

SAUCON RAIL TRAIL OVERSIGHT COMMISSION MEETING
September 26, 2011- 5:00 p.m.
Hellertown Borough Hall
685 Main Street
Hellertown, PA 18055

MINUTES

1. WELCOME- TOWNSHIP/BOROUGH MANAGERS

Present were: Tina Krasnansky, Hellertown Borough
Dawn Kresge, Coopersburg Borough
Jerry Holum, Lower Saucon Township
Roger Jurczak, Lower Saucon Township
Steve LaBrake, Hellertown Borough
Pete Jarrett, Upper Saucon Township
Susan Anderson, Upper Saucon Township
Tom Beil, Upper Saucon Township (Arrived at 5:10 p.m.)
(Jack Cahalan, Lower Saucon Township, and Cathy Kichline,
Hellertown Borough, were absent)

2. APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSION PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT, AND
SECRETARY

Hellertown Borough received a letter of resignation from Frank Pazzaglia.
The letter was read and is attached to these minutes. Hellertown Borough
Council will have to appoint someone to fill the vacancy.

The Committee decided to table the appointment of officers until the next
meeting so the vacancies can be filled and more members are present.

3. REVIEW OF DRAFT COMMISSION BY-LAWS

Hellertown Borough did not receive a copy of the By-Laws. Tom Beil of
Upper Saucon Township will send a copy to Cathy Kichline for review. The
Intermunicipal Agreement has been signed by Upper Saucon Township,
Lower Saucon Township, and Coopersburg. Hellertown approved the
Intermunicipal Agreement but it has not been executed by Council.

4. ESTABLISH COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE

The fourth Monday of the month was determined to work well. The issue was the time. Previously, there were four meetings a year that began at 7:00 p.m. and the rest started at 5:00 p.m. Currently, all the meetings begin at 5:00 p.m. There was discussion about meeting in the middle and having the meetings begin at 6:00 p.m.

The matter was tabled for further discussion. The meeting schedule will remain the same for 2011 with the meetings beginning at 5:00 p.m.

A question was raised by a Lower Saucon resident about how vacancies are filled and the application process?

Upper Saucon and Lower Saucon Township do not have any vacancies. Hellertown and Coopersburg both have one vacancy. Upper Saucon and Lower Saucon Townships have applications to fill out, they hold an interview, and then the members are appointed by the board.

5. TRAIL DEVELOPMENT- Updates

- TRAIL MARKERS & MEMORIAL BENCHES

Hellertown Borough's trail markers have been installed. Borough Council has adopted the Memorial Bench program. The three designated areas for benches are: Walnut Street, Water Street, and Saucon Creek Bridge. The information will be put on the website. The street name markers have not been installed. Mr. Jurcazk is working on a trail map and we will put that in the kiosk when it is complete. It was suggested that Hellertown look into placing a bench for bird watching near the marsh.

Lower Saucon Township will have seven designated areas for memorial benches.

Upper Saucon Township is still deciding on whether to adopt the policy. A resident had donated benches upon his passing so they may not need the memorial benches.

The next section of the trail will be completed by a developer. The timeline is out of the Township's control. It will probably be completed in 2013. The trail will match Phase I of the project. It would cost the Township \$600,000.00 to complete the project but will only cost the developer \$400,000.00 since they do not have to bid or pay prevailing wage rates.

Coopersburg cannot work on their section of the trail until Upper Saucon's portion is completed. We are eager to get going. It was suggested that permits get approved and to put drainage in.

A question was raised regarding the map on Upper Saucon's website and whether it was done by an engineer?

Upper Saucon drew up the map for the grand opening of the trail. The future section of the trail is marked by a dashed line. It was not done by a surveyor. Our engineering service used other maps we received from the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission.

It was suggested that we use the money from each municipality to survey the entire trail and properly mark it.

The trail will be marked every quarter mile by a post and every half and whole mile by a numbered marker corresponding with old rail maps. Each municipality's section of the trail is marked with different tape colors: Hellertown is green, Lower Saucon Township is orange, Upper Saucon Township is blue, and Coopersburg is yellow.

