

SAUCON RAIL TRAIL OVERSIGHT COMMISSION MEETING

Date: Monday, October 27, 2014
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Lower Saucon Township Council Meeting Room

I. Opening

A. Call to Order: Peter Jarrett welcomed everyone

B. Roll Call: Lower Saucon Township: Roger Jurczak, Jerry Holum, Jack Cahalan
Coopersburg Borough: Linda Minarik
Upper Saucon Township: Peter Jarrett, Diana Inglis

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

Jack distributed copies of the 10-23-14 email from John Brunner which mentioned the upcoming meeting with SEPTA to discuss the envisioned SRT trail extension from Coopersburg south to Quakertown.

2. Bethlehem Greenway Update

There has been no update on the extension of the greenway to Saucon Park or on the plans to construct the new bridge over the Norfolk Southern tracks at High Street.

B. Trail Improvement Projects

1. Geology Project

Peter said that the sign has been approved. Jack said that we made the contribution toward the cost of the sign. We have not heard anything further from Frank Pazzaglia.

2. Eagle Scout Project: Kiosk at Reading Dr. Trailhead

Roger said that the scout has finished the construction of the kiosk and it has been installed. Jack said there will be a dedication ceremony on Saturday, November 8th at 9 am at the trailhead.

3. Update on UST Kiosk

Peter said he spoke to Joe Geib and he said he had no news on this.

4. Reading Drive Trailhead Nature Path

Jack said that the plans for the Nature Path were put off for this year since there were some issues that the Township planner identified with the location and construction of the trail through the woods. Also, the Township received approval to install a permanent composting toilet in the location where the portable toilets now are so that will push back the picnic area where the trail was supposed to start from. Peter said he saw the additional meadow that was planted by the volunteers. He asked if they will continue to maintain it? Jack said that as a condition of approval by the Township they had to commit to maintaining it. Diana asked if LST is considering adding any dog waste mitts along their section of the trail. Jack said that they never felt that they were needed because we do not have a dog waste issue and the trail users have been very responsible about picking up after their dogs. In addition, the bags are very expensive. Diana said that Hellertown started providing the bags. Jack said that they did that for specific area that was experiencing a problem with dog waste.

5. Signal

Peter said that he, Roger & Jerry just came from a meeting with Cathy Hartranft and Tom Henshaw in Hellertown. Peter said that they indicated that they were interested in refurbishing the signal and did not want to undertake anything without the approval of the Borough. They also wanted to determine what the Borough could provide in the way of

equipment and manpower to the effort. Peter said that Cathy is in favor of the project but wanted to know what the overall cost would be. They indicated that they would assist us in inventorying the pole, which will be to take pictures and measurements, etc., by supplying their bucket truck or a platform. Once they have that done they can begin disassembling it piece by piece and they indicated that they could help with that too. The costs would be associated with the painting and fabrication of the parts that are removed and for the painting of the pole. The inventory and pictures will allow us to get some firm prices on what it is going to cost. Roger said that Tom Henshaw felt that the way to proceed would be to remove the component parts and leave the pole standing. There isn't much paint left on the pole so it shouldn't require too much scraping and wire brushing to prepare it for painting. After the parts are removed we can store them in the PW garage and then take measurements and based on their condition, determine how they can be repaired or replaced. Peter said that if we can get the components removed before winter and focus on working on this next spring, in the meantime if we can get a fundraising campaign going we may be able to add to the \$1,000 we already have for the project. Jack said that he would work on putting together fundraising material.

6. Mile Markers

Roger said they are still on target for the end of November.

7. Website/Facebook Updates

Peter said Steve is not here so we don't have an update on this. Jack said there haven't been any payments to the web manager since August.

V. Miscellaneous Business Items

A. Previous Meeting Minutes – September 22, 2014

Peter said we don't have the minutes from the last meeting.

B. Financial Report

Jack said that the balance in the SRTOC fund at the end of September was \$11,563.15. There were no receipts and the only expense was a payment to Lowes for the kiosk materials. Peter asked about the donation for the meadow? Jack said that was made and will show up in the October report along with Roger's expenses for the plaques. Jerry asked if we have thanked the people who donated toward the signal. Jack said that the payments came in through Hellertown and he thought that Cathy would have thanked them for the donations. The reports were approved unanimously.

C. Bills to Pay (if any) – None

VI. Commissioner Individual Statements & Updates

A. By Municipality - None

VII. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m. Next meeting 11-24-14 at Hellertown Borough