

## SAUCON RAIL TRAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Monday, May 23, 2011  
Time: 5:03 PM  
Location: Hellertown Borough

Present: Jack Cahalan, Lower Saucon Township Manager; Jerry Holum, Lower Saucon Township representative; Dawn Kresge, Coopersburg Borough Manager; Frank Pazzaglia, Hellertown Borough representative; Roger Jurczak from Lower Saucon Township; and Tina Krasnansky, Hellertown Borough Assistant Manager. Steve LaBrake arrived at 5:08 PM.

Guests Charles Hampton and Susan Katz

- **Welcome – Township/Borough Managers** – Jack welcomed everyone.
- **Trail Development – Updates**
  - **Jack Cahalan – Lower Saucon Township** – Jack said the Hellertown-Lower Saucon Township sections of the trail are open. The Upper Saucon section opened prior to that. There was a ribbon cutting on May 7<sup>th</sup> in Hellertown and both portions of the trail opened. Since then, hundreds and possibly thousands of walkers, bicyclists, and dogs have been out on the trail going up and down the five miles to Upper Saucon’s Community Park and back again. As far as Lower Saucon, we did complete all of the safety features at the road crossings: Meadows Road and Old Mill Road, prior to the May 7<sup>th</sup> opening. A crushcrete material surface was put down. They worked together with Hellertown Borough Public Works and they were able to put that down fairly quickly. Since the opening, Lower Saucon had a Council meeting and they discussed two items. One they took action on was privacy buffers at the Old Mill Crossing in the Ehrhart’s Mill Historic District. The Township Planner recommended several options – plants, trees and fencing for these buffers. Council decided to approve about 234’ of 6’ shadow box fencing just north of the crossing to buffer the two houses that are pretty close to the trail. On one of them you can almost reach out and touch it from the rail trail. That is one thing that was acted on. The second thing is the mileage markers, which came up at the Saucon Valley Partnership meeting, and he’ll go over that later. There are a few additional things we have to catch up on. Jerry asked about the fencing on the approaches and the bridges. That’s something that still has to be done by Public Works. They’ll be out there within the next couple of weeks putting in post and rail fencing. There are steep drop offs at the Bingen Bridge and at the Saucon Creek Bridge. They will be working on them. Jerry said do you have split rail fencing on the north and south side of the Hellertown Bridge? Jack said he can’t talk about the north side as that’s the Borough’s. On the south side, there are some drop-offs and they plan on doing fencing there.
  - **Hellertown Borough** - Tina said Cathy is at the Gaming Authority meeting tonight and she asked Tina to relate one thing which is the clearing and the sign installation at the Hellertown Marsh area and they are going to start that next week. She showed pictures of where the marsh signs will be and what they will look like. That will be taking place next week. The signs are finished. The clearing is going to be done by the Saucon Creek Watershed Association and volunteers from Olympus.
  - **Dawn Kresge – Coopersburg Borough** – No update.
  - **Upper Saucon Township** – No one present. Jack said the Upper Saucon section is open and is very nice down to the Community Park. There are some differences in that trail than what we have in Lower Saucon and Hellertown. One was we put in for a grant to the Delaware & Lehigh Corridor for trail amenities. Cathy Kichline met with Sheri Acevedo from that group and we did get money awarded for things like benches, trash receptacles, and picnic tables. One of the things we discussed and agreed upon was that the trash receptacles would only be located at the trailheads. For Hellertown, that would be at the Water Street Park and at the Grist Mill Park. The Township is still negotiating with a landowner to acquire the trailhead property off of Reading

Road. We are going to acquire it one way or another as it's a perfect trailhead spot. People are already using it. When that is acquired, that would become our trailhead and we would have the trash receptacles and benches, picnic tables, located in that area. We don't have any plans to put trash receptacles up and down the trail. If people have trash, they need to take it back with them to the trailhead or to wherever they entered the trail and dispose of it. It's too much of a cost to have our Public Works going up and down the trail emptying these trash receptacles.

