

SAUCON RAIL TRAIL OVERSIGHT COMMISSION MEETING

Date: Monday, August 24, 2015
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Lower Saucon Township Council Meeting Room

I. Opening

- A. Call to Order:** Peter Jarrett welcomed everyone
B. Roll Call: Lower Saucon Township: Roger Jurczak, Jerry Holum, Chris Garges
Coopersburg Borough: Linda Minarik
Upper Saucon Township: Peter Jarrett, Diana Inglis
Hellertown Borough: James Hill, Steve LaBrake

II. Public Comment/Citizen Non-Agenda Items - None

III. Public Comment/Related to Agenda Items Below – None

IV. Presentations/Trail Business

A. Vision/Future Plans

1. Springfield & Richland Township Update

Peter said that he received an email from John Brunner at the AMC who advised that the Bucks County section is moving forward and the Bucks County Commissioners have narrowed down their selection of design firms to a select few so they anticipate that an engineering firm should be chosen this fall and actual work on the trail could begin next spring. Peter said that he also noticed that Coopersburg Borough has removed debris and mowed the grass on their portion of the trail.

2. Bethlehem Greenway Update

Steve said that there is nothing new from what he sent everyone previously about the plans that their engineer came up with which they plan on completing in 2017. The trail would start at Water Street and would veer off toward the Saucon Creek and go through the Thomas Iron Works property, then across High Street, go under Route 78 and cross Silvex Road near Wendy's and then connect with the Bethlehem Greenway through Saucon Park. They say that the trail will be made of pervious pavement and they will be well marked. Steve said the City cannot get the rights from Norfolk Southern to extend their greenway to the SRT.

B. Trail Improvement Projects

1. Signal Restoration Project

Peter said that Jack prepared a press release on the work being done on the signal which was posted on Saucon Source and the SRT Facebook page. The parts that were sand blasted and painted all look good. The volunteers are starting to assemble some of the small parts and are waiting for the fabrication and painting of the eyebrows and targets. The pole has been painted with paint that Sherwin-Williams donated.

C. Upcoming Events

- 1. Book It 5K -10-4-15** – Diana said that this event has already been approved.
- 2. Lutron 5K – 9-8-15** – This event was approved by acclamation.

D. Other Business

- 1. Reading Drive Meadow** – Peter said that Mary Ann Snyder asked him if the Township could provide them with some wood chips for the project. Peter said that he discussed the management of the invasive plants at the site particularly the ailanthus trees and plants which are prevalent at that location. The commissioners said that this invasive is present all along the Saucon Rail Trail.
- 2. Litter** – Peter said that he has noticed a lot of cigarette butts along the trail near Lutron and he believes that it is from their employees who use the trail during their breaks. Peter said he

will talk to Joe Geib about it and see what his recommendations are as the Township has a working relationship with Lutron.

3. **Bamboo** – Peter said that bamboo is growing next to the trail on a farm near Passer Road. Roger said it is also growing near Walnut Street in Hellertown. There was discussion about whether there were any restrictions on its planting.
4. **Trash Cans** – Steve said that a trail user contacted him and said that there should be more trash cans along the trail from Bingen Road up to Hellertown. The commissioners recommended that Lower Saucon Township put a trash can at the Old Mill Road crossing.
5. **Safety Issues** – Jerry asked if the Township took any action following the incidents at Meadows Road. Steve said that the gates that Upper Saucon Township uses might slow down people on bicycles at that crossing.

E. Website/Facebook Updates – Steve said that we have over 1,000 likes on the Facebook page and the website is up to date.

V. Miscellaneous Business Items

A. Previous Meeting Minutes – Peter said that we do not have any minutes to approve.

B. Financial Report – The June and July financial reports were distributed. Peter said that Jack sent an email about the funds available for the signal restoration project and indicated that a total of \$4,800 has been pledged toward the project and that after the expenses were deducted they have \$1,677 remaining. The financial reports were approved by acclamation.

F. Bills to Pay (if any) – None

VI. Commissioner Individual Statements & Updates

A. By Municipality – Jerry asked what happened with the mile marker at the Grist Mill? Steve said that he is checking with Tom Henshaw to see if he has it. Jerry said he brought up the idea at a previous meeting of having the SRTOC become a 501 (c) 3 organization which would permit the donors to take a tax deduction for their donations.

VII. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m. Next meeting September 28th at Hellertown Borough