

## SAUCON RAIL TRAIL OVERSIGHT COMMISSION MEETING

Date: Monday, April 28, 2014  
Time: 6:00 PM  
Location: Upper Saucon Township

### I. Opening

- A. **Call to Order:** President Peter Jarrett called the meeting to order.
- B. **Roll Call:** Lower Saucon Township: Roger Jurczak, Jerry Holum, Jack Cahalan (Staff)  
Hellertown Borough: Steve LaBrake, Richard Staffieri  
Coopersburg Borough: Linda Minarik  
Upper Saucon Township: Peter Jarrett, Joseph Geib (Staff)

### II. Public Comment (Related to Agenda Items Below)

None.

### III. Presentations/Trail Business

- A. **Website Updates** – Roger Jurczak will get information (including pictures) from Frank regarding the geologic area, to post on the website and Facebook.
- B. **Trail vegetation planning/mapping** – The Commission would like to mark on the map which areas should remain more manicured, and which areas should remain more rustic. We should add areas C through D (see SRT map) to the “manicured” section.
- There is also trash that should be constantly addressed along section A through B.
  - The Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Commission will work on a plan for *each* municipality, one at a time, rather than one large, daunting project.
  - Now that the Geologic area is clean, the Commission will identify other areas to clean up, like near Meadows Rd.
  - The Commission would like to keep an inventory of the Railroad-related structures along the Trail, such as battery boxes and signals.
  - There will be a work day on Saturday, May 31 from 8a-12p, working on the trash and debris from Meadows Rd. to the Geologic area. We will advertise for it in the Valley Voice, and on the website and Facebook.
- C. **Trail Improvements**
- i. **Kiosk @ Reading Dr.:** the Scout will receive the list of materials soon.
  - ii. **Nature Path:** The native plantings are IN, and the volunteers will perform the watering. In the long term, the path will need more work and ideas to remove more excess trees, debris, and invasive plants
  - iii. **Geologic Area:** Some on the Commission feel that the improvised stone steps are a hazard, and are unsafe. Some suggestions included placing a fence along the outcropping, while others thought that may lead to more unauthorized climbing of the rock face. They will look at this area during the Work Day, and will come back with more ideas.
  - iv. **Signal:** No update yet. The Commission suggested that we start with a smaller project first, such as the small signal at Walnut St., to gauge time, cost, and difficulty. Jerry, will speak with some people, including Kirk Federico, and will get an estimate.
- D. **Vision:** no update.
- E. **Rep. Simmons Video:** this time of year is very busy for some on the Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Commission, including Pete Jarrett. We suggested that Rep. Simmons’ Office call us back in the summer, when our schedule clears up a bit to give more time to his request and the project.
- F. **DCNR Letter of Support from Daniel Paschke:** Mr. Paschke, from Rep. Simmons Office, penned a letter of support for a DCNR grant.

- G. **South Bethlehem Greenway connection to Saucon Rail Trail:** Currently, the SBG terminates near the Lynn St. Bridge in Bethlehem. Due to permits, leases, and funding, we do not see this connection happening before 2015.
- H. **PHTN Letter of Support:** the Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Commission penned a letter of support to John Brunner and the AMC, supporting co-designation of the Saucon Rail Trail with the PA Highlands Trail, as well as any other linkages they would propose.
- I. **Eastern PA Trails Summit:** September 30 and October 1 at DeSales University.
- J. **Upper Saucon Township AED Donation:** Upper Saucon Township received funds for an AED to be placed at the Upper Saucon Township Community Park. The Township will be installing these units in the Park this year.
- K. **Upper Saucon Township Support for Lehigh Valley Planning Commission Recreation Plan:** Upper Saucon Township wrote a letter of support to the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission for their help in seeking DCNR funds for an update to the regional recreation plan.

**IV. Miscellaneous Business Items**

- A. **Previous Meeting Minutes, March 24, 2014 – Upon motion by Mr. Jurczak, seconded by Mr. LaBrake the minutes of March 24, 2014 were unanimously approved.**
- B. **March Financial Report – Upon motion by Mr. LaBrake, seconded by Mr. Jurczak, the March Financial Report was unanimously approved**
- C. **Bills to pay (if any) – None.**

**V. Public Comment / Citizen Non-agenda**

**VI. Commissioner Individual Statements & Updates**  
**None**

**VII. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 7:15PM**

- A. Next meeting is June 23 in Lower Saucon Township. Please note there is NO meeting in May.