

SAUCON RAIL TRAIL OVERSIGHT COMMISSION MEETING

Date: Monday, August 26, 2013
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Lower Saucon Township – Seidersville Hall

Present: Lower Saucon Township: Jack Cahalan, Township Manager, Jerry Holum, Roger Jurczak
Hellertown Borough: Cathy Kichline, Borough Manager, Steve LaBrake, Joe Pampanin
Coopersburg Borough: None
Upper Saucon Township: Peter Jarrett

Guests: Maryann Snyder, Stacy Reed

I. Call to Order/Roll Call – Chair

Roger Jurczak welcomed everyone and had all the representatives introduce themselves.

II. Public Comment (Related to Agenda Items below)

A. None

IV. Presentations / Trail Business

A. Rail-Trail Vision- See C-Trail Vegetation planning/mapping

B. Website Updates

Steve said we asked 110 Front Street Communications for a quote to maintain certain parts of the website that were beyond what I was doing. They gave us a \$1,200.00 quote for one year that includes content changes and updates and changes to the overall site design. The template would be evaluated and estimated on a monthly basis. It is \$100.00 a month. Jack said that is reasonable. Steve said we are not hitting them with stuff on a regular basis, but we will be hitting them up soon with a new trail map, the trail markers, and the bench program for the new area in Upper Saucon.

Steve said do we want to approve it. Roger said do we have any thoughts. Jerry said his question was how much utilization will we get and Steve pointed out a number of uses. Steve said I do not have the website knowledge to take care of this. Jack said if one of us comes up with something, we give it to you and you give it to them to put on the website and it's taken care of.

Peter said I am not familiar with the whole process. We paid for the website and we have some web masters among us who can put on little things? Steve said right. Peter said when it comes to a major or medium size overhaul, we asked them to do that; is that what this is for? Steve said correct. Peter said at \$100.00 per month. Jack said that is reasonable.

Roger said didn't we just have work done? Steve said we can leave it at an hourly rate and maybe it could be \$500.00 for the year or \$2000.00. Peter said I think we should go with it for a year and see how much we utilize it. Steve said we are going to have a couple months where we are going to be utilizing it. Maybe we continue accordingly and evaluate it at the end of next year to see if we have gone over the \$1,200.00. Our last bill of \$75.00 took care of quite a few things. I am guessing for them, they are web masters, when you hand them what we got, it takes them fifteen minutes if that. Joe said you won't have any pages. What is assumed, as far as updates, in their coverage; meaning I want to add two pages or I want to add a thousand pages. Steve said it says it includes content changes and updates, changes to the overall site design, and the template would be evaluated and estimated on an as needed basis. Steve said the template isn't going to change. Joe said it seems from what you just read that if we wanted to add a new page or a new tab on the banner, it is going to be additional. Steve said no, because that is part of the template. Joe said right, but it would be evaluated and estimated on an as needed basis. Steve said I don't see where we are going to make any overall site design or template changes. It is really just adding information. Roger said how long have we been up and running with them since they designed it? Steve said a little over a year. Roger said and we only spent \$75.00. Steve said I was asked to get estimate. Roger said you did what you were initially asked. Steve said I think we should leave it at an "as needed basis" and see where it leads. Jerry said we can look at it two months from now and if we spent \$400.00 it is a no brainer that we want the yearly rate and then sign the contract. Steve said once they get a better feel for what they are doing, maybe it is a lesser bill. They are shooting that number out at \$100.00 a month; it may be that \$50.00 a month is

more reasonable. Roger said the overall feeling is to stay on the existing as needed basis rather than going with a signed contract. Steve said with the changes that are happening in the next few months, it may be a little heftier bill, but then it will settle up. We may not need anything for months.

Cathy said where is the Saucon Rail Trail Special Event form listed? Peter said that form is not on there because I looked for it today. Cathy said ok, I am not missing it then. Steve said I will make sure it gets on there and it still has Sarah Pandl's email. Cathy said I changed it on our website. Steve said it was on there at one time, under the calendar, but I don't know what happened to it. Steve said Jack, can you update it on Lower Saucon's website. Jack said it has been updated. Steve said can you email me the new version and I will get it to 110 Front Communications to make sure it is on the calendar. Cathy said is it the 4/4/13 revision. Jack said yes.

Steve said there was a lot of activity on the Facebook page over the weekend. Jack said it looks good. Steve said there were a lot of comments. Jack said that's good because you have to get those people to go through the park to the other side. Steve said putting a map of the park on both the website and Facebook pages to show people how to get to both ends of the trail would be well received. Steve said I don't know if Upper Saucon can come up with signs, "SRT" with an arrow, but it is a puzzle to people.

