them on the trail. If they are needed in a certain neighborhood, you deploy them to that certain neighborhood. Just because the trail is there, doesn't mean the Police are going to be on the trail all the time. Officer Roxberry said this is an asset to Lower Saucon. It's not all negative. There are a lot of good things about this trail.

Tom said from past experience, it's another municipality. There is not crime on the rail trail. If their experience is like the other 500 communities who have rail trails, there should not be trouble on our rail trail. The statistics will support that. Cathy said you make a very good point. The patrolling should be more of a community policing effort. She for one has been walking trails for years. Someone made the comment about smoking. She's never seen a cigarette butt on a trail. As people are using it, they are policing it themselves. You want people to use it. The more people out there, the fewer incidents you are going to have. The incidences are with teenagers once in a while. If they know there are a lot of people on the trail, everybody kind of watches themselves. It's a very positive experience. She has a trail that goes right through her back yard, and she's never had a problem. Other trails she's been on, she sees little signs in the people's back yard, "No Trespassing". People kind of police it themselves.

Jack said he didn't want to give the impression that Lower Saucon is anticipating any crime problems. He invited the officers here just to say they are going to be out there as one of their regular patrols. Jerry said they appreciate that as they have a lot of residents here that voice more questions than any other community.

Tom said people have anticipation and anxiety, but the people who are using the trail, are people who aren't going to steal your TV. Tom said a greater concern is a group from Allentown who comes to Upper Saucon, kicks your door in, whether you are home or not, and goes in and steals things from your house. This hit several different neighborhoods. That's a far greater concern than someone using the rail trail to break into your house and then walk back to wherever with the goods. There's people out there, drive right up to your house, kick your door in and go in and grab the things and run out. That's a far greater threat than the rail trail. Officer Medei said if they have the time, they'll get out there and do a little riding. They will do it the way they've been doing it from the beginning. Officer Roxberry said you will definitely see them. Jack said the other emergency services will be equipping themselves with vehicles that can operate on the trail.

Jerry asked when Hellertown would be placing their bollards? Cathy said at the Grist Mill in the next two weeks. They are a little behind on everything because of the weather and they are contracting some things out. Jerry said two Sundays nights ago, he saw a vehicle coming down from Walnut Street all the way down on the rail trail. He came all the way down to Meadows Road, and then turned around. He doesn't think it was under cover as he never saw a green under cover car in Hellertown. Cathy said they have a non-emergency number also, so please call their Police Department too as someone may have gotten lost and didn't want to get out and walk and thought they could drive it.

Cathy asked about snow removal? Jack said there's going to be cross country skiing and they will be using the trail for that. Officer Medei said that's why they would need an ATV type vehicle with a seat and a bed for the winter time when there is snow on the trail as an ambulance couldn't make it back there.

- The meeting adjourned. The time was 6:22 PM.
- Next meeting –May 23rd at Hellertown Borough; June 27th at Coopersburg Borough; and July 25th at Upper Saucon Township.