A question was raised to the Commission about whether there are plans for water fountains, facilities, or phones along the trail.

Hellertown has plans to install facilities at Water Street Park. Lower Saucon plans on installing at least temporary facilities when it acquires a trail head. There are no plans to install phones as most people carry cell phones or are close to residences or businesses in case of an emergency.

6. TRAIL MAINTENANCE

- TRAIL TENDERS
- ADOPT-A-TRAIL PROGRAM

Hellertown is picking up garbage on Mondays and Fridays and brush is being removed as needed. The Public Works Department will be clearing the area around the marsh in late fall and installing a sign.

Discussion ensued about a Trail Tenders program versus and Adopt-A-Trail Program. The Committee would like to keep the trail condition uniform. With Adopt-A-Trail there will be little oversight from the Committee. With Trail Tenders, the Committee can act more administratively and they also include the removal of invasive plants. A copy of information on the Trail Tenders Programs is attached and made part of these minutes.

This matter will be discussed in further detail at the next meeting and Committee members are to outline what tasks we would exactly like these groups to perform.

A Lower Saucon resident expressed his displeasure with Adopt-A-Trail and feels that it should be a Community effort to keep the trail clean.

7. OTHER ISSUES

There were talks of doing a fall hayride on the trail in conjunction with the Saucon Valley Farmer's Market. The Committee is unsure of the status as Shelley Goldberg was heading this project. It was suggested to hold the hayrides in Water Street Park rather than put a non-emergency motorized vehicle on the trail. A bike friendly map of Hellertown will be completed by January.

Upper Saucon Township put together a packet which is available to everyone. It includes trail rules, by-laws, a map, contact information, and other reference material.

The Committee suggested appointing an interim president to run the meetings until the regular appointments take place.

A resident raised concern over safety at the trail crossings. Hellertown is looking to install raised crosswalk at Water Street and Walnut Street. That will slow traffic and raise awareness. There is also signage for both the trail users and vehicles.

Questions were raised concerning the development of a website. The Committee is looking to keep both the Face Book page and have a website. The domain names have already been reserved but the Committee was waiting on the funding which should be available shortly. It was recommended for the Committee to look into seeking volunteers to help develop the website to save on costs.

8. NEXT MEETING- OCTOBER 24TH AT COOPERSBURG BOROUGH
(NOVEMBER 28TH AT UPPER SAUCON TOWNSHIP)
(NO DECEMBER MEETING)

Meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.



Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences
1 West Packer Ave
Bethlehem, PA 18015-3001
610-758-3660; Fax (610)-758-3677

Frank J. Pazzaglia
610-758-3667
Email: fjp3@lehigh.edu

26 October, 2011

RE: Saucon Rail Trail steering committee

Jack Cahalan, Lower Saucon Township Manager
Cathy Kichline, Hellertown Borough Manager

Dear Jack and Cathy:

I am writing to tender my resignation from the Saucon Rail Trail steering committee. I regretfully reached the conclusion that I must do this based upon the fact that I simply cannot make the designated meeting time at 5:00 PM. I have missed many recent meetings and will also miss the meeting scheduled for today. As you know, the September meeting is an important one for the committee as it finally will begin operating in a formal capacity with officers and a small discretionary budget. The committee and the communities that it serves needs dedicated individuals with the necessary time resources to devote the task. The combination of my job as a professor at Lehigh, coupled with serving on both the Hellertown Planning Commission and Borough Authority leave me with little free time to devote in this respect.

I have very much enjoyed my time serving on the committee and working with all of its members. Now that the trail is open and enjoying much use, I am certain that there are other, engaged residents of Hellertown that would enjoy the opportunity to serve on the committee and finding a replacement should not be too difficult a task. I remain open to volunteering my time in the future regarding leading tours on the trail to highlight the natural history of the Saucon Valley should such activities be requested or endorsed by the committee.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to serve and best of luck with taking the trail to the next level of community use, access, and enjoyment.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F. Pazzaglia".