C. Trail Vegetation Planning/Mapping

Maryann Snyder said about two years ago Ann Frederick gathered a group of Master Gardeners together on the trail to identify and manage some of the invasive species. We had great volunteers, but there were only three of us to direct people what to pull and we thought, this needs to be more organized. Training could have been more effective. Some of the things we were doing were actually making things worse. The following year, someone from the SRTOC contacted Erin Frederick to ask how we could do this in a more effective way. I offered training at the library and a few people came, but not enough to team up to map it. The discussion was that we would map what was growing on the trail and the implication to what these plants were. With that goal in mind, we tried. It was overwhelming. A few of us have started to keep a running inventory. I have two sections done. We are seeing what some of the implications are of these plants, like losing trees and choking out wildflowers. A small group of us are doing this, but we are realizing there is no way we are going to end this. The trail keeps growing and we are three people. Then, the Watershed Steward program began and one of the groups is doing a rail trail mapping project. There are a group of three assigned to this project. I am one of the three. We are looking forward and in the beginning stages of how we are going to pull this project together. The general guidelines are listings of plants and a manual where there would be a calendar of what to do when. What we are learning is, you don't begin this kind of project without thinking about restoration. I think it is an issue of education. It is a very difficult piece of land. It is in linear lots of perimeter and we are unable to have control of what is growing on either side to have it be native PA woodland. It has been fragmented, disturbed land for many years. It is a hard place to start. I do think you want to save trees and would like to see a healthier understory. There are some implications with barberry that harbor tick populations, which people would appreciate not having there. Making it healthier are things we can do and those are some of the goals. Stacy Reed said I was astounded at the number of invasive species that are on the trail. One of the things Erin Frederick and I spoke about was making a Saucon Rail Trail Day, or a monthly tour, to talk about the history and how it became established in its present form. Included in it would be talking about invasive species and what the consequences are of having them in our community and how we address it. Maryann said do you know how the origin of this came about? Did it come from the SRTOC that the invasive species was a concern. Roger said are you talking about the Rail Trail itself? Maryann said yes, how did they come to us? I did not initiate this and I don't think Erin Frederick initiated this. Was it determined by someone on your committee this is a problem and we need to do something about it and then you contacted Erin. Maryann said I am glad it is being addressed but I wondered what the level of origin was and the commitment is. It is wonderful, but unexpected. Roger said one of our commissioners, Chuck Hampton, is a frequent walker and he focused on the wild grape and the entanglement of the trees. We lost a number of trees in one big snowfall and that prompted the need to do maintenance. We said, how do we go about this. I believe it was Jack that

said why don't we engage the Saucon Creek Watershed. Erin Frederick was representing one of the municipalities at that time and that is how we got her involved. Erin Frederick suggested a lineal picture. Maintenance was done for some of the invasives in one day and we thought that was great for that one plant, but we have plants that come up every one or two months and that was how we came to you. Peter said we wanted to come up with a plan for a planting phase in certain areas. Maryann said are there funds for those kinds of things. Stacy said part of our concern as far as removing invasive species is, to put something else in its place. Maryann said I spend a lot of time on the trail and it is wonderful, thank you. The new Reading Drive Trailhead area, where it is just grass, you could have a small meadow there, with signage and make it an educational piece. Jack said do you mean near the trail or out by Reading Drive? Maryann said I park at Reading Drive. There is an area that has recently been grassed. I think that could be a place to put a meadow or do some meadowscaping and have some wildflowers there. Jack said the police asked us not to plant anything there that would block the parking lot from the street and that is why we just planted grass. Jack said do you know the Hellertown Marsh and are you familiar with that area? Stacy said yes. Jack said that is another area that we were looking for assistance from the Saucon Creek Watershed Association. You had signs produced there. Steve said you had signs made several years before we became a Rail Trail. Stacy said we were looking for areas to place them and it involved clearing plants and trees and we got together at that end and that was an area of one of the cleanups. Terry Boos and others were involved with that. Terry and I are working together on the inventory from that end of the trail and I think that is the next section we are doing. Maryann said I am hitting it from the other end.

Roger said if you can formulate a game plan, I think that it would be fair for each municipality to get a part of their respective trail addressed as a starting point, but starting where is the big question. From the Commission standpoint, what we hope to have overall is a game plan from one end to the other of the SRT. Roger said what I hear you saying is, if you have air ground and you do something with that air ground, within a year's time you will have some bases in and that might be a starting point. Maryann said any land where you are disturbing the soil; is that what you are suggesting. Roger said the Reading Drive Trailhead is one of the newest areas that got redone. The trail that got extended in Upper Saucon was an existing rail bed and they put down the necessary running and riding surfaces. It was there and to that degree not much is disturbed on the Upper Saucon end. Peter said other than drilling holes to put the fence posts in and things like that, it wasn't a whole lot. Roger said Coopersburg is working on their public park to add parking and there may be some disturbed ground, but that might be months. Peter said you are suggesting that if we remove something we better have something to replace it. Maryann said correct. Peter said you cannot go and take it out and expect things not to come back. Maryann said or expect good things to come back. There are methods you can do. You can do a cut stump method, but this requires using herbicides right on the stump, which does not disturb the land, but you cannot have volunteers using herbicides. Maryann said what the plan could be is, you have this growing and this is what you should do, but it might have some municipal requirement. The tree issue could be done by volunteers to cut the vines down at the ground each year. Stacy said that is one of the questions we came up with because we have seen some unsavory things. We need plant identifiers, vests for volunteers, stuff like that. Maryann said as the Saucon Creek Watershed Steward Committee works, we could consult because I have some of that listed. Maryann said it will not happen overnight, but through the year, as we work together we can say this is what needs to be done, maybe you can afford this and not that, and volunteers could do this and not that. Maryann said the Oriental Bittersweet and the Grapevine are the problem. Steve said Chuck Hampton would walk along the trail with a little saw and cut it down and I don't think anybody has any issue with that. Jack said there is an issue and it needs to be discussed because there are areas where the residents have requested we not clear everything away. One in particular is at the Old Mill Road Crossing. There is overgrowth where the signal cabinets are. The residents have said please leave that alone because it is a privacy buffer between them and the trail. Steve said what if we clear out invasives and plant surface trees. Jack said then you are getting into expensive replacements. Steve said Chris Cummings is willing to give us a few trees at some point if we could come up with a plan for a particular area.

