

## SAUCON RAIL TRAIL OVERSIGHT COMMISSION MEETING

**Date:** Monday, October 22, 2012  
**Time:** 6:00 PM  
**Location:** Lower Saucon Township Council Meeting Room

**Present:** Lower Saucon Township: Roger Jurczak, Jack Cahalan  
Hellertown Borough: Chuck Hampton  
Coopersburg Borough: none  
Upper Saucon Township: Joe Geib, Susan Anderson, Pete Jarrett

**Absent:** Lower Saucon Township: Jerry Holum  
Hellertown Borough: Cathy Kichline, Borough Manager; Steve LaBrake, Joe Pampanin  
Coopersburg Borough: Tim Paashaus, Borough Manager; Perry Layton,  
Upper Saucon Township: Sara Pandl

- **Call to Order / Roll Call – President**

Roger Jurczak called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

- **Public Comment**

There were no audience members.

- **Presentation/Trail Business**

- **Saucon Rail Trail Website Update**

Roger said Steve LaBrake is absent; therefore, there are no updates. Jack said do you know how close we are. Roger said Steve indicated at the last meeting he would be in communication with the developer and that it would be ready when he gets back. At this point, he had not heard anything.

- **Reading Road Trailhead Sketch Plan (revised)**

Jack said it's actually on Reading Drive. We've been calling it Reading Road, but it is Reading Drive. At the last meeting, we took a look at the sketch plan. First thing was the parking spaces, 14 and then the additional 6 and the Commission requested that the parking area be paved. We have the figures from the Public Works Director and we will provide it to Council as far as the cost of the gravel vs. the paving. Susan said is this where that little one is now, there is a port-a- potty there? Jack said yes. Speaking of the port-a- potty, it was originally in this area. The Commission wanted it closer to the trail, so it could be seen by trail users, so they moved it over here. Chuck said it is basically where it is now, just on the other side. Jack said yes. Jack said in the picnic area we will keep most of the trees so there will be a canopy of trees. Someone picked up here that the sketch plan had grills in the picnic area. Those are off now because the tree canopy could disappear quickly if someone were to start a fire under there. Also, the vinyl screening has been changed to wood privacy fence. They originally had the kiosk positioned as a privacy shield in front of the port-a- potty. It wasn't going to block maintenance access to the unit, but we suggested that they put it on this side. You can go off the trail, use the port-a- potty, look at the kiosk, get a drink of water, and go back on the trail. Susan said there are two sections of parking; I didn't realize it was that wide. Jack said what you see there is the travel lane. Roger said what you see there is not what you see here. The parking that exists now goes this way and you park this way. You will come in on the same driveway area and have an access point to park. Susan said I never realized there was that much land. Jack said it is 2.2 acres. Chuck said will it need any fill? Jack said all we will have to do here is take this out, scrape it off, put the base in, and then pave it and the access up to the trail, put in the port-a- potty, the screening, and the picnic tables; it is not going to take that much to do. Roger said this scale is easier to see. This is the existing gate, where the port-a- potty sits now is here, and it is going to go on the other side of the driveway, and the kiosk, and water fountain. When you come off the trail, it is a very easy in and out. Pete said do you have bike racks here. Jack said we can easily do that. There should be something here for you to put your bike on along the access way. Jack said there will be a minimum amount of trees removed. This area actually fits nicely between the larger trees. Susan said when do you propose to have it finished. Jack said we need to get it approved on November 7<sup>th</sup>, and then it is a matter of getting it scheduled by Public Works. It is possible for it to be done this year. Jack said if this meets everyone's satisfaction, I will get it approved by Council on November 7<sup>th</sup> as I don't anticipate any final issues. I think they are pretty comfortable with the plan. Roger said there is a black walnut tree right here.

I think that has to go. Jack said I will have the planner look at that as they have all the trees marked that have to be removed. Jack said can I say the plan was approved by the Commission. Roger said yes, if you add about the bike racks and the Black Walnut tree. Jack said I will pass that on; the planner will take a look at that.