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

- Jack said what Lower Saucon and Hellertown did was follow the example of what Upper Saucon did. For Lower Saucon, we took our park rules and made a couple of modifications and added a couple of changes such as the “No Smoking” prohibition. We also prohibited alcohol on the trail; dogs must be on leashes; the trail is open from dawn to dusk; and we put in there people should not leave the trail and trespass on private property. Those were adopted as the rail trail use rules. Hellertown did something similar and put up their park rules with some changes and adopted those. They were all in place by the May 7<sup>th</sup> opening. We put a copy of the rules at the Upper Saucon/Lower Saucon border, at the future trailhead site and at each of the road crossings. Hellertown put theirs up on the kiosk. Later on there will be something more permanent. This will let people know what the rules are.

Steve said it's interesting that the two biggest complaints are people smoking and dogs pooping on the trail. There are dogs with no leashes on the trail. He asked how do we control that? Jack said you can bring it to someone's attention, but you do not want to put yourself in a position where you are ordering someone to do something. You can call the non-emergency number and can make a complaint about it. He's surprised about the smoking as he didn't think that would be that big of a problem. The dogs appear to be numerous and many of them are off-leash. He had a couple of incidences where people had the dogs on long leashes and they were over in the other lane and they were not retracting it. That's a problem if you are going along on a bike. Steve said the dog poop is fresh.

Susan said if people are going to smoke, are police going to be there? Aren't the police on bikes or Segways? Jack said he can speak for Lower Saucon and ours are on bikes. The LST police were at the last Saucon Rail Trail Advisory Committee meeting and said they would be patrolling the LST portion of the trail on their bikes. They indicated that they would also be patrolling at night. It's going to be part of their normal patrol duties in the Township. Susan said there are times you have gangs of kids on bikes roaming around on the trail in the dark. She couldn't identify them. They have not come down on her property, which is terrific. She thinks they are heading down to Hellertown by the PPL property. You can hear them having a good time back there.

Charles said Upper Saucon had done their section very well. They have receptacles and doggie bags for their part of the trail. He thinks there needs to be trash receptacles along the entire trail at every intersection. People with dogs don't want to be carrying the doggie bag the entire length of the trail. Jack said speaking for the Township, those mutt mitts are a very expensive item which we have at our Dog Park. The annual cost for them runs into thousands of dollars. Speaking of the trash receptacles, most trails do not have trash receptacles except at the trailheads, if any. People who bring dogs to other parks have to take a doggie bag with them and either dispose of it at the parking area or take it home if they are walking. If the Township wants to decide to spend the money on that expense, that's something to consider.

Frank said it will just be a matter of time before you start seeing people waste on the trail. Summer is coming and there will be Gatorade bottles and we will see more of that. Ice cream and whatever is purchased at Rita's will be an issue for Hellertown. Trash receptacles are great, but tend to get overfilled if they are not emptied on a regular basis. The farther the trash receptacles are from the parks, they become more of a liability. Jack said that a recent Borough Council meeting he attended, Hellertown's Police Chief that they were getting complaints about the litter at their pocket park with the basketball court and none of the trash is ever put into the trash can. Frank said

there is a chronic problem with the kids hanging out there. Jack said he has the same problem at the basketball court at the Township. There's a trash can there and there are bottles thrown all over the place. This brings up the question, what role does the public, as a volunteer corps, play in helping be good stewards to the trail?

Steve said he heard from church volunteers, but hasn't gotten back to them as we haven't crossed that bridge yet. If once a week, if there was a corps of trail stewards who could take care of their section of the trail and pick up the trash and garbage, they could also chop the weeds on the trail. That sort of volunteerism, if it's managed properly, will save the communities a ton of money.

Jerry said he had two people approach him in regards to the cleaning of the trail. One girl said why don't you do something like you do on the roads and let people adopt a portion of the trail? She said she knows her family would take a half of mile. It seemed like a great idea. These people are generally out there walking a couple of times a week. We should consider something like that. Susan said she thinks that's a great idea. You may even want to get high school students to take a section. Jerry said he sent Jack something on this once before. He has seen two people out there cleaning up and this was before the trail was open. The young lady said she had her daughter and a couple of Girl Scouts out on the trail. He told her to put the bags at the intersection and Jerry would call the Manager and have him go by and pick them up. He thinks we are going to see a lot of people who are going to step up to the plate.

