

**Rails to Trails Meeting
Coopersburg Borough
October 26, 2009**

Jack Cahalan said this is the third unofficial meeting of the Rails to Trails Advisory Multi-municipal Committee. He thanked the residents for joining us. The time was 5:00 PM on October 26, 2009.

Present: Jack Cahalan, Manager of Lower Saucon Township; Charlie Luthar, Borough Manager of Hellertown; Steve LaBrake; Dawn Kresge, Borough Manager of Coopersburg; Bob Castle, Assistant Manager of Upper Saucon Township; Chris Drumsky; Joe Hoffman from Hoffman & Associates; Donna Bristol; Guests: Nancy _____ of _____; _____ of Upper Saucon; and Ted Beardsley from Lower Saucon Township.

Jack said Nancy was here before. Just a little background on this group. Negotiations have been going on for over a year between the four communities and the SEPTA organization over a lease for the eight mile stretch of the abandoned rail line which runs through the four communities. While those negotiations have been going on, the feeling from the communities is that we needed to have an Advisory Committee formed, made up of representatives from each of the communities so we could start gathering information about issues with the start up of the rail trail and later on with the operation of a rail trail. We got started at our end, Lower Saucon and Hellertown Borough, and we went ahead and named representatives to this committee, which is unofficial. It will not be officially formed until all four communities and elected officials agree with an inter municipal agreement, and there are some by-laws that go along with that, which we'll talk about later. We agreed we would have at least a minimum of two representatives from each of the four communities. Lower Saucon appointed Chris Drumsky and Donna Bristol. Hellertown Borough appointed Steve LeBrake, Frank Pizzaglia and Gail Nolf to the committee. Last month we had a very informative presentation by a group from the Ironton Rail Trail who were walking us through some of the issues they went through with starting their trail with the other municipalities and with the maintenance and other operations. It was very helpful. That's basically where we are at this point. There is no formal structure right now. The committee will be basically operating as an Advisory Committee to all four of the Council's and make recommendations to those bodies. The committees will be structured by by-laws at some point and other functions will be taken care of. Dawn, Charlie, Tom, Bob and Jack will just be basically backing up the committees as staff, as needed. That's basically it.

Charlie said we do need to have the by-laws and inter municipal agreement if we want to go anywhere with grants. We want to appoint people to it as they are all tentative until we get the by-laws in place. We do need to have that, so hopefully, we'll get that this evening.

Jack said the status of the SEPTA lease – the good news is that it's about a month away from being finalized by the SEPTA group. The minor details had to be resolved. It's been a process of discussing with them how we wanted to maintain the surface of the trail. We were able to have the Solicitor's of all of the communities and from SEPTA work out the details on that. We should see a document coming back from SEPTA with the minor changes that were requested by the last meeting of the Solicitor's and that should be some time in November. Charlie said he

thinks everything has gone pretty much the way the municipalities wished to have the agreement go except in one area which was the arbitration area. There was a message that they did not want to go through arbitration. It looks thus far they are agreeable to the things we have asked for.

Charlie asked if Upper Saucon and Coopersburg got their representatives for the committee? Dawn said there is someone interested in helping, and she was going to attend tonight to see how involved it would be. Unfortunately, she was very sick, so she's not able to attend this evening. Hopefully, by next meeting they will have two representatives.

Bob from Upper Saucon said Tom is taking care of getting two representatives for the committee.