○ **“Keep Quiet” Signs Along Trail in Upper Saucon Township**

Joe Geib said Upper Saucon Township has received some complaints and requests from residents, who back up along the Rail Trail, about noise. We have come up with this sign that says “Residential Area, Please Keep Noise to a Minimum.” It is on a yellow background, black on top under “Residential Area”, and then black under “Please Keep Noise to a Minimum”. We are going to do signs that are 18” x 24”. The map in the packet shows the proposed locations. Joe said that he and the Township Manager have looked at this, and this is where we proposed to put them, and we would like some direction and opinion from the Commission before we move ahead. Joe said there are a couple right at the crossing of Landis Mill heading north. The area we are looking to do it is mainly between Landis Mill Road and Spring Valley Road, meaning the Upper Saucon Township line with Lower Saucon Township. Susan said a lot of those homes are way up that hill as you cross over Landis Mill from the Library. Pete said I can understand in Weyhill because you can see right in their houses. Susan said yes, and where they are building the new one, Adams Plumbing, where he is building his new house. Joe said that is on the other side. Susan said me personally, I think people will look at it and laugh, but that is just me. Pete said I think it will be a joke and they will probably make more noise. Jack said people do talk a lot. Susan said who is going to stop talking. Jack said we heard in our area from a couple of the residents that they can hear all kinds of conversations. Joe said some of the complaints have concerns with foul language. Susan said at least it shows you are doing something, I mean you have to do something. Pete said it is an effort. Jack said from the Commission standpoint, and this is an individual municipal decision, but the users are going to see this and they are going to want it on the rest of the Trail. Joe said that is why we are bringing it up today; are we heading down that slippery slope and everyone is going to want it? Chuck said I don’t think there is going to be any noise abatement just because there are signs. Pete said would it be better to put them at crossings or contact points, a generic sign, because I think this is almost daring people to be noisy. Jack said he has seen trail signs in areas that go through private property, but I am not sure that I have seen these types of signs. Joe said Jack, have you got any complaints about noise. Jack said no, I think the people that live next to it understand that is part of living next to the trail. Roger said I was really surprised as I was at Jerry Holum’s house this past weekend for a period of time, and as I was sitting there I was amazed at people just riding by and talking at the level we are talking. It seems like it is amplified. His house is elevated and he has trees along the trail, which still have leaves, but it was clear because it is so quiet. Joe said were these bikers not riding next to each other, because they may be talking to someone behind them. Roger said it was both bikers and people walking. It was not inordinately loud. Pete said Joe, are you just informing us of this. Joe said we are ready to go and if it looks like we get opinions to the contrary, we will second guess it. Susan said it’s the wording. It’s the “be respectful”, which doesn’t tell you to do much of anything, but I can see people saying “Ha, watch this”. Joe said we did throw other wording around, but we didn’t think other wording would satisfy some of the other complaints. Susan said what is the next step if after you have put these up and people still complain. I complain about the peeping tom we have in Upper Saucon who puts stuff all along Oakhurst Drive, like cans and dead animals. The whole neighborhood knows he is the one who does it and I constantly complain to the Police, who say “did you actually see him do it”. You have to actually have almost a picture. You are heading down a slippery slope trying to control this issue. Chuck said I think it is just going to make it worse. Susan said but you are at least showing you are doing something. Pete said with the leaves coming off the trees it is just going to be louder. Chuck said were there complaints last year. Joe said this is all new. Chuck said I think it’s a couple of neighbors that may have stirred each other. I have never seen anybody inordinately loud there. Joe said one complaint definitely came from the Weyhill Woods development off of Augusta Drive, those bigger, newer homes there. Roger said I can understand that, they are literally right on the trail. Joe said the other ones were from just as you cross Spring Valley; there are a number of homes right against the trail as well. Joe said Jack, do you have anything else. Jack said I am concerned, as Chuck is, that residents living along the trail from the other municipalities are going to say they are doing this in Upper Saucon, why are we not doing it and they are going to come to this body and ask you to do something. It is a municipal decision and up to the Councils in Lower Saucon and Hellertown and later on, in Coopersburg, to decide what to do. Advisory information is ok, but if it is on the trail like this, it implies it is being enforced and we are not doing that. Roger said the first thought that came to my mind is you are asking.