Steve said we could post something on Facebook, but how are we going to assign areas? Jack said we have an Adopt-a-Road Program in the Township and the response has been overwhelming. We are literally running out of roads. Frank said in our master plan outline we mentioned, at some stage when the trail is open, that getting community stewardship volunteers was something we wanted to do. Maybe the time is now. It should be coordinated through the Township, the Borough, and the Managers can do that. Jack said the trash could be put right at the gates like Jerry said. Steve said he can certainly post that on Facebook. Should he have them contact their Township or Borough? Jack said let him come back with an outline of an Adopt-a-Trail Program first. The Borough has 1.42 miles and the Township has 1.4 miles. Frank said do 2/10<sup>th</sup> of a mile sections. Frank said it sounds like the trash issue is something the volunteers can manage. Frank said they should come up with a document and Steve could post it on the website, Facebook, Patch and run it one time in the Valley Voice and you are going to get a lot of calls. Someone said take a plastic bag from the grocery store and pick things up along the trail. He thinks anyone would be glad to do that. Steve said you can say clean Bachman Street to Water Street Park and Water Street Park to the Grist Mill. Once we get past the Grist Mill, we have some longer stretches there. There may be some sections that would have to be broken up. Jack said the Township actually gives their groups equipment like bags and vests. They also give them grabbers, which make it a lot easier on your back and you get less poison ivy. He will work up something.

Frank said it will be only be a matter of time before we are going to start having weed incursion. Weed incursion has already started at Hellertown adjacent to the park. That's natural and going to happen. Jerry said when the weeds start coming in, they are going to come in fast as he lives next to them. They are a lot of sticker bushes. You can cut them back and they continue to grow. Frank asked when the trail was first cleared, it was done by the Township and the Borough? Jack said no, the clearing was done by a contractor hired by SEPTA. Frank said didn't they put down a herbicide? Jack said Hellertown may have, but Lower Saucon Township didn't apply anything. Frank said what is the plan? Jack said a combination of treatments and mowing. Frank said we want to be careful how we do the applications, but he agrees with Jerry that this will be an interesting challenge on how we keep it down. Do we mow it; do we go with a weed whacker? Tina said she thinks that's what their summer helpers would do. Jerry said he's not sure Public Works wants to take on that challenge. To weed whack something like that is going to take a lot of hours. Jack said they have a machine with a sickle bar that does the roadside mowing and it's flexible. Roger said in Bethlehem they put on an herbicide by the creek, and he's sure they are not

putting anything on it that would harm the creek. Jack said they can come back and talk about the maintenance program.

- **Intermunicipal Agreement & By-Status** – Update - Roger asked what was the status on the intermunicipal agreement? Jack said he hasn't heard anything from Tom Beil. The last thing that happened was Tom sent it to them several months ago. They sent it to Attorneys Treadwell and Corriere and they made minor comments on it, nothing major. One comment they had was the issue about the Advisory Committee spending money. They suggested that there should be a small amount like \$1,000 or \$2,000 that would come from annual donations that would have to be made by each municipality. That would allow the Advisory Committee to make decisions about the website, and small types of items like printing, publicity, that type of thing. That was one of the recommendations that was sent back to Tom's solicitor and we haven't heard anything back. That needs to move along as we need to get this group formed. Jack had mentioned to Jerry that he has been temporarily doing the agenda and minutes for these meetings since September of 2009 until the Advisory Committee got formed. Roger said could a motion be made at this group today that a time line be set for the intermunicipal agreement? It needs to be back for review and approval by the August meeting. It's a recommendation of this group which has been responsible for all major elements of the trail other than the technical things and the engineering. Jack said he doesn't know what's holding it up. Jack said he can ask his Solicitor to contact the UST Solicitor and see what the status of the agreement is. Frank said he was pleasantly surprised a couple of meetings back, to see that a document existed. The fact that it's there, is an incredible step forward. Frank said he was also pleased to see that whatever group does get formed, is not going to be liable. Jack said you are covered like every other body, like the Planning Commission is covered.
- **Fundraising/Brochure** – Update –Steve said Tom seems to be the only one who has a problem with fundraising. What are your feelings about the group fundraising for trail amenities? Jack said he has no problem with it. What Tom had described to us about the agreement was how the money would be handled. It's what we have been saying all along. If somebody comes in and says this money is for the Saucon Rail Trail, it would be divided equally among the four municipalities. If they come in and say it's for the Hellertown portion of the Saucon Rail Trail, Hellertown would get the money. If that's the way it's done, that's fine.