Charlie said the next thing would be to touch on the by-laws and the inter-municipal agreement. He got some comments from the Hellertown Solicitor on the by-laws. Jack said the inter-municipal agreement doesn't have as much meat in it as the by-laws. Charlie said this is pretty straight forward. It's getting the municipalities to agree that they are going to work together, enter into a thirty year lease agreement with SEPTA for an eight mile rail line that runs through the four communities. The respective municipalities will use the rail trail for public access, for activities such as hiking, walking, cross country skiing, horse back riding. The respective municipalities agree to enter into an agreement concerning the creation of a Joint Rail Trail Advisory Committee which will oversee the initial development of the rail trail and provide ongoing direction for the operation and maintenance of the rail trail. The municipalities have appointed representatives from their municipalities to serve on this committee and act as liaison between the residents and the elected officials. Township Borough, Supervisors and Council shall have the ultimate authority over all municipal contributions towards the operation and maintenance of the rail trail for the trail section located in each of municipality. We are acting under the section of the Pennsylvania constitution providing for inter governmental cooperation. All the municipalities have done this. We have a joint compost center between Hellertown and Lower Saucon. We have this kind of agreement. We did some other things like casino revenue sharing which didn't get very far. That's still stuck somewhere in Bethlehem Township somewhere. This is not an unusual kind of a thing to get an agreement like this. The agreement has been submitted to Hellertown Borough Council, Coopersburg Borough Council, Upper Saucon Township Board of Supervisors and Lower Saucon Township Council prior to adoption of an ordinance or resolution authorizing execution of this agreement. Therefore, we are saying we are incorporating all of those WHEREAS clauses, the municipalities will appoint a minimum of two representatives from each municipality. In the case of Hellertown, we have picked three as we have a business owner who runs a bike shop which is a natural for what we are doing. We have an environmental individual and the Council President is also very active, so we have three, and that's about as many as you'd want to have. It gets too cumbersome if you have any more. The communities shall advertise the meetings on a regular basis and each of the four municipalities and the agreements shall commence upon execution of this document and continue until "blank" date. Any party can terminate the agreement by providing the other parties with sixty days written notice. If no notice is sent by any party within the time frame set forth, it will automatically renew for another one year period. It will be binding on the parties and its successors. It is straight forward and does have to go before the municipalities for approval.

Jack said this committee isn't formally formed. Someone from Upper Saucon asked if we can vote on it tonight. Jack said you can state on the record that you are the representative from Upper Saucon so it's reflected in the minutes. Charlie said any of the comments are valid to submit. If we wanted to change the document, we can change it. Jack said we can't vote on it as of yet. Jack said the Council's have to vote on it.

Charlie said there are four entities here so we'll make four or five copies of the document for original signature, and will send it to everyone.

Donna said this discussion came up before and the Recreation Board thought a good name for the trail would be Saucon Trail since it encompasses the whole Saucon Valley. She'd like to make a recommendation to name it either Saucon Trail, and others have talked about naming it Saucon Rail Trail. It signifies where it's located and it represents the whole length of the trail.

Someone said Saucon Rail Trails is his on of his top choices, but the only thing is how does Coopersburg feel about it because they aren't Saucon related in their name. Another option would be the North Penn Rail Trial, which is the original name of the rail line, but once again, he'd like the idea that Saucon gives you the general idea of where it is. North Penn doesn't tell you where it is.

Someone said he was worried about North Penn as that would be deceptive in a way because so many people from the Lehigh Valley associate North Penn with the Lansdale area because of the North Penn School District, North Penn High School and all of the other communities down there. If you are going to market this at some point beyond the use of your four communities, calling it something that directly related to your communities gives people that initial impulse of they know where it is, where if you call it the North Penn Rail Trail, especially people south of here, they are going to think you are talking about a trail in the Lansdale area, and that might get confusing.

Someone said Saucon Creek is in the watershed and it's along the rail trail. Charlie said that's logical. The group agreed to have "Saucon" in the name of the rail trail.

Jack said what has come up in previous meetings, and Joe is here to help us, is the grant program. In order to move ahead with that, we need have an agreement that we are working together. Donna said the people that are here that represent the different communities, can you go back to your Council's and ask them if they agree to that name. Jack said the experts say to avoid naming it after the rail. She said either Saucon Trail or Saucon Rail Trail would be okay. Dawn said Saucon Trail, people may think of it more as a hiking trail. Donna said definitely a rail trail signifies that it is level. It's more useful for a lot of different people like bikers or runners. At one of our meetings, someone signified that Lehigh University students would probably use it for running and probably our Saucon Valley High School students would use it also. Jack said DeSales also. Donna said it's something that we need to consider in developing what the footing is going to be, that it's going to be good for people to run on. We need some type of footing that would be good for runners, bicyclists, people that are walking, or whatever. She will be at a conference tomorrow from 8 AM to 4 PM representing our group. It's run by the Appalachian Trail Club and it's specifically on rail trails. She can report to you next month on what they say.

Someone said the Rail Trail, it tells people it's a flat trail. He's learning towards Saucon Rail Trail himself.

Charlie said he didn't hear anything objectionable about the inter municipal agreement, so that can be finalized. He did hear someone talking about the surface. There was a lady pushing a baby carriage on it, and he's sure that baby wasn't ready to sleep.

