

SAUCON RAIL TRAIL OVERSIGN COMMISSION MEETING

Date: Monday, October 24, 2011
Time: 5:08 PM
Location: Coopersburg Borough Hall

Present: Lower Saucon Township:
 Jack Cahalan, Township Manager
 Roger Jurczak
 Jerry Holum
Hellertown Borough:
 Steve LaBrake
 Chuck Hampton
Coopersburg Borough:
 Dawn Kresge, Borough Manager
 Erin Frederick
Upper Saucon Township:
 Tom Beil, Township Manager
 Sara Pandl
 Joe Geib, Special Projects Coordinator
 Peter Jarrett – Arrived at 5:30 PM

- **Welcome – Township/Borough Managers** – Jack welcomed everyone. He handed out copies of the minutes from the September 26, 2011 meeting.

- **Public Comment** – Jack said after the last meeting, Tom emailed him and made some suggestions for future agenda items and one was to put a “Public Comment” portion in the beginning of the agenda.
 - Tom said we have a new face with us today, Joe Geib from Upper Saucon Township. He’s our Special Projects Coordinator and works for the Township and he will be filling in at a couple of the meetings.
 - Chuck said that he was asked to investigate what will be done in the winter to make the trail friendly for the cross country skiers? Upper Saucon has already posted that there will be no trail maintenance. His feeling is it’s not a matter of maintenance; it’s a matter of maintaining it and making it a comfortable area for the skiers. Someone said he doesn’t know that anything has to be done for cross country skiing. Chuck said sometimes it’s very difficult. Jack said we had discussed it previously and said we won’t plow the trail when it snows. It’s not something that is on Lower Saucon’s priority list. Most of our people are going to be out clearing the roads. Chuck said at the Ironton Trail, after all the roads are done, they plow the paved portion of the trail. Jack said with the plowing, if we go too deep, we could be harming the surface of the trail. Chuck said his feeling is that there are going to be snow mobiles out there anyway. Jerry said how would the snow mobiles get on the trail? Chuck said the ATV’s get on west of the trail where it’s mostly farm back there, between the Meadows and Bingen crossings. Jack said you’ve seen ATV’s on the trail? Chuck said he should say dirt bikes. He saw them walk the bikes on the trail and then get off where it’s kind of sloped down at the PPL property. Jerry said the people who are using it there live in homes up in the back. He’s been over there a number of times and it’s a popular spot to get off the trail. He’s never seen an ATV or a motorized vehicle on there. Sara said in the future we should get a volunteer group to do some work on the trail for the cross country skiers. She doesn’t know if the Township would have the equipment to get it just right. Steve said most of the snows are going to be 6” to 12” and you can just cross country ski across it without any prep. If it gets deeper than that, it’s going to be a struggle. Another issue he sees is the snow banks at the roads and you have to go up and over the snow banks with the cross country ski. He doesn’t know if the Public Works would want to plow in to the entrance of the trails. That’s kind of a pain with the gates being there. The gates will pretty much keep the snow mobile’s out. That’s the biggest thing he sees is getting over the snow banks. If somebody is going over the snow banks and falls into the road with a car coming, that could be an issue. Jack said you almost

have to send out a special truck that can get in and out to plow the snow as most of the snowplow trucks just plow it to the sides as they go past. Lower Saucon has a couple of gates that go onto 78 and they clear them for the fire trucks, so it's something that they have to look at. If the emergency services have to get on the trail to rescue a cross country skier, we are going to have to be able to open the gate to allow them to get down the trail to get to the victims. That's something we are going to have to address.