Frank said Tom seems to be very cautious about having any other municipality or this body say to Upper Saucon, how they can either develop the trail, manage it, or fundraise for it. Steve said he thinks there's a need for a Friends of the Saucon Rail Trail, or the Committee that is non-existent, to do things like getting the benches on the trail and raising money and beautifying the trail. There are things that people want to see done, but our hands always seem to be tied. Can we pursue fundraising for some of these things without Upper Saucon being involved? Jack said each of the municipalities developed their trail sections on our own budgets. You can propose anything, but you would still have to come back before the Councils and Supervisors in Lower Saucon, Hellertown, Coopersburg and Upper Saucon for approval. What he'd be afraid of is if there isn't something that's agreed on by the group and it's not officially recognized, the municipalities could say thanks, but we are going to do it our own way. Frank said he thinks our hands should not be tied so they can communicate to the public and say if you are interested in helping to support this trail, funnel the money to your Township or your Borough. That's a more positive message to give to people than to say wait, we aren't formed yet as a committee.

Roger said what he hears is we're not moving ahead with the intermunicipal agreement, and that's where we are stalled, and yet there are groups within this non-existing committee that are getting frustrated in that we can't lay down bases to run to. If a group, like the Friends of the Trail, got formed and moved along strongly, then there would almost be no need for the existence and the functions of a permanent committee. Jack said he agrees with Roger. He'd like everyone to move ahead also, and he never thought it would take this long to get this formed. If that is done, those people are going to be doing a lot of the heavy lifting and a lot of the work that we thought could be done here at these meetings. Again, if you come up with good ideas and money, all you need is the okay from the municipality. The only thing that you'd be missing is the uniformity between the

four municipalities. The reason we lost the uniformity was because we got no grant money and we had to rely on our individual budgets for the trail development. Hellertown and Lower Saucon got some grants. Upper Saucon had funds budgeted. Coopersburg is held up until UST's Phase II or III gets done in 2012. Dawn said that will be in 2013.

Frank said he doesn't think there is a problem with the uniformity and it's unfortunate we are losing that window of opportunity, but as a continuous trail, it is functioning quite well. If a group like the Friends of the Trail comes up with an idea and you fundraise the money for something you want to put on the trail, you can come to a Council meeting like you did with the kiosk and get the blessing of the Council.

- **Logo, Website, Facebook, Etc. – Update**

Jack said that the logo has been stalled because the four partners have not approved it. The Maxfield's did it very inexpensively and it only costs about \$80 per municipality. He's ready to pay for it, but we haven't gotten formal approval to pay for it. Jack said he thinks the logo is perfect. Tina said so does everyone else in this room. Jack said that's something we can't do anything about it as well as the website. Unless each of the four partners' kicks in whatever the website costs, our hands are tied on that also. Steve had someone who was willing to work on the website. We can't do anything unless each of us take it to our elected officials and look at the proposal and they okay it; that's the only way this expense is going to get paid. If we went forward with the brochure, that would have to be approved by the four municipalities and the cost would have to be split up. Frank said that's why you are saying if this group was official and there was a \$1,000.00 budget, these things would get paid for. At this stage, every little thing has to have four different approvals on four different agendas on four different time lines. Jack said it would be good to get more representatives here. Upper Saucon has not appointed anyone. Tom is apparently waiting until the agreement gets adopted.

Steve said he has some fundraising ideas for benches and plaques. There have been a few complaints about the Hellertown – Lower Saucon edge of the surface being real loose as you get into the ballast. Talking about herbicides, there's a situation where we could widen the surface and put topsoil and grass it and mow it. The Ironton Trail has the nice grass, it's all mowed. It's nice; it's maintained; it's easier to pick up trash. We can do things like that to beautify the trail, have historic markers, or add benches. That's what people are looking for, whether it's the Friends of the Saucon Rail Trail supplying these doggie mitts, etc. Just keeping it simple. That's kind of what he's looking at. Jack said speaking about the surface, we are putting in the expenses for a gravel topping in the gaming authority grant. That is something we can consider doing in the future to put on top of the crushed crete. The width of the trail is something that he thought we discussed 10' and Upper Saucon came out with 12'. Going forward, we may want to talk about putting something more down. We can widen it if that's what the consensus is. He thinks from what he has seen on Facebook even if you have a wider trail, you still can have ten people walking abreast across it.