Steve said I like the idea for the Reading Drive area and that seems a nice place to start. There are some things we need. There may be a source, but we just need to know what we need. Steve said if you start removing things and we only have "X" amount of feet beyond the trail to work with, it is just going to come back in and be a constant thing year after year and never go away. Maryann said correct. Stacy said that is where the educational piece comes in. There are parties within the community that could be inadvertently contributing to the invasive species. Entities are planting a lot of Barberry and Burning Bush, which are showing up on the trail. The question is can we work collaboratively with them to start mitigating this. Maryann said or come to an understanding why it matters; that is the big piece for me. Maryann said I do agree that the trail might be a difficult and challenging place to start and it might not really be the mission of the SRTOC, but we see it as an opportunity to educate people about what they plant.

Roger said we had people look at the trail when it was first in and they said we should have flowers along the trail. They were thinking about through Hellertown and against backyards to houses and around the curve because it is pristine. We wanted to establish linear points along the trail that should be left woody and others that should have something fancier. Maryann said do you mind if I make the pitch for planting native plants? You mentioned blue bird boxes and butterflies. You want to have the things on the trail that they will eat. Birds primarily eat insects and insects are plant specific. They live out their life cycle on plants they have co-evolved with. You want to be planting things that provide for the birds and everything, rather than tulips or something like that. We should look at things that will spread and naturalize and bring in more diversity. We could do that as part of the educational piece.

Roger said we are looking for a comprehensive plan. Our municipalities go out and cut trees that look threatening or are down. All the municipalities are on board that they will take care of their portion of the trail. If you were to say, here is a section and we see invasives, they might not be recognized as invasives because they are too busy taking care of the streets. Maryann said seeing the vines that are growing on the trees is the reason the tree came down. Stacy said is there a way to get the municipal staff that is on the trail doing this work to come to invasive species training. Jack said they may had a little bit of exposure, but that is not a day to day thing. They have done projects at the other parks and our PW assists by providing heavy equipment to dig up the bamboo and others. Stacy said they have done some then. Jack said yes. Jack said Cathy Kichline and I had offered to help with the work on the marsh because it would have involved heavier equipment and that is what the municipal PW departments can contribute. The volunteers can do the actual up close stuff. Our staff can be there to haul it away. You do have to get up high for some of those vines. Maryann said if you cut into places and paint you can kill the plant. Jack said none of the Township or Borough staff are licensed to apply herbicides. To have a licensed applicator come in and do that would be a cost to the SRTOC.

Roger said you are in a position to say to us, this is what we mapped out, this is what we see, and here is the recommended approach. Then it is up to us to implement it and do it in-house. If we have to go outside, as Jack said because we don't have the personnel, and have to hire someone, we have to look at the budgets and see how much of a problem that really is. Steve said it is relatively easy to find volunteers. To have 4 or 5 people to attach small teams of 20 people to makes it is easy to work with and attack it in one day. Once the volunteers are educated we could attach certain areas to them. We do have a budget, it is not a lot, but if you are talking a couple hundred dollars worth of wildflowers I would think it would be feasible. Maryann said we have learned that there are different opinions that as you pull you take a wildflower mix and throw in some seeds. We are willing to suggest and try things. Jerry said I am intrigued with the inventory. Would you be identifying, for example, trees along the trail. Trees that are diseased and know that they were going to be dying with 4 or 5 years. Do you have the ability to do that? Maryann said I don't have that ability. Stacy said I am the water person. Maryann said maybe you have expertise in that area, but that is not my expertise. Roger said Terry Boos is an arborist and could be a resource within your group. Maryann said I just took a section of the trail by looking at the map. I have a listing that reads heading north on this side and this is what I am seeing. I do not have specifics because it is too overwhelming. Maryann said one of the ways to approach this is to go from areas of least infestation to greater infestation because where it is young

you can get it and maybe keep whatever else is there. In one area there is one Japanese knotweed which has to go, one bush, not ten of them. The other thing is that you don't want to remove a lot because you are also disturbing habitat. There are ways we can report so that you can do it in a careful way. Roger said Erin Frederick is prepared to provide mapping to assist. Stacy said when we've done stream assessments, it was very close and easier to make notations. We are not making those kinds of notations because there is so much and different species. Maryann said in the first twenty feet. Roger said I think you've learned a lot in the months you've been working. I don't think anyone expected this would be a done deal in three months. It is certainly an ongoing situation. We had one cleanup and what we learned was we filled a dumpster and we did it one day. You are saying you cannot do it in one day. If you say there are six different times a year to have a cleanup day, we are open to that. Maryann said we could suggest focused items, like Garlic Mustard, and everyone is going out to pull that today. It makes it easy to identify. Roger said we don't have to address the entire the trail. If we can generate 20-30 volunteers and have 6 leaders, we can do that easily. Peter said it would be unreasonable to think that we could care for eight miles of trail. Can we do a triage with your inventory, like this is a real nice area, this is not too far gone, this one needs attention now before it becomes a problem. Maryann said we can do that. Peter said we really need to take care of it. We need to put up signage about invasive species and make it an educational part of the trail, like these are our recommendations and things you don't want to plant and why. We need to try to identify those special areas that we can really, I am making a suggestion, not a policy statement, that we focus our attention on those areas we can make better. What would be interesting and good is to have pictures. Maryann said that is part of the project. Peter said find those areas that we can really work on, find invasive species, help us identify and locate them, and a strategy that shows what we do now. Maryann said ok. Peter said one in each municipality that we could focus on. I am sure we could find someone in each of our respective areas that would be interested in caretaking and if they have a pesticide license that is even better.