- **Elect Temporary Chairperson** – Jack said we would like to move ahead with the inter-governmental agreement and elect the officers that the agreement specifies. Tom said to follow up from the last meeting, the Commission liked the idea of waiting on this until Coopersburg has its representatives appointed, but we thought temporarily, we could have a Chairperson. Someone said that whoever would host the meeting, could have the responsibility of chairing the meeting and doing the minutes. Roger said he'd be willing to be the Chairperson. Tom said the Chairperson is elected at the beginning of the new year. They serve that full year and then the by-laws require that a new person from another Township be the Chairperson for that year. You would finish out this year, and then we'd have to elect someone to serve that full year. It can be Roger again if he's just filling in temporarily. Roger said he's open to it. Motion and second to appoint Roger as a Chairperson. All in favor.
- **Review of Commission By-Laws** – Jack handed out copies of the inter-governmental agreement. Tom said this is something we talked about at the last meeting. It's been a while since he looked at the by-laws. Once he read the by-laws, he realized that everything that was in the by-laws was incorporated into the inter-governmental agreement. When we originally thought about how this committee would work, our first thought that was we would have an inter-governmental agreement and then we would also have by-laws that would be adopted by the Commission and then adopted by each municipality. Looking at the by-laws and the final version of the agreement, he doesn't know that we really need a separate document. He thinks the by-laws are already there and in the inter-municipal agreement that was adopted by all the municipalities. Jack would pretty much agree with that. Tom said his advice would be forget about having to adopt any additional stand-alone by-laws. You really don't need them, but pay attention to the inter-municipal agreement and particular attention to the section that deals with the Oversight Commission and how it's structured and the membership and the leadership positions. There are some requirements about how many times a year you have to meet. There are voting members and alternate members and certain situations when the alternate member can vote. You should really pay attention to that and understand how your Commission is supposed to be structured and pay special attention to Section 2 of the inter-municipal agreement.
- **Discuss Commission Meeting Schedule for 2012** - Roger asked if it would be appropriate at this time to define what our meeting schedule for 2012 would be? We only have one more meeting this year and then we are finished. Tom said you should start that process tonight, but unfortunately we are missing some members. Maybe we can email them and tell them here's what the Commission discussed last night, we want to make sure you are available on the dates we selected. We can make a recommendation and then finalize it at your next meeting. We should discuss it tonight and make it official at the next meeting. Roger said at the last meeting it was suggested that the time be uniform for each of the monthly meetings if we were going to continue to have monthly meetings. He thought that was a good recommendation. It went between 5 pm and 7 pm and we kicked around that in the middle, 6 pm, might be an adequate time. The 7 pm meeting might provide more input from the municipality and the community, but he doesn't think at the meetings that were at 7 pm, the attendance was much different than when they were at 5 pm. He'd like to suggest we have them on the same meeting night, the 4th Monday of the month, and have them at 6 pm. He'd like to hear if that date and time frame work out for everyone who is here. Jack said it seems like the 4th Monday works out well for everyone. Tom asked if 6 pm was better or worse? Steve said he likes the idea at 6 pm as we might get to hear other people voice their opinions and concerns more so than at a 5 pm meeting. He agrees with a 6 pm. Roger said we'll put that on the agenda and ask for a confirmation on the following meeting date. Jack said we can also give you a draft calendar of the dates in 2012. If you are okay with that, you can vote on it. Tom said you may want to cancel your December meeting in 2012. Jack said Dawn has a potential member who had a conflict with the 5 pm time, and 6 pm might be a problem. Dawn said she will go and personally talk with him and let everyone know. Jack said the dues payment is required and this is mostly for the Managers. Per the agreement, it says that within two