Charles asked about the slag at the Thomas Iron Works for the trail. Jack said Cathy Kichline was working with Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation on the testing of the material so they could get the necessary permits to mine and transported it off the site. It passed all of the laboratory tests, but he's not sure where it was with the permits. Tina said there was more testing that had to be done. Jack said it was \$2.00 a ton to crush it and then they were going to put that down. It's a good base material and we were going to put something like gravel on top of it. It was not going to be put on the surface of the trail. There were some things that people didn't like about it. We always said we'd use it as a sub-surface and put like a No. 9 stone on top of it. With the crushed crete, he heard comments about it being dusty and slimy. He hasn't seen that. He did see that the edges are a problem. That's something that we can discuss here if everyone thinks it should be wider. Frank said he agrees. If the funds are available through fundraising, that would be a good way to go with the topsoil, etc. People, when they adopt a trail, are competitive by nature, and it would be interesting to see what flowers they plant along the side and what they do to

maintain it. The surface itself seems to be holding up well over the short period it's been opened. What is the plan for regular maintenance to try to level it and roll it again? Jack said we can do that, we have the machinery to do that. We don't have any idea right now as it's a new material. We put it down as an experimental basis to see how long it would last. If it doesn't break down, we're going to have to go back. Steve said he thinks the surface is great, but he's just worried about the edges. He was curious about compost from the recycling center and putting it down on the edges. Jack said that goes back to the discussions we had about horses. Donna Bristol had been talking about using wood chips as a surface for the horses, but that's pretty labor intensive to put down. Public Works would literally be shoveling it off of a truck. There isn't any machinery that puts that down. You could use the compost up at the Compost Center.

Roger said we've only been open for a little time, and he thinks it's too early to be modifying the design of the trail. Until we have six months to a year on the crushed crete, yes, there's going to be dust, but so what. He's had people said they came off the river trail because of the rain and the ruts and they love our trail. Jack said it's drained well. He hasn't seen the sliminess or the dust. John Bate had said it was dusty when the ambulance drove on it. Otherwise, it's worked out very well. Jerry said he agrees with Roger. We have all the pluses going for us. We had all this rain and the rain is the element that this substance needs. What's going to happen during July or August, he thinks it's going to dry out, but he hopes he's wrong. The rolling does a lot. It's probably something you are going to have to do every six months or so. Roger said they certainly see a lot of usage. He thinks the count may be well over 2,000 already. Steve said on the opening weekend, he thinks there was at least a thousand people using it. Roger said look up and down the trail, there's bodies in one direction or the other. Steve said there are over 400 fans on Facebook now. That's the communication link right now. Jack said that's good as Steve is answering a lot of questions. Simple things like how long is it, what are some of the rules, some of the trail etiquette issues. You are also getting the rail proponents who want to restore rail service. They emerged back two or three years ago when we were talking about clearing the trail. They came out dead set against taking up the rails. That kind of subsided. Steve said it's certainly not our decision, that's why it's leased.

Steve said he was thinking of adding to Facebook an album of historic places along the trail. Jerry said one of the first things we should do is earmark the Heller Homestead and Grist Mill. We should get those things up first. Roger said the Farmers Market is concerned that people still don't know where they are, but one of the vendors asked him to ask if a sign on the trail directing people to the market would be helpful. He doesn't know how anyone could miss it. Steve said someone asked him to sponsor a poster and put out posters every Sunday and pick them up. He doesn't have a problem sponsoring a poster, but he's not sure about picking them up. Jack said there is a Farmers Market banner on Main Street, maybe we should look into putting one across the rail trail at some point. Steve said that would be the thing to do maybe at the Grist Mill so people know what's going on.

Jerry said he and Jennifer worked on the history of the railroad, could Steve put it out there? Steve said he could make Jerry an administrator on the Facebook site and he could put this information on the site. Jennifer can post it as well as she's an administrator. He will get a hold of her.