Stacy said may we have a contact person from each municipality. Roger said you can come back to the Commission and use me as a focus point. Stacy said I was thinking of emailing four people and asking them to identify or give us some ideas of some of the areas you would like us to focus on. Jerry said when you go out and do these inventories how far off the trail are you looking. Maryann said perhaps six feet. It was 15 feet from the center of the trail either way, 30 feet, or six feet on each side. Jack said there are some areas on the trail where the SEPTA area broadens and widens to what is beyond the paved trail. At the Reading Drive trailhead, the property goes from the edge of the trail to the fence of the country club. Peter said there is no way of knowing that. Jack said we have the railroad maps. Peter said yes, but there is no way of looking at the map and seeing it. Jack said you can see the property barriers. Roger said the telegraph poles are all on SEPTA property. We have the lease for 30 feet for the trail itself. Roger said the rest of the property is abandoned as far as SEPTA is concerned, but the golf course is purely defined. Jack said there is a half mile going away from Bingen Road to the county line where the golf course is fenced and it is much defined. Roger said what was manicured for the parking area at the Reading Drive trailhead there still is a triangular piece of land that belongs to the Township. Jack said the only easy ones are in Upper Saucon Township because everything is in between the fences.

Roger said do you have a better understanding of what we are looking for? There is no wrong answer. Maryann said it would be good to have more people on the ground who know the plants when you have groups of volunteers going out. Any opportunity to do any type of education would be great. Steve said can you spend time with the volunteers identifying first. Maryann said we did that. Steve said what if you have a volunteer session one day for an opportunity to educate people on what we are targeting. Jerry said why don't we make a plan to do that now, it seems like a great idea. We haven't had a field day in two years and this seems like a good combination. Joe said where would we want to do this. Jerry said it might be at the new trail head. Jack said the only thing I would caution you on is that it is up to the individual municipality to say ok, this plan will work in our municipality. I think there should be a plan that is blessed by the municipality as to what is going to be removed from the property that they are leasing. The plan identifying the invasives and what could be planted as an acceptable replacement would come back to the municipality and get their blessing and then be

available for use by the volunteers. Jerry said did we do anything like that in our first work party. Jack said we relied on the people from the Saucon Creek Watershed Association to guide us. In each area they identified what was invasive and what could be removed. There were some areas that I talked to Chuck about, like the Old Mill Road Crossing, where I said please don't remove anything even though it looks like it is encroaching on the trail because the residents said please don't take it down because it is their privacy buffer from the trail. I think each municipality has to look at the plan and say fine go ahead and execute it and then get volunteers to carry it out. Steve said if we were to take an area, like the Hellertown Marsh or the Reading Drive access, are you suggesting to first inventory that area, then go to the municipality and say this is what our game plan is, and then we can set-up an action day to get cleaned up. Jack said yes and with that support and the municipality could provide any equipment or personnel or whatever to assist with some of the bigger stuff. Stacy said it makes it more manageable if we are identifying an isolated area within each municipality. We can inventory that quickly and easily while we continue the entire inventory. We can pick those subsections and really start looking at how to address those areas. Joe said those two areas that Steve just mentioned would be ideal sites. Peter said there are places in Upper Saucon, as you get on the trail from the park, from there to Landis Mill Road, but there are not a lot. Maryann said there are some nice stretches there. Steve said from the access point to the first road crossing in Upper Saucon should be used as an Upper Saucon spot. Peter said you decide. Stacey said I really want feedback from you. Steve said we need to pick one area in each municipality we can target right away. Once we have a game plan in place, we can set up a volunteer work day in each of those municipalities, maybe a couple weeks apart, and then have a game plan to go forward. Peter said I am thinking of going the other way, between the park and the new part that is open in Center Valley. Maryann said the new part. Peter said as you leave the soccer fields and start towards Center Valley on Station Avenue. Maryann said going towards Passer Road. Peter said yes, after that it is homes everywhere else. Peter said I haven't been on the new part since it opened on Thursday. Maryann said there is a new part. Peter said it is open to Coopersburg now. Stacy said is that is the fourth municipality. Steve said third. Peter said Coopersburg doesn't have any lineage. Steve said that is all Upper Saucon Township, back to Living Memorial Park. Roger said do you feel that would be a smaller or better place to start. Peter said from the park up to Landis Mill Road and maybe a little beyond that towards Washington Lane. Maryann said yes, I have looked at that a lot. Maryann said will you please repeat for what purpose are we looking at these focused areas Is it to inventory, identify, to prepare recommendations what needs to come out as invasive, and what needs to go in. Steve said so that we can go to the municipality to get approval and move forward with volunteer day for each of those sections. Maryann said we are not just inventorying, you want suggestions for planting too. Joe said sure. Peter said you were the one that recommended it. Stacey said we have three sites; Landis Mill, Reading Drive, and the Hellertown Marsh; is there a fourth? Roger said start with those three. Those are the three municipalities that have stake in the game. Steve said we can move along from those points. Roger said the marsh is from Water Street to Walnut Street. Stacey I know where it is.