Frank J. Pazzaglia
Professor and Chair
Earth and Environmental Sciences

cc: Dawn Kresge, Coopersburg Borough Manager
Thomas Beil, Upper Saucon Township Manager

Thomas Beil

From: Joseph Geib
Sent: Tuesday, August 23, 2011 11:27 AM
To: Thomas Beil
Subject: FW: Trail Tenders Info

From: Joseph Geib
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2011 4:24 PM
To: Thomas Beil
Cc: Joseph Geib
Subject: Trail Tenders Info

The thoughts behind the formation of the Upper Saucon Trail Tenders would be to allow a citizen-based approach to caring for a portion of the upkeep, beautification, and evolution of the Saucon Rail Trail. When groups like this get together to maintain and upgrade features of the trail, it can reduce the burden on the Roads & Properties Department, allow the citizens to give back to their community, and give them a sense of ownership of the trail and its amenities. The citizen groups that we foresee volunteering include individual citizens as a group, local church or Boy/Girl Scout Troops, corporate volunteer groups (Lutron, Olympus, etc.), and other community-based organizations. Project ideas would come about through collaboration with Upper Saucon Township staff, the Park & Recreation Commission, Environmental Advisory Council, and the volunteer groups themselves. Future projects for the Trail Tenders could include:

- basic maintenance and upkeep
- removal of invasive plants
- installation of native gardens
- drafting and installation of ecological and historical markers
- installation of benches and other amenities

Joseph Geib
Special Projects Coordinator | Upper Saucon Township
5500 Camp Meeting Rd., Center Valley, PA 18034
Phone: 610-282-1171 x225 | Fax: 610-282-3557

Joseph Geib

From: Dennis Scholl <dennis@delawareandlehigh.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 25, 2011 4:08 PM
To: Joseph Geib
Subject: FW: Trail Tenders Group
Attachments: Copy of Tenders overview.pdf; Copy of D&L explantion.pdf; Copy of organizational chart.pdf

Categories: Park & Rec, EAC

Joseph,

I received your letter and have attached a couple of documents describing the Trail Tenders and their responsibilities.


I must congratulate you on the splendid trail you've installed in Upper Saucon Township. My wife and I walk regularly from Hellertown to Upper Saucon and back and really love the surface you were able to put in. It is pretty much the same surface we install when we build new sections of the D&L Trail.

I don't think e-mail is the best way to convey the work of the Trail Tenders. I think it would behoove you to join the Lehigh Valley Chapter on one of their Saturday morning cleanups (we have one this Saturday at Sand Island in Bethlehem, beginning at 8:30 a.m.) so you can get personal experience with maintenance along a trail such as yours.

Your trail is new and not in need of anything at the moment but by the time summer rolls around, I'm sure there will be some vegetation that needs to cut back. No matter wjhere you go on the Saucon rail Trail, it is full of invasive plants. Your area has more honeysuckle than anything else, while Lower Saucon and Hellertown have honeysuckle and other invasives that need to be watched as time goes along. Hellertown is especially full of unwanted plants including a lot of poison ivy.

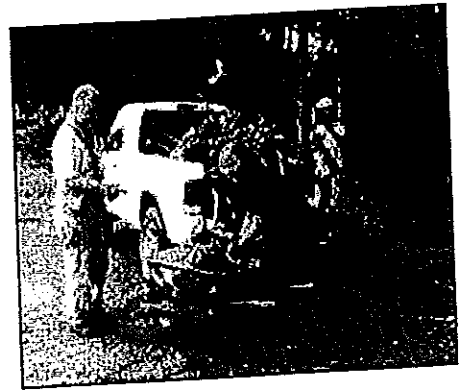
So, let me know if you're willing to come over and meet and talk to the troops. If May 28 doesn't work, we'll find another date.

Good luck!

Dennis Scholl 
Outreach Coordinator
610-923-3548 x225

From: Loretta Susen
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2011 10:59 AM
To: Dennis Scholl
Subject: FW: Trail Tenders Group

Loretta Susen | Administrative Assistant
Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor, Inc.
2750 Hugh Moore Park Road | Easton, PA 18042



Who Are the D&L Trail Tenders?

The Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor Trail Tenders have been in existence since 1998. More than 5,000 volunteers of all ages have logged more than 30,000 hours along the Delaware & Lehigh (D&L) Trail since the organization's inception.

Trail Tenders provide supplemental maintenance and enhancement to sections of the D&L Trail that have been purchased through the Heritage Corridor and turned over to boroughs, cities, townships, counties, and state parks through which the trail runs. The trail is owned by these entities, not the Heritage Corridor. They are responsible for the trail's upkeep and enhancement, but unfortunately many do not have adequate budgets to provide staff and equipment to execute proper maintenance schedules. Trail Tenders provide valuable assistance by keeping the trail open to recreational users and providing trail amenities such as resting benches and picnic tables.

Volunteers do not have to take a test to become part of the Trail Tenders organization. The only requirement is a sincere interest in keeping the D&L Trail a quality recreational and educational resource. The trail is lined with an impressive number of historical and environmental resources that require year-round care. Nature is a benevolent provider of beautiful landscapes and marvelous creatures that inhabit them, but nature also will overcome and consume man-made trails and structures if they are left untended. It is the Trail Tenders who keep the trail and historic canal locks and other structures free of encroaching vegetation that will compromise and eventually ruin them.

The Trail Tenders are evolving as an organization. In 2007, four chapters were formed along the most developed areas of the trail from Easton to White Haven. The premise of forming chapters is to provide volunteers opportunities to work along the trail in their own backyards instead of driving considerable distances to attend regional cleanups. The trail stretches from Bristol in Lower Bucks County to

Wilkes-Barre in Luzerne County, a distance of 165 miles. For people in Bristol to drive to a cleanup in White Haven is unrealistic.

Thus, the following chapters were formed: **Lehigh Gorge**, which covers Lehigh Gorge State Park in Luzerne County; **Carbon County**, which at present includes the D&L Trail from Glen Onoko to Parryville; **Northern Lehigh**, which includes the D&L Trail from Lehigh Gap south to Slatington, and Walnutport from Bertsch Creek north to Lock 21; and **Lehigh Valley**, which is responsible for the trail from Easton to Allentown.

Additional chapters will be added, or existing chapters may be expanded, as more sections of the D&L Trail are purchased and turned over to local municipalities.

Trail Tenders come in many forms. They are dedicated individuals; high school students in need of community service; Boy and Girl Scouts providing help to their local communities or trying to earn various Scout honors; church and civic groups; corporate volunteers; hiking clubs; and environmental clubs and historical societies.

Trail Tenders eradicate invasive plant species and replace them with native species that restore ecological balance to the trail environment. Trail Tenders clean historic canal locks and preserve them as reminders of a transportation infrastructure that supported the American Industrial Revolution. Trail Tenders provide public programs that interpret the history of the canals and the towns that depended on canal commerce. Trail Tenders offer nature walks that introduce the public to intriguing environmental attributes of the trail. Trail Tenders raise funds to support their projects.

Most importantly, Trail Tenders are stewards of the D&L Trail and proponents of its purpose as a byway that introduces the public to history through recreation and education.

Upper Saucon Township Cleanup Day 2011

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>phone</u>	<u>email</u>	<u>Minor</u>
Doris Zaremba	5850 Chestnut Hill Road	Coopersburg		szar5850@aol.com	
Stan Zaremba	5850 Chestnut Hill Road	Coopersburg	610-360-2814	chrmarroth@ptd.net	
Craig Roth	2500 Station Ave	Center Valley		cdl2@lehigh.edu	
Carolyn Lidie	5480 W. Valley Road	Center Valley		mjthomson@rcn.com	
Merrill Thomson			610-282-4814	whayes@bovertownasd.org	
Bill Hayes	6330 Grouse Circle	Coopersburg	484-357-0360	silvercreekconstruction@gmail.com	
Raymond Albertson					