Jack said he wanted to cover the mileage markers. What happened is they were always on their "to do" list, but John Bate came to them at the Saucon Valley Partnership meeting and he mentioned the accident that had occurred with the 7-year old child who was with his family on the trail and he went down by the creek and on the way back, he fell and got a stick impaled in his neck. They called the 9-1-1 and they dispatched Dewey Ambulance. There was some confusion from the people reporting it and from the responders as to where they were. They opened up the emergency gate at Meadows Road and got the ambulance on the trail and the ambulance came up and picked the child up and went all the way up to Walnut and got off there and transported him to St. Luke's. He's fine and is recovering. John said this is something we need to work on. We discussed it at the SVP meeting and he just took the logo and put together something simple "Saucon Rail Trail" and it indicates its Lower Saucon Township and the mile marker. If you did mile markers, it would

be very few as there would only be three in Hellertown and two in Lower Saucon. These are not only to show people how far you traveled, but also are a trail locator. Roger said initially when they were talking about identifiers, but then the concept of the mile marker was brought up. It sort of fell by the wayside, so he looked at where the roads crossed the trail and just identified sections between roads and gave it a color code. When the collective group looked at it, it just seemed like it was more complicated than simple. It would have worked, but it would have required the understanding of colors. What happens when you have color blind people? When the mile marker came back, everyone is accustomed to that on roads, why not have them. He thought about this two weeks ago. He has seen posts and markers on the parks way back when. This is a 4'x6' post made out of red oak. It's the same material that was used on the kiosk. He got some pricing. Northampton Community College has a machine that's a computer controlled router. They came back with some pricing to actually route into the face of one of these posts and he looked into what would happen if they had SRT (Saucon Rail Trail) and the mileage marker. Most of the parks have a dark surface and they use paint to go inside the letters so that people with glasses can actually see them. This has an oil based dark color on it. It's user-friendly. There's nothing toxic about it. Taking the number that was mentioned at one of the meetings, if we need eight of them for Hellertown – Lower Saucon portion of the trail, it comes to about \$550.00 for material, labor and everything. That also includes a stainless steel plaque which Steve and Advanced Optics are willing to put up the money for. It would be nice to have them along the entire Lower Saucon – Hellertown route. Frank asked how many each mile? Jerry said we'd almost have to have them each quarter of a mile. Frank said it seems to him that emergency responders are used to responding on roads and highways where everything is a tenth of a mile. He's not saying we have to do that, but functionally and realistically, if the signs are a tenth of a mile apart, you're not too far from one of them. You can see where you are. If they are a mile apart or a half a mile apart, you can't see them. Jack said a half of mile is okay with them, and that's what he went with. Frank said its okay for them, but the person who got hurt and was calling in, didn't know where they were. Steve said some highways do every tenth of a mile. They were talking every half mile and he talked to Advanced Optics and they were going to split the cost. When they start talking about one every tenth of a mile, he's not sure. Roger said it would establish where one is. Right now no one knows. Maybe an organization could sponsor these. Jack said he thinks it's a great idea. If people are going to sponsor that and assume the cost, the caveat is that all the emergency responders have to sign on to that and say its perfect. Public Works could do the installation. Someone said cedar won't rot in the ground. Roger said with the ballast, it would be best if we dug a hole and put a 5-gallon bucket in there with concrete and put the post in. Jack said it looks great, and it has the SRT on it. Give him a prototype of it and they can run it by the Police and Firemen and Dewey Ambulance. Frank said where does zero start? Steve said probably down by Bachman Street. Steve and Roger talked about this quite a bit. If they do the bucket, they are removable. Secondly, the original railroad was Philly to Bethlehem. It went south to north, but realistically mile zero is in Coopersburg. It all could change. Realistically the beginning of Lower Saucon line is 5. We don't know if Upper Saucon is up for this either, they may not want to have anything to do with it. Jack said the only thing we know is everyone has adopted the Saucon Rail Trail name. If you go on the Ironton Rail Trail, it's not all uniform up there. They all got on board at different times. Frank said he likes this proposal. We should start at the Lower Saucon line with 5 and move up to Hellertown. If the connection happens, we go down south to zero and if it gets larger, we pull the buckets out and renumber them. Roger said remember the old Septa maps we had when the trail was first being kicked around? The way the rail did it was every 1,000 or 2,000 feet the sheet was numbered with the mileage. If everything opens up, you have the map as the number and they are done on a quarter mile basis. If we use that, then all we do is notify the emergency people that Meadows Road is 55 and Bachman Street is 52. They have the number system and the word gets out that every time you get to a full number, that's a mile marker. You've got the number system and he believes Dewey needs to know if it's mile 1 or mile 3. Jack said as long as they say it will work. Steve said mile marker 52 is already in place. That's what we are basing it off of? Frank said you can do that and that would keep the rail enthusiasts happy as that's part of keeping their historic marker on the trail. Roger said it ties in when the greenway opens up. He doesn't know where the rails connected, but it's certainly on the maps from 1917. The majority of the maps are from 1917 and they use that number consistently. He saw they improved the Water