Maryann said I have a concern about the feasibility of this. Even though it is a shorter space we still have to give recommendations for all of the different plants. It requires us not to inventory everything at this point. Peter said you are taking 8 miles to maybe one at the most. Maryann said right, I have those two sections done, but I don't have the whole booklet of information sheets and the calendar. Stacey said we will be fine. Roger said we are going to define the three areas. From Water Street to Saucon Creek would be the Hellertown portion. From Bingen Road to the gun club would be Lower Saucon. Stacey said I don't know where the gun club is. Maryann said where Bingen Road intersects Reading Drive. Maryann said which direction. Jack said south. Stacy said by the park? Peter said no, it is a physical gun club. Stacy said not the Rod and Gun Club. Peter said it's a sportsmans club. Jerry said the best section to stop is by the stream by Spring Valley. Jack said on the UST map it is between E and D. Peter said is that where the stream is. Jack said yes there is a culvert that goes underneath. It is a very short stretch and that is where we are saying to stop. Maryann said starting at Bingen Road. Jack said the Bingen Road overpass. That would be north of the trailhead parking lot. Roger said for the final section, do you want to go with the new part of the trail. Peter said I haven't even looked at it yet, I don't know. We could look at both of them. From the entrance to the trail on the north section to Landis Mill Road and maybe a little bit past. Maryann where does the trail actually begin. Is it when

you go up the hill from the park; is that part of it. Peter said yes, it is part of the trail. The southern end, which is new, opened a month ago and it is in a nice wooded area. Stacey said do you have any thoughts about if we could get some landscapers to donate plants. Would they be able to post a sign "plants donated by. Steve said we have someone to give plantings, but he is more a tree guy. Jack said as Steve mentioned, the SRTOC budget could be utilized for some of that. You could also do fundraising. People were interested in donating and right now we really don't have anything specific. Take your plan and put it out as a fundraiser. Jack said you mentioned the mile markers and that you had people committed to donate. Maryann said aren't you raising money for a water fountain? Jack said we completed that. Jack said we could do a fundraising campaign for this too. Maryann said the only other issue is, after we do this and we put new plants in, which is evidenced by Tumminello Park, if they are not maintained and weeded and watered on a regular basis for the first year, it is all for not. These areas are going to have to have maintenance. Even if we have crews of volunteers that are willing to go out. I can't do it all, but I could be a part of going out with more people. Roger said we are looking for guidance. Whatever guidance you are prepared to give it is more than what we have internally here. Let's start working on flushing it out and filling it in. You asked for areas to focus on and we have given you that. Thank you both and your respective groups for accepting this challenge.

D. Birdhouses along Trail-See C-Trail Vegetation planning/mapping

E. Wildflower Plantings-See C-Trail Vegetation planning/mapping

F. SLPL 5K

Roger said has everyone had a chance to review the Southern Lehigh Public Library 5K run application. Upper Saucon already signed off on it. Is there anybody here that sees any problems. Peter said is that going in a northern direction. Roger said yes, it starts at the park. Steve said the same as the other 5K. All in favor, no opposed.

Steve said I have another application. The Saucon Valley Spirit Weekend is on October 19th and 20th. Dave Heintzelman is putting it together. It is a walk/run/bike starting at Dimmick Park to the Grist Mill entrance, the bike part will go to the Reading Drive access point, and back. The expected number of participants is 100 and there is no rain date. The date is Saturday, October 19th with a 10am start time. They are not totally utilizing the street entrance. Jack said where are you crossing 412. Steve said Cathy did you talk to him about this? Cathy said he was at the last Council meeting and did not have everything established yet. Steve said I believe he has the Hellertown Police and Dewey Fire Company involved. Jack said he needs a PENDOT permit and approval to close the road. To do it officially, you need PENDOT. Relay for Life was doing a Duck Derby and they went to PENDOT and they had to get a permit. Steve said they will be crossing Walnut Street. Cathy said I can help you with that. It has to go in front of Borough Council too. Steve said Dewey Fire Company would take care of any medical emergency. Roger said that is the week following the Southern Lehigh event. Cathy said it is from the Grist Mill to Reading Drive. The police will need to know how they are getting from Dimmick Park to the Grist Mill. Steve said as far as the committee is concerned, we are just concerned about the Grist Mill. John Bate is going to open the gate at the Grist Mill to get people flowing onto the trail. Jack said at the Meadows Road crossing there are two gates. We can coordinate that. Jack said you are going to have to have monitors at those crossings? Steve said yes, at Meadows and Old Mill. Jack said John Bate can open all the gates. Steve said as far as the committee is concerned, can we vote on this. We have to get it to Lower Saucon and Hellertown. Jack said I thought you mentioned it is going to be on our roads. If it is not on our roads, then the SRTOC can approve it. Steve said he is doing two bike rides, a 5 mile and 15 mile ride. Jack said at the same time as this? Steve said it all goes off at the same time. Jack said you need to let me know about the roads so our Parks & Rec can review that, but the trail can be approved here.