Jack said in this agreement, one of the WHERAS mentioned, it says the activities are walking, biking, cross country skiing and horse back riding. Someone said you should definitely put running in there as well. Jack said there would be no motorcycles or motorized vehicles allowed on the trail. We don't want ATV's on it also. Someone said should be just change it to bicycling then instead of biking? Jack said he thinks it's okay the way it is. Later you can get into more detail. Charlie said the lease agreement touches on motorized vehicles. We only authorize emergency vehicles to get on the trail. Jack said on the lease it says, the municipality shall not permit the premises to be used by motorized recreational vehicles such as, but not limited to motorcycles, mini bikes, all terrain vehicles (ATV's), or snow mobiles. However, nothing herein prohibits people from traveling on the premises of using motorized wheelchairs. Donna said is there any mention of hunting? She said she will doubt very much if they would allow that. Charlie said he's surprised anyone would ask that. Someone said hunting, you can't just go shoot a gun as there are houses there. Jack said it's subject to what the local authorities say, and that's something the group could weigh in on. Someone said if someone has property and the trail is running parallel to it, they are allowed to hunt on their own property. Jack said with certain restrictions. The trail, this group, could make that recommendation. Charlie said you cannot hunt in the Borough. There is one exception which has been made and that's by the Compost Center property.

Steve said talking about motorized vehicles and what's probably going to be an issue eventually is the Segway's because there's a Segway dealer in Bethlehem. It's an electric motorized vehicle and that might be something we would consider to allow at one point especially since one day the trails might be hooked together. Jack said Segway's are normally allowed on sidewalks. That's a good point. They are allowed on the Bethlehem Greenaway. They were on the greenway in Bethlehem when it was opened. Someone said the Segway dealer, his back door is in on the greenway in Bethlehem. Charlie said that's something to think about in the future.

Charlie said the by-laws are more precise. The name of the organization, we settled that name. "The purpose of the committee is to provide a means of frequent communication and a vehicle to direct the creation and operation maintenance and improvement of the rail trail. It's intended that the purpose shall be construed in a broad fashion. However, no function, power or responsibility of each member of the Advisory Committee will be exercised through the inter governmental agreement with other members unless unanimous ratified by the resolution of the members of the governing body." There are some Solicitor comments on this. Article III is regarding powers. Section IV, "the Boroughs of Hellertown and Lower Saucon, Coopersburg and Upper Saucon agree to the Advisory Committee that they will provide guidance and oversight during the construction and operation, maintenance and improvement of the rail trail connecting these municipalities. The committee shall be composed of a minimum of three representatives designated by each of the governing bodies of the municipalities. The committee shall be responsible for the policy statement which will set forth each municipalities duties,

responsibilities, and obligation for the day-to-day operation of the trail. Any and all recommendations proposed by the Advisory Committee shall be forwarded to the municipalities for review and approval by their respective governing bodies. The Rail Trails Committee shall meet four times per year.” We did have a comment last time about meeting more frequently. Donna said we had said we would meet monthly, do we want to make a change to that? Charlie said okay. Continuing, “on the dates and the time the committee may select with meetings held in each of the member municipalities on a rotating basis. In order to allow the Advisory Committee to administer and provide oversight of the rail trail, the municipalities will be responsible for providing personnel for the construction, operation, maintenance and improvement of the rail trail within their respective municipalities compensating their employees who provide service.” Donna said do you want to specify a certain day of the month, like the third Monday of the month, or something like that. Jack said you may want to leave that open as it’s subject to change and then you don’t want to go back and change the by-laws. Charlie said some background on the municipalities, if there is going to be staff helping the committee, the Borough’s Council meetings are on the first and third Monday’s of each month and the Township is the first and third Wednesday of the month. Upper Saucon is the first and third of the month, but can change. Dawn said Coopersburg is the second and fourth Tuesday of the month. Comprehensive plan meetings are on the second Monday of the month. Charlie said from a municipal standpoint, the last week of the month tends to be the least busiest. Jack said we have to go back to the four Council’s to get it approved. We want to make it a minimum of four meetings a year. Steve said a minimum of four, then down the line, we would want to initially do monthly. When everything is running, we may want to back down to four times a year.

Charlie said item no. IV, “the committee under a unanimous vote of the members and the approval of all municipalities, may seek, receive, and administer and disburse funds from municipal, state, federal and other sources such as grants, acquire, manage, license, lease or dispose of real property as specified in these by-laws and in accordance with the executed contracts. Contract for services, initiated, advised, aid and the establishment of the cooperative agreements with local rail trail organizations in the region in connection with the creation, operation and maintenance and improvement of the rail trail and other regional rail trails, propose, initiate and implement or revise studies, policy decision or discussion and plans, make recommendations to any local governments or other appropriate organizations or entities, take other action consistent with the terms of these by-laws and the articles of agreement by the municipality, should the vote of the municipalities be unanimous or a majority.”