You are saying please, then what. In the past month in Water Street park, there were half a dozen kids, ages 16-19, and apparently somebody went into the park with a hot car, I am getting this from reading the Patch, and was spinning tires and doing donuts and such. Whoever reported it to the Police defined what was going on and where these kids were. The officer decided they were there at dark, beyond the dawn to dusk thing, and he issued citations to everyone, except the 16 year old. Jack said people on the Patch were complaining about the officer giving them citations for being in the park after dark. Roger said I have never seen the dawn to dusk pushed, but he pushed it. Joe said it could have been the lowest thing he could cite them for. Roger said I see a parallel here; are we going to put Police on the trail. Susan said whatever solution you have, you say to the people this is what we are doing and hopefully it works. Jack said if the website was up, you could use that to start a conversation and point out that people live along the trail and ask them gently. Chuck said that or on the FaceBook page, but I still think it calls more attention to the fact that it may be annoying someone and may be a challenge to some people. Jack said it falls under trail etiquette, just the same as asking users to stay to the right. Jack said I don't know, Joe, if that would achieve the same result, but I have a feeling it would, maybe if you put down that there are residential areas along the trail. Susan said they are not loitering. Jack said my only other idea would be, on a trial basis, maybe in a targeted area, try it out and see what the reaction is from some of the people. Susan said unless you get feedback you won't know. Pete said it is a hard thing to quantify too. Meaning, if the weather is good a lot of people are out, in the winter I've been the only person on the trail sometimes. Roger said I like Jack's idea of holding off until the website is up and use that as a medium, or the Facebook page, that would be a double hit. Jack said you can put a map on the website and use it as an advisory and point out these are residential areas; please keep noise to a minimum. Joe said on the other hand, I understand these residents live next to an old railroad line, but they should understand, not only was there a possibility of converting it to a trail, and I think about the complaints we get now about the noise and the recreation on the trail, but what if the train came back. Roger said we've had two races; were these complaints before or subsequent to having these races. Joe said I think it is before and independent of. Jack said I think the more trail users get use to seeing people in and outside of their homes in their yards, they will have a tendency to moderate and lower their conversation level. It is a gradual growing together process. Roger said using the website and Facebook raises the awareness. Roger said at the last meeting, we talked about looking at the trail as a whole on how to deal with invasive growth. There has been talk that certain parts of the trail should remain more rugged and, like in Hellertown, where you are in the city, you want to have flower beds and things along that line, which areas do we want to develop or enhance and how. I ran a couple of maps and it might be that this noise element becomes a part of the plantings for where are the busy areas and other areas that might be zoned. Susan said you can put some kind of sign in the kiosks such as the one at Upper Saucon, right before you start up the path, and the one at Water Street. Joe said what if we revised the wording to say something like, "Respect the privacy of neighboring residents". Chuck said I think that would be less provocative. Joe said if we come up with something, can we do it over email or do you want us to come back. Chuck said you don't need to come back.

Roger said one of the conversations that Jerry Holum and I had was the location of the rules. They are at the borders, but he was saying, where we have the gates, there is a pretty large sign that says "Please dismount and walk across the street". Maybe that is the place, on the gate itself, where we should have the rules because it would be more prominent. Chuck said some people are going to stop and read them and then bottleneck at the gates. Roger said but it depends where it is placed. Susan said don't put it right at the opening where you come through, but on the side, because they are going to have to stop there to go through anyway.

Roger said have we provided some feedback. Joe said yes.

