

SAUCON RAIL TRAIL OVERSIGHT COMMISSION MEETING

Date: Monday, November 25, 2013
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Upper Saucon Township

Also Attending: Terry Boos, Mary Ann Snyder, Emmitt Brown

I. Call to Order/Roll Call – Chair

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

II. Roll Call

Present: Lower Saucon Township: Jerry Holum, Roger Jurczak, Jack Cahalan
Hellertown Borough: Joe Pampanin, Steve Labrake, Charles Hampton
Coopersburg Borough: None
Upper Saucon Township: Peter Jarrett, Allan Cassaday, Joe Geib

III. Public Comment (Related to Agenda Items below)

None.

IV. Presentations / Trail Business

A. Rail-Trail Vision

Roger distributed a draft of the vision plan for everyone to review. After some review and discussion, it was suggested that the plan also include some history and signage about the history of the railroad.

Visually-Appealing Fencing along Creek Crossings

The Commission is looking to replace some wooden split-rail fencing along some bridge crossings over the Saucon Creek with something that provides an unobstructed view of the creek below. There is some material that may work, and a 10' long, 6' high panel is under \$100. There may be some engineering required to attach these new panels to the existing fence. The Lower Saucon Township Planner will review these suggestions. The question remains as to who will pay for any such change.

B. Website Updates

Nothing new. The map is new, and we will update the listing of the access points accordingly.

C. Trail Vegetation Planning

Jack distributed a draft of a nature path planned to be near the Reading Drive trailhead. Terry and Mary Ann were also here to discuss the project. Currently, the plan is for a nature path approx. 425' in length, 6' in width, with a natural surface of wood chips. The Lower Saucon Township Environmental Advisory Council will also remove invasive plant species, re-plant native species, and post signage at the entrance and exit, as well as interpretive signage about invasive plants and natives. This plan was approved by the Lower Saucon Township Environmental Advisory Council, and awaits the review of the Lower Saucon Township Council and Planner.

D. Eagle Scout Project

Emmitt Brown plans on building a kiosk at the Reading Drive Trailhead in Lower Saucon Township. He anticipates construction to take place in March or April 2014. Due to BSA restrictions, they will use adult help for portions of the project needing power tools. Lower Saucon Township will dig the holes for the kiosk. Roger will provide Emmitt with plans for the standard kiosk on the Trail. Terry suggested that we possibly mount a brochure file rack on the kiosk (to accompany the nature path).

V. Miscellaneous Business Items

A. Minutes of October 28 Meeting

Motion to approve minutes of October 28 made by Steve, 2nd by Al, passed unanimously.

B. Financial Report, Sept. 30

Balance was \$10,189.49 as of October 31, 2013

There was one payment made to update the website for the new map. The cost was \$150.

Motion to approve October Financial Report made by Al, 2nd by Steve, passed unanimously.

C. Bills to Pay (if any) – None

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

VI. Commissioner Individual Statements & Updates

Hellertown Borough

They received a \$190,000 grant for improvements to Water Street Park from the Marcellus Shale grant funds. They are still waiting for some Monroe County Gaming and DCNR grant award notifications.

Upper Saucon Township

New benches were installed along the Trail. New signage and Upper Saucon Township Community Park improvements will come in Spring 2014. Joe recently met with a representative from Lutron and PennDOT to discuss some safety enhancements to the Passer Road crossing.

2014 Meeting Schedule

Joe presented the proposed 2014 Meeting Schedule, with meeting locations posted therein.

Motion to approve 2014 Meeting Schedule made by Steve, 2nd by Pete, passed unanimously.

Lower Saucon Township will run the ad for the meetings.

Mile Markers

Roger is seeking other options for the raw materials for the posts, as our original sawyer for the job is currently not available to assist. Steve said that sponsors for the new posts are almost all locked up. There was some discussion regarding the maintenance required for the posts and plaques, to prevent early weathering.

Signs at Railroad Stations

Jerry mentioned that he would like to see interpretive signs with photos and active dates of the railroad facilities placed along the Trail. There was a successful project along the South Bethlehem Greenway done by a Boy Scout along this same approach.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Next Meeting

January 27 @ Lower Saucon Township