

SAUCON RAIL TRAIL OVERSIGHT COMMISSION MEETING

Date: Monday, September 28, 2015
Time: 6:05 PM
Location: Hellertown Borough Meeting Room

I. Opening

A. Call to Order: Peter Jarrett welcomed everyone

B. Roll Call: Lower Saucon Township: Roger Jurczak, Jerry Holum, Jack Cahalan
Coopersburg Borough:
Upper Saucon Township: Peter Jarrett, Diana Inglis
Hellertown Borough: 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 will be attending the PA Highlands Trail Steering Committee meeting tomorrow night in Springfield Township to see where they are with the development of the trail in Bucks County.

2. Bethlehem Greenway Update

Steve said that there is nothing new. There is an upcoming meeting on Wednesday that he cannot attend. There was a short discussion about the trail access to Saucon Park if it remains closed.

B. Trail Improvement Projects

1. Signal Restoration Project

Peter said that Jack's press release describes where this project is. Roger said that they are waiting for the eyebrows and disks to come back from Hill Metal and then they will be painted black at Blastco. The only thing they are still without are the U-bolts. Once they have everything they will have to find the time to re-assemble it.

2. Lower Saucon Road Gates at Meadows Road

Jack said that Steve discussed this with him and came up with the idea of installing two sections of fencing in front of the gate that would force the bike riders to slow down to maneuver around the gate. Jack said that he discussed this with staff and still has to discuss it with the engineer but what they were thinking could be done was to install these sections of fencing behind the gate so that there would still be 25' of clearance from the road edge to the gate which our PW (and emergency vehicles) wanted to allow their trucks to park off the road when they were unlocking the gates. Jack said they would also need to keep the center 15' clearance for emergency vehicles. This type of barrier is called a chicane gate which Jack showed examples of. They would probably also remove the outside yellow bollard on each side of the gate so that riders didn't have to maneuver around the chicane barrier and then thread between the bollards. Jack said they would only do this at Meadows Road as Old Mill Road has very little traffic.

3. Trash Receptacle at Old Mill Crossing

Jack said that he has ordered a receptacle and has discussed its placement with the residents near the crossing.

4. Other

Diana said that she heard that the trail in UST near the Community Park was going to be diverted over property owned by DeSales? Peter said that UST is on a list to secure a dismantled bridge from PennDOT that they would like to use to take the trail over Preston Road. He is sure that DeSales will be helping with this.

C. Upcoming Events

1. Book It 5K

Steve said this event is coming up this weekend.

D. Other Business

1. Reading Drive Trailhead Vandalism

Jack said that there have been two incidents at the trailhead when the portable toilets were pushed over and one of the benches between Bingen and Old Mill Roads was turned over. He has discussed this with the police and PW and they will be taking appropriate security measures to assist them with investigating these incidents if they re-occur in the future.

2. Hellertown 2015 Monroe County LSA Grant Application

Jack said that the Borough is submitting an application to Monroe County for funding to install a bicycle lane and upgrade the multi-use path along Water Street – Friedensville Road. Jack said that he changed the letterhead so that Diana's name is on it as Secretary.

E. Website/Facebook Updates – Steve said that everything is up to date.

V. Miscellaneous Business Items

A. Previous Meeting Minutes – The minutes from the August 24, 2015 meeting were reviewed and approved by acclamation.

B. Financial Report – Jack that the balance in the account as of August 31, 2015 was \$10,045.49 which included the \$2,400 payment to Blastco for the signal project. Jack said that a total of \$3,450 has been donated toward the signal project. Jerry asked how much is remaining – he calculates that it is around \$800? Roger said that that sounds correct. Roger advised that the work that Hill Metal is doing will cost around \$300.

C. Bills to Pay (if any) – None

VI. Commissioner Individual Statements & Updates

A. By Municipality – Jack discussed the issues involved with getting an inexpensive composting toilet installed in the future at the Reading Drive Trailhead.

VII. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m. Next meeting October 26th at Coopersburg Borough