- **Rail-Trail Vision-Map Review by Section**

Roger said we need a few more people here in order to take this any further, but let me show you what maps I have available since we became a commission. This is a copy of a map that Erin was able to reproduce and print for us that shows the trail we have now. These are probably the actual map historical mile markers or close to it. The purpose of this is for Judy and some of the gardeners to help plot the wants and vision of our Commission, where plantings may go to keep this area rustic, keep this area city like, and to help identify where there is invasive growth. I have a satellite photograph and did it on a larger scale, and unfortunately, when I got it today a photograph of a photograph is dark. The technician suggested she might be able to lighten it so we can read the

street names. This is the yellow and red and blue plot of the creek and the trail. Pete said where is the closed bridge that is an overpass. Does that present a danger because we are afraid of a fall on the trail? Jack said that bridge was going to be replaced by the City of Bethlehem. The reason the road is closed is because the iron bridge is closed. Jack said the wooden bridge which was owned by Norfolk Southern was shaky. Pete said my impression was the reason it was not being extended north is because a bridge is out. Jack said that the reason it is not being extended north is, first of all, we do not control any part of the trail past Bachman Street in Hellertown. Above Bachman it is in the City of Bethlehem and owned by Norfolk Southern not SEPTA. Norfolk Southern also owns the wooden bridge. They proposed to take the bridge out and fill in the cut which would have blocked the trail. The City appealed this to the state. They brought in DCNR and had to go in front of the PUC for permission to do anything. They had a hearing and the administrator ruled that they could not fill it in; put had to keep a bridge over it that would maintain the trail access underneath it. Norfolk Southern said ok, we'll put a bridge over it, but the City of Bethlehem has to pay for it. They have been trying to raise money, approximately \$1.2 million dollars or so, to put a bridge there that would have clearance for the trail. They had to get an agreement with Hellertown on one side to maintain it, and they have been looking for funding through various sources.

Pete said are these the trails the dirt bikes were coming in on. Roger said Jack, did you get the police report? Jack said yes, but he can't release it because there is a juvenile involved. They live in the Apple Church Road area. They were reported by someone at the sportsman's club, which is on the border of Lower Saucon and Upper Saucon, and I don't know where they got on the trail. They were on the trail, the Police officers found them at their house, and they identified who was who. They have been charged and I do not know what is going to happen. Pete said did Lee Wiedner collaborate? Jack said this was in the Township not in the Borough. Chuck said there has been a lot of activity in the town too. Jack said I saw in the Borough meeting minutes that they were discussing some gate options for the access points. Chuck said we would have to position large boulders or stone on either side of the gate, and then you wouldn't get an ATV through there. Roger said there is only a saw horse there now, is a gate in the planning. Jack said I think they are looking at a gate also. Roger said that seemed to be a missed point when we were putting in gates. Chuck said you mean at Bachman Street. Roger said yes. Jack said when we were doing the gates, Hellertown had many access points and was limited financially and we could not come up with other ideas. One of the ideas we talked about in the beginning, was to take down all the communication poles and just line the trail with the poles, which could have blocked access. Pete said you have that mountain of poles on Taylor Drive, by the Koehler Place, the cement guy. Apples Church Road, past Bingen, right at the Township line, it turns into Taylor Drive, past the old pig farm, there is a huge pile of them. Jack said Septa provided us with Jersey barriers. We used those to block some of the access points down by the Sportsman's club, but they said there are areas where people can just get on and off. There are other areas where PPL own the access ways, but except for this one, we have not had too much of a problem in Lower Saucon. Chuck said I have seen kids with dirt bikes in Lower Saucon, but they walk them on the trail and get on them at the PPL area and I have no problem with that. Susan said did we have a problem with snowmobiles last year, but we didn't have any snow, so probably not. Jack said you can't fit a snowmobile through the gates.

- **Miscellaneous Business Items**

- **Minutes of September 24, 2012 Meeting**

Pete said how were the races? Roger said I was at the one mile run. I was really concerned about the road crossings. They were manned by Upper Saucon Fire police and it was done straight out of the handbook. Landis Mill was an excellent safety situation and that was the only part it crossed a public road. Pete said organizational wise it was ok. Roger said yes.