Peter said they have volunteers from Dewey Fire Company; do they give them a donation. Cathy said in this case Dewey is a co-sponsor. Peter said there is a cost if you have an ambulance and people at the crossings. Steve said if they bring in Fire Police too. Roger said is there any opposition to the application? All were in favor; no opposition. Saucon Valley Spirit Day Race, Saturday October 19th

was approved. Roger said Jack, when this comes to you on this format, is that sufficient in terms of the Rail Trail portion? Jack said yes, if it comes here and is reviewed and approved, our Council is ok with it.

G. Donations/Fundraising

Joe said I received an email from Ed Gallagher who expressed interest in the trail. He asked that if he wanted to make a small monetary donation where he should send it. I gave him our contact information. Looking at the website, I was wondering if there was a place for general donations. I found the information the water fountain. Is this something we would like to have on the website on its own. Jack said unless you have something specific, it just goes in the SRTOC treasury. Steve said should they send it to your attention. Jack said you can put down Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Commission c/o Lower Saucon Township and the address. Steve said we can put something on the website about that. Jack said if someone contacts the Borough or Lower Saucon Township and says I want to give money for the rail trail, but I want it used in Upper Saucon Township, the by-laws state that that money can be used for something in Upper Saucon. If they don't say that it, the money goes into the general fund. There were a couple of people who wanted to give money that contacted me after we reached the goal for the fountain. There are people out there that want to donate if we have projects that we can target. Cathy said like the plantings. Roger said would it be beneficial to put something on our website that defines the fact we are working on the plantings plan and later will be identifying the funds required. Cathy said I think it is a good idea to get it out there. It may generate interest in volunteers and fundraising. Steve said such as the benches and the need for additional mile markers. We have to get into the signals conversation and plantings on the trail. They could donate to anyone of those. Jack said I can put something together for those and send it around and put it on the website. If somebody contacts you, say check the website and if you want to donate to one of those, write a check and send it to this address Peter said I would be a little cautious on the planting thing because we don't know where we are going. Someone could donate "X" amount of dollars, and in their mind they may have a vision of what they want it to look like, but that may not be our vision. Jack said make it generic like a tree fund and specify it is for native species. Steve said that could be anywhere along the trail. Jack said I can give you a list of acceptable native plants right now because we have a list in the Township. Roger said would somebody give money specifically to flowers or would it be more generic. Jack said it would say native plantings. Steve said as long as they know it would be anywhere along the trail and not they are giving to Hellertown etc. Jack said yes, you don't want to give them indication as to where.

Steve said Roger and I were talking about the mile markers. We need four and the cost is \$150.00 per post, which could change, but for now that is the cost as long as we can get them done by November 1. Roger said I think that is realistic. Steve said it is actually three because we have to move one out of the park. Roger said was that defined. Steve said yes, because he paid for that post to be on the trail. Roger said it is considered being in the park and not on the trail. Steve said we moved it over to there. We owe him a post; it is mile marker 53. Roger said it was 48. I was under the impression that if they move that to the physical dimension it would be somewhere near the library. It is effectively on the other side of the park, up on the trail, in the same fashion as 48.5. Steve said it is going to confuse people because it is not accurate through the park. We are only putting mile markers up where they actually should be. Roger said, I haven't had a chance to really explore what is happening from Station Avenue coming back toward the library, but if we look at the rail maps, I suspect that the map designation for 47 and 47.5 is near Station Avenue and I don't think it's another .5 mile back. What I recommend is that we do not get into the lineal mileage, but rather pickup on the other side of where the road is. Steve said that is all we can do, but we owe him. I'll cover his marker on the trail. We told him he would have his marker on the trail. It is no longer going to be 48 and it should be removed. Peter said the mile markers want to keep true to the railroad, but with the diversion we are stretching it. There is no place for the 48. Are you are saying we should remove it and then we would have one in the park. Steve said probably. Peter said put a post there, but don't put a number on it. Steve said we are looking for two additional and I don't know if we should put one at the end until we go into Coopersburg. Roger said I would like to have it made with the number according to the rail. Steve

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said somebody is paying for it. Roger said it wouldn't even sell it. Roger said we need to figure it out in the next few weeks.

Jack said how many benches are you talking about in Upper Saucon. Steve said I have no idea.

Steve said we have a guy willing to put out money to refurbish the signal near Walnut Street. We got in touch with the guy who did the Old Mill Bridge. Before he gives us quote, he needs us to narrow down what we want done. Steve said he mentioned sandblasting and painting, but do we want to more than that, like glass lenses. There are a lot of little pieces to think about before he can give us a quote.