Street crossing in 1956 and they copied the Water Street map and put in all the new things and retained the numbering system. Jack said the engineers who worked with them, would still mention those numbers when they did the culvert at the Grist Mill. The proposal on the table is every half mile and if at some point the quarter mile gets added, we just refine it then. Steve said what do we have to do to get this approved? Jack said on June 1<sup>st</sup>, it will be on the Council meeting agenda. He will do a presentation that night. If Council is okay with it, he will circulate it among the Emergency Responders. If they say it will work, then we're good to go. The best news is that the cost is being picked up by donors.

Jack said the other thing the Emergency Responders mentioned for us to work on was to put street names somewhere on the trail so when you are coming up on the trail, you can see Walnut Street, Water Street, Meadows, Old Mill. Roger said is that something the Borough and Township already have for the streets? Do you have to order them? Jack said that's the standard PennDOT green with white letters, and they are 6". Steve said once again it could be something natural looking. Ms. Katz said on Old Mill Road, there are about ten signs and it looks horrible. Jack said he apologizes about that, but that's what the engineers required. Ms. Katz said the idea of a post with an Old Mill Road is terrific. Jack said he agrees that would be nicer than a PennDOT sign. If it's on the trail, there are no requirements on how the sign looks. Steve said maybe we could pursue some more sponsors and get the street signs up. Jack said the Council has to decide if it's something they like, and the same with Hellertown.

Jerry said he's still concerned if someone goes down on the trail and there is an accident, how they are going to remember the just passed 52.5. Roger said the color coding idea is a lot simpler. You color code it with a color that coordinates it with the first letter of the road. Jack said he did run that system by the Emergency Responders and they said that's not going to work. Jerry said there are so many colors. Maybe you could put a band around all the old telegraph poles and put a color on them. The color coding for south of Walnut Street is white. Jack said if someone calls in and they are injured, they say the white one, and it goes out to whoever is on duty, and they have to know Walnut Street is white. Steve said having these every tenth of a mile is the solution. Jack said they are going to respond to the nearest street, so it's going to be off Meadows, off Walnut Street, or off Water Street. Once they get on the trail, it's going to be mile marker. Steve said it's crucial to get the street crossings up as soon as possible also. Charles said he walked on the trail in Hamburg and there was hardly anyone there Here there will be people coming up on anyone who is injured. If one person doesn't know, the next one will.

- **Other Issues**

- Roger said you are talking about getting sponsors. We really have to start with benches. He doesn't know what the grant is going to amount to, but he thinks you could offset some of the cost by asking for donations for memorial benches. It's done all over the place. He had a couple of people interested in doing so. He's seen the benches that Lower Saucon has and they are mounted in the ground and they run \$400 or \$500. They could be bought cheaper in quantity. Steve said they can contact the municipality and do that. Jack said they don't have anything set up, but Tom mentioned that UST has a program. If someone contacts them and wants to buy a bench, they pick it out of the catalog and pay for it. We don't have a program set up like that. Tina said Hellertown has memorial benches in their parks. Jack said did they get to pick their bench? Tina said Tom Henshaw usually meets with them and shows them the kind we use. They are wood and are about \$1,300.00. Jack said Jennifer was recommending that we accept donations for \$1,000 - \$2,000.00 and use the money to buy a \$700.00 bench and keep the rest for fundraising. That was one way. Tom said he didn't think that would fly. He would say if you want a bench, look in the catalog, this is the cost to the Township. That's what you get. A gentleman was here from Bucks County at the last meeting and he said they did a similar program in Doylestown Borough and they did exactly what Jennifer was saying. They asked people if you want to put a bench up, it's going to cost you \$2,000.00. Jack asked him how much the bench cost. He told Jack they cost around \$700.00 or \$800.00. The way Hellertown and Upper Saucon do it, you don't make any money on it. You give it to them at cost. That has to be decided. Steve said at this point, they can contact Hellertown or Lower Saucon to get a bench on the trail. Jack said they can. Frank said that seems like the same message we were talking about earlier with fundraising. If people are aware of the