Charlie said the Solicitors said should the vote of the committee and the municipalities be unanimous or a majority is what our Solicitor is saying because we talk about unanimous in point number 4. The solicitor is saying should the vote of the municipalities be unanimous or a majority. Someone said he would agree with majority. Someone said if you make it a majority then the number of representatives would have to be specified as a minimum of two as you want equal representation. Joe said from a practical matter, could you do things if you would vote on something where two communities and one community didn’t like and one community wasn’t here at the time. Would you want to proceed on a basis like that? Charlie said you raise a good point as acquiring, managing, leasing, disposal of real property. Someone said he’s also thinking about grant receipt and administration. If the four communities are going to be together, the strength of a grant application is that four communities are together. If you have a group and

they acknowledge the submission of an application to the one with one abstention, it is really not going to have much of a chance. He understands committee rules how a majority is good enough, but he's wondering in this particular situation do you really want to have all four going down the same path before you make a big decision on a grant or a piece of property or something that really carries some weight. You could have some real friction. You have two or three communities together and they were starting to do something that the other community really didn't want or didn't like, he doesn't think that's what you are shooting for. Charlie said it sound reasonable. We need to insert what Chris was saying about one vote. We're talking about unanimous vote, each municipality has one vote. Charlie said it's kind of like what the Saucon Valley Partnership (SVP) agreement is. Donna said what if you have two representatives for that one community and they don't agree. Jack said you assume that they are on the same page in terms of the community. Someone said you keep going back and talking to your Park and Recreation board and you have a constant feedback what they like. That's how it's supposed to be. It's just not private citizen X comes in and he speaks for Upper Saucon Township and he says this and that. There's supposed to be connection back to the government that they are getting advice and giving advice and getting direction. That really shouldn't happen if the members were doing what they are supposed to do. Dawn said not everybody has a Park and Recreation Board. Someone said then they would go back to the Board of Supervisors and get direction or from their elected officials. Charlie said it sounds like we need to leave it unanimous regardless of whether we have one member or three members.

Charlie said Article IV is membership. "Any municipality within Northampton and Lehigh Counties, Pennsylvania with the rail trail adjoining the rail trail may become a member of the Rail Trail Advisory Committee if 1) approved by all member municipalities by resolution of their respective governing bodies after an application has been before the Rail Trail Advisory Committee for not less than forty-five days; and 2) subsequently approved by the governing body of the applying municipality by the passage of an ordinance and adoption of an inter municipal agreement and these by-laws at an open, official meeting of such body. The following municipalities are considered charter members of the Saucon Rail Trail Advisory Committee: the Boroughs of Coopersburg, Hellertown, and the Townships of Upper Saucon and Lower Saucon. Each member municipality shall be officially represented on the Rail Trail Committee by a minimum of two designated representatives with no more than three designated representatives chosen for their position due to their knowledge and capabilities to contribute to the success of the Rail Trail. Each member municipality shall have equal voting rights upon all matters before the Rail Trail Advisory Committee that have bearing on the overall creation, operation, maintenance and improvement to the Rail Trail which means that each municipality shall only cast one vote regardless of the number of representatives. Individual municipalities shall maintain primary responsibility for maintaining those portions of the rail trail that are within their municipal boundary and be consistent with the goals and policies established for the trail as a whole. Municipalities may withdraw from the Rail Trail Advisory Committee with thirty days notice to each member municipality and by formal repeal on the ordinance authorizing municipal inter governmental cooperation." That is consistent to what we said before. Someone said one place it was sixty days and the other place it was thirty days. Charlie said is sixty days okay? The group agreed sixty days was okay.

Charlie said "the Rail Trail Advisory Committee shall hold an organizational meeting at the first meeting of the new year. At such meeting, there should be elected a Chair, Vice Chair and a

Secretary Treasurer, each to serve a one year term with term limits of two consecutive terms. Duties of the officers: The Chair shall preside at all meetings and conduct each meeting in an orderly and impartial manner so as to permit a free and full discussion by the membership on any matter which comes before the committee. The Chair shall establish and appoint any committees from the membership as may deem necessary. The Vice Chair shall perform all the duties of the Chair in the absence of the Chair or in the event of the inability of the Chair to act and to perform any duties as the Advisory Committee may delegate to that person. Secretary Treasurer shall perform the duties normally appertaining to the positions including the preparation of minutes and a Treasurer's report." There is a two year term on those positions.