Motion made by Roger, second by Susan to approve the September 24, 2012, minutes. All in favor.

- **September Financial Report**

Jack said the balance in the funds as of September 30, is \$6,056.35. After last month's meeting, I sent out an email to clear up the issues of the bank fees and payments we made for the first vendor for the website development. On the bank fees, I confirmed we originally were charged \$94.22 by Lafayette Ambassador Bank when we opened the account for the Rail Trail Oversight Commission in October 2011. Then the bank agreed

they would not charge us any fees for the account and returned the \$94.22 charged. On the payments to The Computer Bin for website development and the hosting that was aborted, I confirmed we have been paid back the full amount. All fees to the bank and payments to The Computer Bin have been returned. Roger said we are still outstanding the \$1,000.00 from Coopersburg, is that correct. Jack said yes. At the last meeting, I believe Sara said she was going to prepare a letter to send to them about this. Roger said I will remind her. Chuck said where do they stand; are they any closer to completing their portion. Pete said there was just an article in the paper. Jack said it is still contingent on Upper Saucon coming down with their Phase II and III and meeting them. Susan said they will probably wait until our phase is complete. Chuck said they are waiting for the developer to begin construction and pay the recreation fee. Pete said Joe said they are looking at grants and it doesn't look like the developer is going to do anything anytime soon. They are looking for some grant money and hopefully they can take it to, or at least near, Coopersburg. The grant goes to Landis Street, but the Township and the Borough go a little bit past there.

Motion made by Pete, second by Chuck, to approve the September financial report. All in favor.

○ **Bills to Pay (if any)**

No bills scheduled for payment at this time.

○ **Seasonal/Annual Maintenance Schedule**

Jack said I spoke with Cathy Kichline and we are going to be holding a meeting with the Public Works Directors by the end of the year. Out of that meeting will come something formalized as to who does what and when and will describe what will be taken care of. Right now, we share some of the maintenance with Hellertown. It is on an informal basis between the two Public Works Directors, which they do other projects as well, like paving, but we want to formalize it, to get it out to everybody. Roger said there was a rapid response when it was brought to the attention. Pete said what were the items. Chuck said around the 10K race, the sides of the trail from Upper Saucon all the way down to Lower Saucon were in pretty shabby condition. Chuck said you need the sickle bar. Jack said we don't use anything like that anymore. The problem is, with the mowers, you have to clear the trail because it kicks up so much. The sickle bar is perfect and Hellertown is running it down and back, but for some reason, they didn't do Lower Saucon. Jack said we will get it pinned down as far as what the process and the schedule is, and I will have something before the end of the year. Roger said we don't meet in December so we only have one more meeting this year.

Pete said I have a point for the maintenance. We had the Community Clean Up day in April and we talked about having one in October, but that is gone now. Can we set aside the same weekend every year so rather than saying we should have, that we begin to have one. Chuck said what we need to do is decentralize it and have each municipality supervise it. Pete said if we have an understanding that we do have a spring and a fall, it doesn't have to fall on one person to arrange everything. Jack said it is good to have a date so there are no conflicts when it comes around. Chuck said it really worked well.

Roger said I would like to discuss that we have a lot of growth on the edge of the bridges and we are hiding the beauty of the creek when we cross it. I talked with Tom at Hellertown and asked if he could put down some crushcrete by the ballast. With that amount, there wouldn't be place for the growth, but he is backed up with paving and the like. Jack said I did get that information on the two bridges and we'll talk about that. Chuck said which two bridges. Jack said the Saucon Creek bridges. Chuck said the bridge over Bingen Road could certainly be cleaned up to, it just looks messy. Roger said that one could lend itself to a community clean up.

