

## SAUCON RAIL TRAIL OVERSIGHT COMMISSION MEETING

**Date:** Monday, July 22, 2013  
**Time:** 7:05 PM  
**Location:** Upper Saucon Township

**Present:** Lower Saucon Township: Roger Jurczak, Jack Cahalan  
Hellertown Borough: Joe Pampanin, Charles Hampton, Steve LaBrake  
Coopersburg Borough: Tim Paashaus  
Upper Saucon Township: Allen Cassaday, Susan Anderson, Joe Geib

### **I. Call to Order/Roll Call – Chair**

Roger Jurczak called meeting to order; Joe Pampanin took roll call

### **II. Public Comment**

None.

### **III. Presentations / Trail Business**

#### **A. Rail Trail Vision**

Nothing new to report.

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

Roger reported that no Master Gardeners have been in the field recently, They are currently training new Master Gardeners, and will work with them to have something for us later in the year.

#### **C. Website**

Steve had no update. Joe noted that Upper Saucon Township is working on a new map, and when that is completed, he will get it over to Steve to post on the website. Additions to the map will include Reading Drive, Upper Saucon Phase II, and Coopersburg Borough. Steve mentioned that he is still working on obtaining a contract rate from Leigh Feather to do some site updates, as needed.

#### **D. Update on UST Trail Construction**

Steve noted that several people have been asking on Facebook about the status of Upper Saucon Phase II, which is yet to fully open - including wayfinding signs. Joe said he will put out a formal statement from the Township regarding that. They are looking to fully open Phase II in the coming weeks.

Some Commission members also asked about the condition of the stone trails on the south side of the Park. Joe said that Upper Saucon plans on fixing those trails in 2014, when they get underway with a DCNR-funded project to do some other trail improvements and SRT interconnections at the Park. The plan is to pave some sections of those stone trails.

Upper Saucon Township is working with an Eagle Scout candidate to install a kiosk at the Station Avenue trailhead. Additionally, there are a group of Southern Lehigh Youth Football players interested in installing a kiosk at the Living Memorial Park trailhead.

### **IV. Miscellaneous Business Items**

#### **A. Minutes of June 24 Meeting**

Upon motion by Mr. LaBrake, seconded by Mr. Cassaday, the minutes of June 24th were unanimously approved.

#### **B. April, May Financial Reports**

Upon motion by Mr. LaBrake, seconded by Mr. Cassaday, the June Financial Report was unanimously approved.

#### **C. Bills to Pay (if any) – None**

**V. Public Comment / Citizen Non-Agenda Items**

Doreen Heller, Bethlehem Planning Department; John Brunner, AMC

They are applying for a DCED grant from Act 13 Funds (applications due July 13), to link the South Bethlehem Greenway to trails on South Mountain, and to the Saucon Rail Trail. Currently, the Greenway ends at Saucon Park, and the City is working on a lease agreement with Norfolk Southern for the right-of-way to use as a trail and connect with the Saucon Rail Trail. In the grant application, Bethlehem is marketing the trail system as a boost to economic development through trail access points. They are requesting a letter of support from the Commission - Jack will write it.

Upon motion by Mr. LaBrake, seconded by Susan Anderson, the request for a letter of support from the Commission was unanimously approved.

John Brunner provided an update on the PA Highlands Trail and the Quakertown rail trail connection. The AMC is currently sketching possible Highlands Trail routes through West Rockhill Township. Also, Springfield Township is now participating in discussions with SEPTA regarding the rail trail extension to Quakertown.

**VI. Commissioner Individual Statements & Updates**

**A. By Municipality**

**a. Hellertown:**

Some students want to set up an Alex's Lemonade Stand for charity. Hellertown is trying to steer them towards setting up in conjunction with the Farmers' Market or Movie Nights, and be adjacent to the Trail, to avoid approvals necessary from the SRTOC.

Burrington's Bikes is a new business looking to start a bike rental business on the Trail. Hellertown rejected his request, stating that vending is not allowed in the parks.

Hellertown will be putting together a grant application for renovations to Water Street Park.

**b. Upper Saucon:**

Groups from Runners World will be hosting some Training Runs on the Trail in the coming weeks. Some Commission Members suggest that we check with the Lehigh Valley Road Runners to verify the suggested limits for group size for 'unsupported' events.

Mile markers will still need to be plotted out based on the historic markers. Supplies may still be available for the new markers, but funding has not yet been made available.

Upper Saucon received some requests for bench donations. They will work on the locations.

**c. Lower Saucon:**

The water fountain at the Reading Drive trailhead has been installed.

The historic sign at the Old Mill Bridge has been delayed a bit by the manufacturer, and will be installed soon.

**VII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

**Next Meeting**

August 26 @ Lower Saucon Township