Charlie said "funds – each member shall pay \$500 per year as an annual membership fee payable during the first quarter of the year. The sum shall be expended pursuant to a unanimous vote by the Rail Trail Advisory Committee membership present at the meeting and shall be used to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the Rail Trail Advisory Committee for the administration and operation of the Rail Trail. Rail Trail Advisory Committee may elect to accept by financing of grants or other source of funds. Any funds which accrued to the Rail Trail Advisory Committee for the use in furthering the aims and purposes of the rail trail development shall be controlled, disbursed, and accounted for in a manner in accord with general acceptable accounting principles. A yearly financial statement shall be prepared by the Secretary Treasurer and be distributed to each member municipality. In the event of any dissolution of the Rail Trail Advisory Committee, any and all assets of the committee shall be distributed equally to each member municipality at the time of formal dissolution." The \$500 is similar to the fee for the SVP where we contribute \$1,000 from the school district and the two municipalities to underwrite the operation of the committee. The \$500 in this case is just a random number. Someone said does that money get spent for things like legal notices that are put in the paper? Charlie said yes. Someone said you have to be able to cover those costs. Charlie said is that an acceptable number? The group agreed. Charlie said anything else on that section? Donna said we can do fundraising? Can we solicit money from other organizations? Charlie said it does allow for grants or other sources of funds. Donna said we will need money for the surface, and \$500 is not going to cover it. Charlie said the surface, the way we talked that it was each municipal responsibility. The kind of surface is up to you. The thought in Lower Saucon and Hellertown was a stone surface. Public Works (PW) recommended a number nine stone. Donna said is the number nine similar to screenings which is very refined? Jack said yes, he thinks so.

Charlie said Frank Pazzaglia has joined us. The time was 5:45 PM.

Charlie said Frank is on the committee for the Borough of Hellertown. Frank said the number nine stone is screenings. Donna said a lot of the trails like the canal trails, that's the size they use. Frank said if you go over to Lehigh Gorge State Park and follow the canal trail, that's the kind of stone. It works out very well. Jack said he estimated about 10 feet wide, and it would be rolled and packed and the section in Lower Saucon Township would be about \$15,000 to \$20,000. We also talked about getting the screening from _____. Frank said is it the idea for all four municipalities to have the same surface? Jack said when they do a road project on Route 412, they go in and remove the millings. Donna said she just talked to a PW Director about the millings and he said the only problem with millings is when you do compact it, it's got tar in it and it's going to be hard. Charlie said they got two loads of millings from Bracalante, the contractor for Route 412, and he wouldn't give us anymore as it's valuable

to them. Donna said the contractor for Hill said they got 900 loads from the state as the state didn't have any use for it.

Frank said ten feet wide is \$15,000? Jack said with a paver. It's a mile and a half long. Frank said it's about \$10,000 a mile, roughly. Joe said regarding the grants and must all four surfaces be the same, he doesn't think so. Charlie said Hellertown likes the idea of stone because of the cost. Council would prefer that, but the Committee is going to have a say in that. There are grants that may be supplemented and you could make it a better surface. Jack said unless we get grants, our Township doesn't have the money. Frank said his thoughts initially we want to get the whole thing screened to make it an appropriate path. Let's get the surface down first. If you are going to asphalt, you can asphalt right over the screenings. Donna was directed to ask this question at the meeting she is attending tomorrow night if you use a screening, can you put asphalt right over it. Coopersburg and Upper Saucon may want to pave theirs as they may have baby strollers on their trails, but that may be ten years down the road. His initial thought is to get it all laid down so we can get it active. The question is if you want to do asphalt, do you have to dig up the screenings to do that. Donna said she will ask the question tomorrow evening at the meeting she is going to. If you are rolling and compacting it, you will have a really nice surface. That's what they are doing now over by the Delaware River and they are using screenings and rolling it. The nice thing about screenings is you can build it up. If you need more, you just bring more in. Jack said anything after repeated use gets packed down. Someone said different types of bikes may not be able to use this surface because of the tires. Road bikes really need a paved surface. Jack said over in NJ at the rail trial, it's mostly mountain bikes. Skinny tires are tough. Steve said you can still ride a road bike on it but there may be certain areas where it might get squirrely. He's know plenty people that have rode Lehigh Canal Path with a road bike. It's probably not the most comfortable ride, but you can do it on this surface.

Someone (a lady) said on one of the sections, there should be a change – could not hear her. Jack said if we stick to the surface of this trail, we actually probably will not be disturbing any of the other natural resources. There should not be any disturbance.