○ **Direction/Discussion of Refurbishment of North Penn RR Historic Structures**

Roger said in the meeting notes, there was a list of wants and needs so I sat at the computer today and made a formal list. A kiosk at Lower Saucon trailhead, water fountain at trailhead, permanent restroom facilities at trailhead, and refurbishing the railroad equipment.

Roger said Rich Hawk is putting together his formal Boy Scout documentation as to his Eagle package and submitting it to the Boy Scout Council this month. His question was when do you think the parking lot and other

mechanicals will be done and I told him by about April of next year. Jack said after November 7<sup>th</sup> if it is approved we can plot it out and stake it, if he is interested, he can go out and take a look at and size it up. Roger said I shared with him the preliminary plan and showed him it would be someplace in this area. Jack said the understanding is it is to be the same as Water Street Park. Roger said it wouldn't be exactly the same as it is a shaded area. Jack said you are talking about the green roof. Roger said yes. Jack said I am talking about the actual shape of the structure. Roger said he understands he has to do the drawing, come here to get the blessing and all. Jack said that will be wonderful. Roger said I am going to email the gentlemen who raised the question about the water fountain. What he implied in his email to me, during the course of the dialogue, was that he and his friends might not be able to fund the amount we anticipated after we did the development, but they may have connections where they can. My question comes back to the fact we do not have an independent group, Friends of the Trail if you will, so how would that impact us being able to get a sponsor of a total refurbishment of something. Jack said if you look at the agreement we put together for the Commission, what we said as far as contributions was, if someone wrote a check out to the Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Commission, and let's say it was for \$10,000.00, that money would go to the Treasury and would not go to any purpose unless voted on by the Commission. If that same benefactor said I want the money to be used for, let's say a water fountain in Lower Saucon Township, we agreed at the time that would be ok, to have that money directed to that project. We were hoping that there would be specific projects that if money was donated by, let's say an Upper Saucon resident, who said I want to donate money to the Upper Saucon section, as long as they designated it, we hoped there would be projects available and not left open ended. Jack said for example, in Hellertown they are looking for a bridge at the Tumminello property. If somebody were to come in, like Neighbors or McDonalds, and say how much is needed for that project, and then give the money to that project, they could go out, under the understanding that we have here, and Hellertown could go purchase the bridge. If somebody wants to just give us money and it goes to the Rail Trail, it goes into the Treasury. Roger said if they don't specify a specific project then it is a general fund. Chuck said we can pay for anything from there. Jack said there are some limits. Jack said the \$1,000.00 invested was for stuff like website development and business related expenses to keep the organization operating. If you have money, if you are up like \$20-40,000.00, and took a vote, and said we want to put it towards this project, as long as the four municipalities give their blessing, it would not be a problem. Jack said as far as the fountain, we will move ahead with this plan, with the understanding there will be a water feature somewhere on there, if council will approve the expenditure to run the water line to Reading Drive. If we are lucky we will get somebody to donate it and if we don't the Township will put some sort of water fountain there. Susan said do you have any opposition from the housing development on the other side. Jack said no. That area has been used on an ad hoc basis and it is supposed to be closed at dark. Roger said that site is maxed out most evenings on great day. Fourteen (14) parking spaces are really going to get maxed out and I think it is going to be a real popular place. Pete said especially with a picnic area.