fact that they can donate money or purchase a bench, it should be part of the same message we are giving to the community. They just need to contact their Township or Borough. Roger said Steve can publicize that on Facebook. Steve said it would be nice once we have a website to have a catalog of benches, mile markers or other things you can do. We'd have a selection of items.

- Charles said this may have been addressed already awhile ago. Does the Township and Borough have liability insurance? Tina said yes, they do have insurance. Charles said that he is concerned that the trail needs more fencing. Jack said did you notice the embankments on the Schuylkill River Trail in Hamburg? Charles said yes he did. Jack said some of those embankments go down 40' to 50' and there is no fencing along that trail. From a liability standpoint the trail has been looked at by the Solicitor and the Engineer, and what we have up for the Township is what we need to put up for safety features. We don't believe there are any situations where we are opening up any liabilities for the Township.
- Frank said apparently in June, there is going to be a meeting in Harrisburg on what is happening on High Street. The only reason he brings that up is it's looking increasing like the railroad wants to fill that in. If they do that, it does put an interesting blockage of the trail. If we think about what Upper Saucon had to do when they decided to come off the trail and go down into their park, they are doing that at a particular incline. Maybe that incline is dictated by handicap access in terms of how steep it can be. If Norfolk Southern fills that in, they aren't going to care what the approach incline is to be. If there's ever going to be a connection to the trail with that being blocked, you are going to have to come up off the trail, go off the road, and go back down. Roger said how much is it to install a culvert? Jack said the City of Bethlehem and Hellertown were trying to get grants from DCNR and they were talking about \$1.2 million for the bridge. He's not sure they were looking at the culvert as they were concerned by the length of it. They were looking for a two lane bridge and trying to come up with funding for that. He's surprised to hear this as DCNR was made a party to this action primarily to maintain the linkage. He that was going to have to be maintained. Norfolk Southern said fine, go and come up with the money and build your own bridge to do that then. Frank said there's a hearing in June.
- Jack said Upper Saucon is having a ribbon cutting ceremony on June 11<sup>th</sup> for the Saucon Rail Trail. Carolyn Lidie is responsible for organizing it. Everybody is invited to that. It's at Community Park, but he's not sure of the time, but it's probably on their website. They are going to have a formal opening for their section.
- Frank said talking about the website and Facebook, he's curious about what you think about the fact that they get together and organize a tour on the trail. Meet on Sunday at the Farmer's Market and for the next hour we are going to bike and stop at these places and point out to people what the some of the natural features are. He doesn't know if there's opposition to doing that, and if there's not, what stops anybody from wanting to do that to just do it. Maybe the historical societies want to be the organizer of something like that. That would be a way of advertising and getting this message out that you can buy a bench, buy a mile marker. Jack said he thinks people would be interested in something like that. The historical societies would be interested, but he's not sure how quick they could get you the information. The Ironton Rail Trail people said it was popular for them. Steve said it would be interesting to do that with a trolley. Tina said it would be nice to get a trolley for First Night. Frank said for the elderly or the people who can't do the trail to do that once a month. Steve said the Ironton Rail Trail people said the people on the trolley gave them a lot of information as well. They really added an element to the history. Frank said it might be nice to work with the historical societies. Jack said he will mention it.

- The meeting adjourned. The time was 6:35 PM.
- Next meeting –June 27<sup>th</sup> at Coopersburg Borough; July 25<sup>th</sup> at Upper Saucon Township; August 22<sup>nd</sup> at Lower Saucon Township