Charlie said Article VII, page 4. "Unanimous approval of ramifications – for all matters the Rail Trail Advisory Committee shall be unanimously approved by each member municipality present by voting thereon at any regular or special meeting. No such action shall be deemed a final action on the Rail Trail Advisory Committee unless ratified by each member municipality at a subsequent meeting by the member municipalities governing body."

Charlie said Amendments. "Amendments of these by-laws may be presented at any meeting of the Rail Trail Advisory Committee but such shall be considered for passage at any subsequent meeting with notice to each member municipality. Any amendment to these by-laws shall require a unanimous vote by each member municipality and subsequent ratification by the governing body of each member municipality."

Charlie said acquisition and disposal of property – "Purchases shall be made in accordance with the requirement of section 7.1 of the inter governmental cooperation law. Purchases shall be made within the amounts appropriated in the annual Rail Trail Advisory Committee budget. Sale or disposal – the sale or disposal of any Rail Trail Advisory Committee property, vehicles, office furniture, vehicles, supplies shall take place in the following manner. May be offered for

sale at fair market value to a municipal government or school district. If none are interested, the commission shall authorize sale to the general public or a public advertisement sealed bid or auction. The commission may reserve the right to set a minimum price and reject any and all bids. Proceeds from the sale of real property shall be accredited to the participating municipalities in accordance with the commission formula in effect at the time of purchase.” Donna said does that have to be approved by each municipality? What if it is land? Charlie said land by the municipality is a separate story as we have to maintain our own individual section. If you as an organization want to buy land because you want to put up a visitor’s information center, it would be up to your committee members.

Charlie said after that, it’s just a bunch of signatures. It looks like we touched on everything. Jack said Bob and Dawn can have their Solicitors look at it and it can be discussed at the next meeting.

Charlie said he missed Article 5, Section 2d, our Solicitor is asking about compensation for the Secretary to produce the minutes. Jack said the idea was that the municipalities could provide that support. Any type of budget would be run through the municipality; one of us could do a treasurer’s report. “Committee must meet the definition of agency since it provides advice on matters of municipal business and therefore subject to the Sunshine Laws. Meetings would have to be advertised for the public.” What we normally do in regular meetings is if we pick a time you want to have a meeting, we’ll advertise it and if there’s a change, we’d advertise that change.

Charlie said concerning the Rail Trial, there’s isn’t anything from Hellertown that we’ve done. We’ve talked to Joe a couple of times on grants and he will try to help out any way in doing the grants. The committee itself may want to do some grant writing. The municipality may have your own engineer you may want to work with. Joe is offering his services, where needed. We’re just waiting for the lease to be accomplished. The first thing we will start looking at in Hellertown is the culvert that runs the raceway that is underneath the rail line now and goes into our Grist Mill. We have some kind of blockage right now. We have to try to open it up so we can get water for the ponds. There is algae growth on the ponds. That will be one of the first things that Hellertown would do.

Donna said would you be able to start to find screenings so you are able to start laying some of it down before winter sets in? Jack said we have to get the lease finalized and can’t go on the property. The lease has to get approved by the Council. Donna said should we think along the lines of stockpiling if things come our way? Jack said if this body can come to some agreement, we can probably get PW together and the engineers and talk about it. There are other issues we have to talk about like the crossings and signage. There are going to be meetings as the engineers are working on some of the crossing issues. From a municipal level, we’d like an agreement from this body as to what you are looking for surface wise as we have to talk about the money budget wise. Bob said Upper Saucon has talked about doing only part of the trail and actually pave it and not doing the entire thing at one time. That is still up in the air. Dawn said they are also looking at pavement plus stone down. Frank said it’s about \$80,000 to \$100,000 for the entire trail and it will be triple the cost if you do asphalt. There are two things that have to happen. The lease has to be finalized and the money needs to be in place. Charlie said labor wasn’t counted in that amount. Frank said even with the lease is in place, you probably couldn’t even put the stuff down.

Jack said the Township is not on the trails yet as it isn't our property yet. It's SEPTA property and if you see anyone on it, you can report it to the local police. One of the things as soon as the lease is signed, the committee will get on the trail and see different things for example, if it's used for someone's yard waste from their back yard. Those are issues we have to deal with. Bob said they had refrigerators dumped and they had to clean them up. Jack said those are the types of things you are going to see on the trail at some spots. It's just something we have to deal with it. Once we can go on the trail, it will be policed by the Police. If we can get the lease signed in November, we can walk and observe those issues. Charlie said we can identify a property if there is yard waste being dumped and the municipality can deal with it by writing a letter first and then take the person to the Magistrate.