Steve said I think the lenses would be a huge mistake because there are too many ballast stones around. Do we want them filled in with aluminum; traditionally, were they two colors or one. Roger said two or three; red, yellow and green. Steve said we can paint over aluminum. Jack said I can get you on a railhead forum that will give you the answer. Steve said how far do we want to go with refurbishing this. Jerry suggested taking it down and having, what, rewiring done. Jerry I was talking about the safety of the people on the trail to take it down and not have the sandblasting done on the trail. I know it's covered, but people are still going to be running by. I looked at it after we originally spoke and I was initially under the impression it was adhered to the foundation, but it is actually cemented into the foundation. It would have to be cut off and coupling put around it and welded to put it back up. I am not talking about rewiring it at all. I am not talking about putting tin back in the lenses either. I am talking about putting glass back in. I am saying put the original lenses back in there. Steve said you don't think they'll be destroyed. Jerry said no, cover the area. Steve said what would they cover the lens with. Jerry said not the lens. Cover the area so kids can't pick up ballast stones and throw them. The reason we are restoring it, is to have it original. Roger said what we are trying to do is give recognition to what is there. Steve said what we need to decide is how far we want to go with it. Jack said you said you have a guy who is going to pay for all of this. Steve said he is interested in making a donation. If we want a quote for both, the guy from Professional Construction Contractors did look at both signals, but we have somebody interested in making a donation for one signal. Joe said I would like a ballpark figure from the person who is willing to donate and how much the smaller signal will cost. Steve said he may not cover the whole thing depending on how much it is going to be. Cathy said can we get price on both options and then make a determination. Steve said the first option would be draping and sandblasting it and painting it black and silver. The second option would be removal and welding it back in place and we would provide the lens, which we will have to get a price on. Roger said if you are going to have lenses, you have to have lighting because the lenses won't show unless you have light. Steve you are talking a lot now. Joe said you have all seen old buildings that are so old there is no way you can get original material. They purposely will repair a stone wall with a colored earth tone to make it obvious that this was a repair, like you were talking about with the painting of the aluminum. Roger said if you are talking about real lenses, you have to illuminate it to see the color underneath and I don't think that is what we are looking for. If nothing is done, eventually they will fall to the ground and I don't want that. We have the signal and I would like to see the posts given a protected coating. It would be recognized as a signal and as close to the general look is. In terms of what the color was, I would go with a color that represents the colors that were really there. Joe said cover it with something that wasn't original and in a way to protect that cavity from further erosion could be the first step. You can put the lenses back later on, if you have the funds.

Jerry said I don't think it is going to be a problem to raise money for it. I would personally donate to it. I know a number of people who walk the trail and are into trains and they would donate. I see it as an easy donation. Peter said we can speculate on that until we get a price. Joe said I wasn't there when they were sandblasting on the grandstand. How well did they cover the work area? Cathy said there was nothing that escaped from that area. We had environmentalists' there. Jerry said but there is constant activity on the trail. Cathy said I think it depends on how long it will take. Roger said I don't think it would be an issue if you closed the trail for two days. Roger said have we given you enough to define. Steve said yes. The eyebrow is replaced either way and we need to get a definition on color for the pole. Roger said silver and black. Steve said can we get a picture that way we can define where

those colors are going. Roger said the problem with the colors of the lenses is that they don't use those types of lenses anymore. The pole is silver and the control is black. Steve said I will get a quote for a silver base and black background, fixing the eyebrow, metal plates for bulbs, and define the colors.

Jerry said I had a gentlemen approach me and he was very offended that he donated toward the water fountain and was not formally thanked. Is it our administrative policy to thank people for their donations. Jack said we put it out in a press release and listed the donors. Jerry said I think he was looking for a written thank you. Roger said I believe there were nine donors and none of the nine were acknowledged other than it being on a website. Jack said it is on Facebook and the Township made an announcement. Steve said we can put it on our website. Jack said I can prepare a letter from the President if you would like to send it to each individual. Cathy said we wrote a letter from Council for the Hellertown benches. Roger said I don't think I want to be signing and stamping a letter if 500 people send in \$10.00. Jack said you can periodically list them on the website as a "friend of the trail". Jerry said are we in agreement what we will do. Roger said a general acknowledgement on the website rather than an individual letter.

V. Miscellaneous Business Items

A. Minutes of July 22 Meeting

Roger said we do not have the minutes of July 22 to vote on. We will carry them to the next meeting.

B. July Financial Report

Jack said the balance as of the end of July is \$8,761.93. The balance took a dip because we made a payment in July for the water fountain. It will go back up in August because the donation for the water fountain was a pass through. The funds didn't come out of our treasury. They were all donations and grants. It should go back up to \$10,136.93. Roger said is Stern Williams the water fountain. Jack said yes. Jack said it will not go back to the \$12,000.00 because that was inflated due to the donations. Jerry said is that fund indicated on the financial reports. Jack said which fund. Jerry said you said it was a pass through fund, but that does not reside in the beginning balance. Jack said it shows it came in as a receipt and that bumped up the balance in the account. We are depleting that by writing a check for \$3430.00 for the water fountain. I am estimating it is going to back to \$10,000.00. Cathy said I believe what Jerry is asking is, where is there a \$3430.00 donation on the report. Jack said this just shows what came in for donations for June. It does not show the D & L grant which made up the difference from what was donated and the amount that was needed to buy the fountain. Steve said does the grant money come back into our account. Jack said I don't know if it was put it through or not. There was \$1,980.00 in donations and \$1,450.00 in a grant. Steve said the grant money will be back in the account. Jack said I am not sure. We have to submit receipts to the D & L and they reimburse us. Jerry do you we have any other monies like that. Jack said no, the water fountain is the only one passing through.

