

## SAUCON RAIL TRAIL OVERSIGHT COMMISSION MEETING

Date: Monday, March 24, 2014  
Time: 6:00 PM  
Location: Coopersburg Borough

### **I. Opening**

- A. **Call to Order:** President Peter Jarrett called the meeting to order.
- B. **Roll Call:** Lower Saucon Township: Roger Jurczak, Jerry Holum  
Hellertown Borough: Steve LaBrake, Cathy Hartranft  
Coopersburg Borough:  
Upper Saucon Township: Joseph Geib, Peter Jarrett, Allen Cassaday

### **II. Public Comment (Related to Agenda Items Below) - None**

### **III. Information Items**

- A. **Care Net of the Lehigh Valley Run/Walk for Life** – Jennifer Gross, representing Care Net of the Lehigh Valley submitted an application and information material summarizing a Run/Walk for Life to be held on April 12<sup>th</sup>. The Run/Walk will be entirely on the Upper Saucon Township portion of the Rail Trail. Fire/EMS and Police have been notified. Volunteers to clean up debris. Joe Geib will provide gate key. PennDot has been notified, but have not yet given approval.  
**Upon motion by Mr. Jurczak, seconded by Mr. Cassaday, the commission unanimously approved the Run/Walk as outlined in the application contingent upon receiving the PennDot permit.**
- B. **John Brunner, Appalachian Mountain Club** – Updated the Commission on the group's efforts to create additional trail connection in the Appalachian region, specifically the Quakertown, Richland Township area. The preferred route is canal paths and rail corridor. Mr. Brunner informed the Commission he is also attending the Bethlehem Open Space Committee meetings. It is his understanding from attending the meeting the Bethlehem Greenway may be connected to the Saucon Rail Trail as soon as 2015. Steve LaBrake indicated the Hellertown/Lower Saucon Chamber would like Bethlehem to open and connect the Greenway sooner. Mr. Brunner requested the SRTC to provide the AMC with a letter indicating the Commissions support of the connection of the Highland Trail. Mr. Jarret thanked Mr. Brunner for the update and suggested a letter be prepared for review by the Commission at the April meeting.

### **IV. Presentations/Trail Business**

- A. **Rail Trail Vision** – The Commission requested each municipality to prepare a list of items and/or projects they would like on their portion of the SRT.
- B. **Website Updates** – Steve LaBrake informed the Commission he received a lot of positive feedback with regard to the survey asking the communities if they would use the SRT to get into the Bethlehem area rather than driving on Rt. 412.
- C. **Trail Vegetation Planning/Mapping**– The Commissioners will continue this as soon as the weather breaks.
- D. **Eagle Scout Project** – Mr. Jurczak indicated Emit Brown received approvals from Lower Saucon Township and has obtained sponsorship. Mr. Jurczak will modify drawing and forward to Emit.
- E. **Trail Improvements Projects**
  - i. **Geology Proposal; clearing and identification of outcropping** – Mr. Holum and Mr. Jurczak met with Frank and 8-10 Lehigh students earlier this month. They have prepped the area. LST public works will clear and power wash the area. Lehigh University will create a web page presentation and make available 3' tall wooden posts indicating geological interest. The Commission discussed there is still a lot of garbage on the site further up, which may be private property. Alan will try to determine property lines
  - ii. **Nature Path at Reading Drive Trailhead** – The proposed nature path was discussed at Lower Saucon Township's Environmental Advisory meeting on March 11<sup>th</sup> which was then referred to the township's Recreation Board and municipal solicitor.

**V. Miscellaneous Business Items**

- A. **Previous Meeting Minutes, February 24, 2014** – Upon motion by Mr. Jurczak, seconded by Mr. LaBrake the minutes of February 24, 2014 were unanimously approved.
- B. **February Financial Report** – Upon motion by Mr. LaBrake, seconded by Mr. Jurczak the February Financial Report was unanimously approved
- C. **Bills to pay (if any)** – None.
- D. **Other** – Mr. Jurczak presented the Commissioners with a flyer he located on a SRT mile marker. Mr. Jurczak suggested the police make contact with the people since a phone number is listed on the flyer. The Commission will notify their respective police departments. Steve will post reminder on web site.

**VI. Public Comment / Citizen Non-agenda**

**VII. Commissioner Individual Statements & Updates**  
None

**VIII. Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.