Jack said they are looking at is access to the trails once the trail is open. They don't have any place to park to get on the trail. They are looking at securing some access point that can be designated as a trail head. To prevent the illegal access or parking illegal, and getting their bike off and going on the trail, they are in the process of getting the ordinance changed for no parking in that area. They will make some progress on that shortly.

Dawn said Council has to see the final agreement before they make the final move as they are getting a lot of pressure from residents in the Borough.

Joe said he would remind people now, in the interest of time, it is very important for your committee to become formal and to have by-laws so you can be an interactive body for grants. That's important to have it happen ASAP. At some point, you'll have to make a fundamental determination on which of two grant roads you wish to go. One road would be to create what the Ironton folks showed you last meeting – an Ironton Rail Trail master plan. Funding for that is a strong likelihood thru DCNR Growing Greener if we do it this year as it may be the last year that program is going to be viable. If we applied for that, he thinks we would really get it. However, by going as a planning route, that might slow down the urge for the implementation route. If you are going to go straight from just discussions to implementation, probably you are going to have to look at foundations and private entities as opposed to Growing Greener to get the money to do it. That's neither easier or more difficult – it's just more choices. He suspects when you get all your formalities in order, that's going to really be an important topic for the whole committee to get their arms around. He knows there an urge to get a trail there and a finished product, but at the same time, without a master plan, do you run the risk of putting something in that eventually you have to rip up and redo or put something in that turns out not to meet the needs of the people you originally wanted to meet the needs of. He really doesn't have preference. He's not here on behalf of any particular municipality or on behalf of Barry Isett. He's trying to give you his best advice on looking at other trail projects that he's done throughout the years. At some point, you will have to face that issue and try to decide which way you want to go.

Someone said a few weeks ago at a meeting, someone from the DCNR came and spoke. One of the things she said was there will be one shot left at the Growing Greener. She said DCNR as an entity is going to shrink by at least 30%. Joe said DEP has already shrunk by 436 employees over the last six years. If you're wondering why your permit processes are slow, 436 less people there to do that. Someone said the person at the meeting said now is the time to be in partnerships and not to look at the state as a source for funding, but to look at the state as

facilitator and getting the funds from elsewhere. She mentioned private and also mentioned the federal government. We should look to see if there's anything at the federal level in resources and use the state as a means to build that bridge. Maybe we can do both things. If we think the money for the master plan is there, that would probably be at the federal level as well. We can go for that, but at the same time, we are trying to build the bridges to where the money really is. Joe said federal stimulus money for trails you would have to couch it with a transportation rather than recreation because the stimulus program prohibits use of money for recreation, swimming pools, golf courses, zoos and other things like that. If this trail will be an important bikeway link, pedestrian link, things like that – transportation oriented, then you are right, there are some ins through the stimulus money but the same concern would apply. That's only going to be there next year also. By this time next year, they do virtually hope to have all that money appropriated. Your core time to make these decisions is now so he can put in one or both or a combination of things. They probably are going to convene in the March or April so you know when decisions are going to be made. You have to decide how you are going to do it, and he'll help as being the primary person or being an assistant to another firm or group or individual as a secondary person. That part doesn't matter to him, he just wants to help. He's pretty sure that's your time frame. Someone said once this lease is signed, it's now our property, vehicles on the property, refrigerators on the property, that stuff is now our problem. The longer we wait to do construction, the longer we wait until we get security and police officers on that trail. Someone said what is the best process? Joe said if we follow the pattern he is talking about, the committee would have a great stake in actually preparing the plan, but ultimately, the four municipalities would have to sign off on the plan for it to be a document that will be useable for everybody. Someone asked how big is the grant? Joe said it would depend on how much abilities we have amongst ourselves. He can conceive of a way the committee could do it. He can tell you it's a lot of work and people would have to be willing to sacrifice big chunks of time. That would be the reason most communities opt for a consultant to do it. If you look at the folks from Ironton, they knew their trails backwards, forwards, and sideways. If they had wanted to write a plan, it would have taken longer and would have required even more of their time and they looked like the kind of guys who wanted to be out on the trail doing something rather than sitting at a table writing about things. You always have to balance all those things. He would say it's in the ballpark of about \$20,000 for a master plan. Charlie said Dimmick Park was \$30,000. Jack said that is a basis for building on future funding and going back to the state and saying we want to work on this feature and you refer back to the master plan which has all been adopted by the bodies. Joe said a master plan does more than answer the basic question than what's your surface going to be. You go for surface grants. The master plan is also going to tell you what your signage is going to be, what your kiosks are going to be, are you going to have a brochure with it, what kinds of additional regulations you have to have, special events and activities, are you going to raise money to keep the thing maintained year after year after year, and all those other things go on a master plan, and your answer is yes if you are ever hoping to get money for those types of every day activities, and you'd better have a document that is adopted by everybody.