Jack said the other payment is in August to 110 communications for \$75.00. Our balance has been steady since receiving the duties from all the municipalities. All in favor, no opposed.

C. Bills to Pay (if any) – None

VI. Public Comment / Citizen Non-Agenda Items – None

VII. Commissioner Individual Statements & Updates

Coopersburg

Steve said I have not seen the signage in Coopersburg. My concerns are there are maybe 5 or 8 parking spaces and is there a restroom. Peter said there is a bathroom there and I guess Coopersburg is putting a water fountain in. Steve said the trail is a little sketchy in Coopersburg. Peter said you don't know which way to go. Steve said it goes left and right. If you go left, it is just through the trees to the parking lot. If you go right, you go all the way back to the pool. I said that they need a sign to Tim about two months ago. Steve said as you come on to the Rail Trail from Living Memorial Park,

there is a "T" intersection. There should be some Stop sign or an indication for people coming on to the Rail Trail from the parking lot

Hellertown

Cathy said is everyone familiar with Water Street Park. Service Electric has received approval from Council to expand their building by a couple feet and also move it. We just found out that one of the old telegraph poles needs to be removed or replaced because it will sit up against the building. I have been asked to come to the SRTOC. Service Electric will pay for it. Does it matter if it is removed in its entirety or do you want it replaced and still on their location. Jerry said are you talking about a wooden one. Cathy said yes, a telephone pole. Jerry said I think they are a liability and have no objection to it being removed. Steve said I am ok with the removal.

Lower Saucon

Jack said the trailhead is completed and we put up the historic sign at the Old Mill Road crossing today. Roger said the trailhead really looks nice and professionally done.

Upper Saucon

Peter said Joe said Phase II is not finished because there is some signage that needs to go up and they are working on little touches on the trail. It is really being used. It is amazing how quickly the vegetation has taken over the fencing and the Township has to get in there. Steve said by Station Avenue. Peter said yes. Peter said someone suggested to Joe that when you are coming into Upper Saucon Park, the gravel is really loose. I suggested that they pave it and make that straight for bikes. Walkers can make the turn. Roger said there is a culvert on Passer Road and there is no guardrail. Peter said there is not one on Passer Road, but there is on the trail. Roger said it is an 8ft drop and is a safety issue.

Jerry said I was approached on Saturday by a gentleman that does carriage rides. He brings wedding parties on a carriage ride to Meadows Grove. He is looking for places to offload the carriage and the horses. He noticed the Rail Trail. He asked if the SRTOC would be interested in allowing him to take the wedding party from the Grist Mill down to the Meadows on the trail. Jerry said I said to him that I am skeptical about it and asked him what is in it for us as the SRTOC. He said he is willing to pay what we think it is worth. Jack said the carriage would be prohibited because of the SEPTA lease and the Township would prohibit it because it's a for-profit business. It has nothing to do with the trail. There would be conflicts with other trail users and he couldn't go out on the trail in the dark. Roger said we talked about using a trolley for the many residents who are unable to use the trail for physical purposes and put that in a can because it would mean closing the trail. Jack said I don't know how Ironton does it because they do things like that. We could ask them. Roger said isn't most of Ironton's paved. Jack said yes. Roger said we are still doing baby steps and I think it is great that we have two races two weeks apart. Jerry said the use of the trail is phenomenal. Living right next to it, it is used every day especially this weekend with the weather.

Jerry said Jack, at the June meeting you said there would be a placement of the historic sign on Old Mill Road; did we do that. Jack said yes. I said that we just did it today.

Peter said is there any information from Springfield Township about coming this way. Roger said no.

Steve said I posted on the Rail Trail Facebook an article from Lehigh Valley Live about Bethlehem's plans to expand to the Rail Trail. The questions posted were about time frame and time line. Jack said it is still the issue of money for the bridge.

Jack said I spoke to Joe Geib about the Burrington Bike Rental guy, did he contact the Borough? Cathy said yes. Jack said he was turned down. Cathy said yes. Jack said he contacted the Township and was turned down. Joe Geib told me they don't have anything that would prohibit him other than needing a park permit. Steve said I don't know what you are talking about. Jack said this guy was mentioned at a previous meeting and has a bike rental business. Tim and Joe saw it on Facebook,

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Burrington Bikes, and he wants to come to the trailheads and rent bikes. I don't know anyone who comes to a Rail Trail without a bike and wants to rent one. Peter said I know they did that in Perkiomen for few years and they got in the way. I think Joe said they may just let him try it. Steve said he does not have a store. You schedule it online, but he cannot deliver to Hellertown or Lower Saucon. He can deliver to Living Memorial and Upper Saucon parks. Steve said it opened UST's eyes to a flaw in the rules of the park and by the end of the year that will probably change. Jack said I told Joe if he doesn't have a rule about prohibiting for-profit business' operating because that is why we told Mr. Burrington that we was not allowed. Steve said I received a call from Southern Lehigh Library about renting bikes at the library for the Rail Trail and I directed her to Upper Saucon.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:16pm.

Next Meeting

April 22 @ Hellertown Borough

DRAFT