

SAUCON RAIL TRAIL OVERSIGHT COMMISSION MEETING

Date: Monday, July 28, 2014
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Hellertown Borough

I. **Opening**

- A. **Call to Order:** Chairman Peter Jarrett called the meeting to order.
- B. **Roll Call:** Lower Saucon Township: Roger Jurczak, Jerry Holum, Jack Cahalan
Hellertown Borough: Steve LaBrake, James Hill, Cathy Hartranft
Coopersburg Borough: Linda Minarik
Upper Saucon Township: Joseph Geib, Peter Jarrett, Allen Cassaday
- C. **Guests:** Eric Bartosz, SoLeHi Library, Frank Pazzaglia, Lehigh University, John Brunner AMC Highlands Trail, John Roth, Quakertown Borough Planning Commission, Bob Irick, Milford Township Park & Recreation Committee, Greg Pambianco, Richland Township, Molly and Wendy Somers, Girl Scouts of Southern Lehigh

II. **Public Comment (Related to Agenda Items Below) - None.**

III. **Information Items**

- A. **Girl Scout Bronze Award Project** – Molly Somers presented Girl Scouts of Southern Lehigh Make New Friends on the Trail event scheduled for Saturday, November 1, 2014. The event will include troops from Southern Lehigh and Saucon Valley starting at opposite ends of the trail (Upper Saucon Community Park and Hellertown Water Street Park), meeting in the middle and continuing to the opposite end. Scout leaders will provide first aid, chaperone at crossing, water, etc. Cathy indicated the Saucon Troop will need to complete a special event request for use of Water Street Park.
Upon motion by Ms. Minarik, seconded by Mr. Cassaday, the commission unanimously approved the Make New Friends on the Trail event as outlined in the application contingent upon Hellertown receiving the appropriate special event request. .
- B. **Southern Lehigh Public Library Book It! 5K race** – Eric Bartosz, representing Southern Lehigh Library requested permission to hold the second annual 5K race on October 12, 2014 beginning and ending at Upper Saucon Township Community Park, with approximately 100+ runners. Posted crossing guards will be available, UST fire police and ambulance will be in attendance
Upon motion by Mr. LaBrake, seconded by Mr. Cassaday, the commission unanimously approved the Book It race as outlined in the application.
- C. **HCM Foundation** – An application was submitted to hold a Run on September 1, 2014 beginning at UST Community Park, turning around between Meadows and Old Mill Road, and ending at the UST Community Park. Fire Police and volunteers will monitor road crossings.
Upon motion by Mr. Juracek, seconded by M. LaBrake, the commission unanimously approved the HCM Foundation Run.

D. **Vision Future Plans**

- 1. **Springfield and Richland Townships** – Representatives from Springfield and Richland Townships were present to gather information on the benefits and liabilities of building and connecting a system of trails within their communities. Jack will meet with the representatives to discuss. Roger suggested contacting representatives of the Ironton Rail Trail Committee. Jack suggested to establish communication with the residents and businesses in the beginning.
- 2. **Coopersburg letter to Springfield Township** – A letter from Coopersburg Borough officials to Springfield Township officials in support of a trail system was submitted and read.
- 3. **Bethlehem Greenway Update**– The Commissioners discussed an e-mail from Darlene Heller regarding the Bethlehem Greenway connection to the Saucon Rail Trail. The commission unanimously approved Steve LaBrake as the Saucon Rail Trail representative to meet with Darlene

and the Planners.

E. Trail Improvements Projects

1. Geology Proposal; clearing and identification of outcropping – Frank Pazzaglia indicated the Lehigh University geology students have cleaned the outcrop located south of Meadows Road. This outcrop will be used for educational purposes at Lehigh as well as the general public. Frank requested permission, along with minimal funding, to erect a sign near the outcrop that would show time and space and identify what you are looking at. The Commission liked the idea with a suggestion that a policy is developed that will outline how and when funding is made available to organization from the Saucon Rail Trail treasury. Mr. Brunner indicated the AMC has money set aside for signage or to make application to the D&L. Frank and John will work on securing funding for the sign.

2. Eagle Scout Project at Reading Drive– Roger and Jack have prepared a bill of materials. Funds have been donated for this project. Jack will bring final cost to SRTC next meeting.

3. Update on Kiosk in UST – The kiosk has been installed.

4. Nature Path at Reading Drive – Jack updated the commissioners

5. Signal – Peter will reach out to a contact knowledgeable in the restoration of rail signals.

6. Mile Markers – Steve suggested the SRTC pay for the manufacture and installation of the mile markers then have sponsors reimburse the SRTC. Roger indicated five posts would need to be manufactured.

Upon motion by Mr. Cassaday, seconded by Mr. LaBrake, the commission authorized the manufacture and installation of five mile markers.

7. Ballast stone thrown over bridge – the Commissioners discussed the recent incident where a ballast stone was thrown from the bridge, hitting a windshield. Mr. Holum suggested covering the ballast stone with crushcrete 100' on each approach.

Upon motion by Mr. Holum, second by Mr. Jarrett to recommend to Hellertown Borough Council and Lower Saucon Council to look into methods to eliminate this opportunity.

8. Meadows Road washout – Jack will look into cleaning up.

9. Website/Facebook Update – Steve recommends updating pages to include all new access points.

Upon motion by Mr. LaBrake, second by Mr. Jurczak, the commissioners unanimously approved directing the webmaster to update pages.

10. Hellertown Democratic Club Clean Up – the commissioners reviewed photos of a substantial amount of debris along the Saucon Rail Trail near the Democratic Club. Cathy informed the Commissioners that the Hellertown Code Enforcement Officer sent a notice of violation today, which requires clean up within 20 days.

IV. Miscellaneous Business Items

A. Previous Meeting Minutes, April 28, 2014 – Upon motion by Mr. LaBrake, seconded by Mr. Jurczak the minutes of April 28, 2014 were unanimously approved.

B. May and June Financial Reports – Upon motion by Mr. LaBrake, seconded by Mr. Jurczak, the May and June Financial Reports was unanimously approved

C. Bills to pay (if any) – None.

V. Commissioner Individual Statements & Updates

Joe informed the Commissioners he is in contact with Runners World representatives to hold training sessions at UST Community Park; the crossing signs are up at all crossings; UST is in the preliminary stage of investigating a pedestrian bridge over Preston Lane.

Jack informed the Commissions LST is relocating a composting toilet from Polk Valley Park to the Reading Drive Trailhead.

Jack informed the Commissioners the Saucon Creek Watershed Association has developed a management plan for the SRT.

Cathy was asked to look into trash and rubbish accumulation in rear yards and along

Hellertown's portion of SRT. She will schedule clean up with public works.

VI. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE SRTC IS 8/25/14 IN COOPERSBURG

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