- **Public Comment/Citizen Non-Agenda Items – None**

- **Commissioner Individual Statements & Updates**

- **News Article: Rails-to-Trails Conservancy Article on Saucon Rail Trail**

Roger said are there any comments on the article. Pete said the very first meeting I came to, I mentioned we should start to invite people from the south, like Springfield and Richland Township, did that ever go anywhere, or it is time to do that. Jack said we spoke of someone doing a letter. Pete said Joe said he was going to but I do not know if he did. Roger said do you think there is enough time as far as what type of preparation is needed to invite them to the November meeting. Jack said I don't know, nor do I know if Joe knows, the manager of either Township. We know the manager of Springfield, we could send him an email and ask him to stop by. We did have some people from the bike coalition that came at one point. Online the Bucks County Planning Commission has a big report about the bike plan for Bucks County, and it talks about making those connections northward. I can send something to Joe since he's closest there. He or Tom Beil can send an email to have somebody stop. Pete said I marked it from Rt. 309 and it is 2 miles to Springfield Township and 4/10 mile to Shelly, which would be the next logical place because there is nothing south of there until you get into Richland Township Municipal Park, which is right next to the railroad. Then you get to California Road, which is where the railroad actually starts, and then it's only a ¼ mile to Quakertown's big park. Jack said I have not seen anybody in Springfield Township mention anything about talking to SEPTA about doing a lease like we did. I do remember from going

to meetings in Quakertown, that there is a section from Quakertown up where the tracks are in place that is leased to East Penn Railroad at California Road. Beyond that, maybe we need to hear from them if there is any interest in trying to secure that for recreation purpose. Pete said I am not sure about Springfield Township, but in Shelly there may be 5-10 homes next to it and other than that, it is nothing but woods all the way to Richland Township. Roger said does the rail bed exist with rails. Pete said I believe it is no different than when you walk up to the top of Springfield Street that the cut the rails are sticking out, where they stopped lifting them, they are still there. Roger said they did lift them and took away the rail. Pete said I don't think so. Jack said no, not at the end of Coopersburg. In fact, at the end of Coopersburg you go into a little section of Upper Saucon before you reach the Bucks County line. Pete said they absolutely did not clear them. Under the bridge at Springfield Street the rails actually stick out. Jack said the rails and the ties are still there. Chuck said past Bachman Street in Hellertown is pretty much like that. Jack said SEPTA only did that one section. It would be interesting to see what Springfield thinks about it. Pete said it only crosses two roads. Is the County interested in it? You could get County funds. Jack said the County is definitely interested in it. They would have to have some connection with SEPTA and then SEPTA would have to have some desire to open it up like they did with ours. That was not us, there was someone at SEPTA who said this is good for SEPTA. Someone looked at the price of steel, and what they could get on the scrap market, and they figured if we clear this we can make some money, a couple million dollars. We can have the municipalities maintain it for us, and if we want it back we can just come in and take it back. Somebody said it was a great deal for SEPTA and the next thing we had people here from Philadelphia and we had a lease. The group that was focusing on restoring passenger train service to the line had a lot of inertia and Senator Wonderling was behind that. He was the one who got the money to do the studies looking at extending rail service. Chuck said things are really tightening up in Harrisburg. Jack said there is no more Federal money. They got money for a study and then the study found out you would need billions of dollars to restore rail service and keep it operating.

○ **By Municipality:**

i. **Hellertown Borough** – No representatives present

ii. **Lower Saucon Township**

Jack said our priority is getting the trailhead going. We spoke to Jerry Holum about the drainage issues on Meadows Road. We did a little fix down there, cleaned up the gutter by the PPL substation and where it goes onto the trail. We checked it after the storm, we have photographs, and it all held up on the southern side. We are still on hold with the benches. Chuck said I rarely see anyone using the benches. Jack said that is good as it means they are on the move. Chuck said in Hellertown the problem is they are so dirty. Much less, maybe just dusty in Lower Saucon. Jack said speaking of the dust, one of the things we talked about with Tom Henshaw, and we are going to be putting in our budget for next year, is a water trailer that can be used as a sprayer during times when it is very dry and dusty. We can use an environmentally safe binding product that gets added to water that you can spray on the crushcrete and will hold the dust down for up to a week. We will also use it at the compost center. We will have a coating of this product run down early in the morning; it will look just like it rained. Hopefully the dust will not be an issue next year.

iii. **Upper Saucon Township** – Nothing to report

iv. **Coopersburg Borough** – No representatives present

● **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

● **Next Meeting**

- November 26<sup>th</sup> at Hellertown Borough; January 28<sup>th</sup> at Coopersburg Borough; February 25<sup>th</sup> at Upper Saucon Township