Someone asked about using other trails plans for the master plan. Joe said there are many trail documents out there to be used as examples, and Ironton is one of them. You can go to the Rails to Trail Conservancy and he's sure they can give you a laundry list of the ones that are top shelf ones that are done in the region. He doesn't have a particular objection if the committee wants to go that way, but it will take a lot of time as you have to go through each individual decision and

all of those things are not things you are going to decide in one meeting or two meetings sitting around a table. The fundamental question of sign to a large degree determines what the presentation of your trail is going to be for the next decade or more. You are not going to sit here and say Charlie made a sign like that for Ironton and call Charlie up and tell him to make the same kind of sign for Saucon. You can do that, but it's not a practical way of doing anything.

Jack said he agrees we want to get the on the trail as quickly as possible, but the other part of this is the elected officials who are not here at the meeting and you are going to be communicating back and forth. They are going to be the ones making the decisions, approving the funding, and those types of things. That master plan gives them an opportunity to weigh in as to what direction they want to go in the community. It's an important linkage to the elected officials and this body. If you had something like that, it would make it easier ongoing for you guys to work as you basically know what the direction is going to be for the next five, ten, fifteen years from now. Joe said your elected officials are also going to be the ones to tell you about speed. Once this is adopted, and as you said, now it is your responsibility, your elected officials are going to tell you what your responsibility means. They are either going to say, now that we have this thing, we have to find a way to get something on there by spring time or they are going to say, we have it, let's take our time, let's get it rights, let's do this, let's do that. He's not even going to try to prejudge what four different communities are going to say as you may get three or four different answers to those questions. He does think that whether you apply for a grant for a plan or whether you convene a group to do a plan of this committee and other interested individuals, it is going to be a significant time commitment. It's not something you will have ready by March. It's something that will take you probably the better part of a year to do. You might be able to do it simultaneously with construction on the trail, but don't kid yourselves. It's far more than just taking somebody else's plan and adjusting it to your details. There's too many new and different things with their participating townships and the way you are working with yours, there are differences. Charlie said is there something on the website so this committee could look at the document that Ironton has. Joe said he asked that and they don't have their plan on the website. What he will do is he will call some of his friends at DCNR and he will ask them what they think some examples are of good eastern Pennsylvania rail trail plans and he'll send them to Jack what they tell him and Jack can disburse it to everyone else.

Charlie said there are some crossing issues in Upper Saucon and Hellertown where they are passing over a PennDOT right-of-way and that's a problem also. We have to have an agreement with them. Jack said are you going to be able to come up with some standardized package of what's going to be used for the crossings? Someone said Dennis is looking at something. Jack said can we come back with this at the next meeting something that we can present to the group and say here's what a typical crossing looks like. Charlie said they really haven't looked at anything yet. Jack said that would be helpful if we could take a look at that and say this is how it's going to look at Water Street. Charlie said is there a crossing in the state highway in Coopersburg? Dawn said it's a borough road.

The group decided the next meeting date would be November 30 at 5:00 PM at Upper Saucon Township.

Jack said Charlie sent him a copy of an update of the southern crossing at High Street. We had

reported that Norfolk Southern wants to demolish that, and fill in the cut, which would connect to the north with the City of Bethlehem Greenway. We had found out that there is going to be a hearing on Wednesday December 2 at Harrisburg. The one positive thing is that DCNR, they were named a party, so they will be appearing. Charlie said the cut is in the City of Bethlehem. We're supportive of this. There is a city engineer at Bethlehem and they are opposed to cutting it in and filling it in as it's a connection to the City. Donna said can we send a representative to the meeting? Jack said he doesn't know if we have any ability to do that. Someone said do you want him to take a crack at a letter and circulate it around? Charlie said sure.

Jack said there are some residents here. Does anyone have any concerns? No one raised their hand.

Frank said we should have a full committee of members at our next meeting, as we can't make any decisions until that is done. Bob said Upper Saucon and Coopersburg, their governing bodies didn't do anything yet. They are waiting until the lease is signed. Jack said by next meeting, we should have the lease back from SEPTA. It's then up to the Supervisors and Council's.

The meeting adjourned. The time was 6:39 PM.