weeks of signing it, the four municipalities were supposed to send a dues payment of \$1,000.00 in. Lower Saucon Township is designated as the Treasurer. Tom sent a check from Upper Saucon Township. Lower Saucon Township opened a checking account for those funds. In addition to the initial \$1,000, it states in the beginning of 2012, you have to make another payment of \$1,000.00. The only thing it doesn't state is by what time. The way it reads, you have until December 31st to make a payment. You may want to discuss making some sort of a date on which each of the municipalities would contribute the \$1,000.00 annually. Should we say before July make the payment? Steve said how about March 31st, the end of the first quarter? The first thing we may want to address is a website. Roger said we have March 31st, January 31st and July 31st. At the beginning of our Commission, we will have ideas that will come to fruition, so we'll be needing some money. He doesn't think we will spend all of the \$4,000.00 in the next month. Someone said that will be a good idea. You'll have spring projects and need matching money. You'll have that money to use. Roger said any strong feelings one way or another? The Commission agreed that March 31st would work. Jack said Lower Saucon will give you a Treasurer's report on what's in the account, what's been deposited, disbursements and receipts. When do you want the report – monthly or quarterly? The only thing the by-laws state is there should be a report once at the end of the year. You may want something to look at every meeting or every quarter. Steve said to keep things on the up and up, we should do it monthly. There is not a Treasurer listed in the by-laws. Jack said there is just a President, Vice President and Secretary. You can add a Treasurer. If you want to make a payments, you can approve them at the meeting and then the Township Finance Director would prepare the checks. The Commission agreed on a monthly Treasury report.

- **Discuss and Prioritize/Rank Future Trail Projects** - Roger said let's discuss the trail projects and define what they are before we prioritize them.
 - Steve said the website is high on the list.
 - Steve said trail markers are being done. We could purchase from our treasury a memorial bench or we could wait and see where that leads. Jack said he believes that the municipalities have sufficient funds to purchase benches from grants we've gotten. We can also use that money for trash receptacles.
 - Steve said kiosks.
 - Someone asked about mulch and things like that? Jack said that each municipality would provide that from their municipal budgets.
 - Someone said what about the extension of the trail in Upper Saucon? Tom said the engineering costs will probably be in the 2012 budget. They have an agreement with a developer. The developer instead of paying his recreation fees will construct that portion of the trail. That's probably a year or two away. The agreement is in place, but it's at the developer's option. We can accept a recreation payment or the developer can finish the trail.
 - Roger said what about the port-a-johns? Jack said municipalities can handle that. Roger asked Steve if Hellertown was going to maintain the one at Water Street at this time? Steve said it's the municipality's responsibility. There is one at the Water Street Park which is there for the park and the Farmer's Market. He will ask Cathy Kichline if they are going to keep it there through the winter months. Roger said is there one planned at Reading Road? Jack said yes, there will be a port-a-john and other amenities once the trailhead property is acquired.
 - Someone asked about bicycle racks. Steve said there are two at the Water Street Park. Jack said they will put one at the trailhead site. Tom said their park in Upper Saucon would be a good place for one. Steve said that would be the municipality's responsibility.
 - Peter said he has a really long-range idea and he doesn't know if it's possible with SEPTA. If you go further south from the Lehigh County - Bucks County line, it's 1.4 miles to Shelly. There's a mile in Springfield Township and 4/10th of a mile in Richland Township. It may take a long time, but his understanding is that there's no talk of any plans for any type of rail north of Shelly. There's been talk in the past about opening the rail line to Shelly to have a commuter line into Lansdale and Philadelphia. Would it be worth our while to start putting bugs in people's ears to extend the trail to Shelly through Richland and Springfield Township? It's only another 1 1/4th mile. Steve said there was someone here at one meeting who expressed interest. Jack said he had contact from a gentleman who works for a planning firm in Doylestown who is the chair of the Bucks County Bicycle Task Force and they are pushing for what you are talking about. He said it's

kind of disorganized down in Bucks County, and no one has reached out to SEPTA to talk about opening that area. His name is Andy Hamilton and he gets the agendas for these meetings. If you want, Jack could invite him to come to a meeting and you could talk to him more. Steve said it's definitely worthwhile. He's actually spoke to some people in Quakertown and one of his customers is on the committee in Quakertown and there's people that want to see it go down that way. Someone said it's only a mile additional to Veteran's Park. From there, it's an active line from there on down to Philadelphia. It could go to Quakertown Municipal Park. Steve said leave that as an open option. Tom said how about if we contact someone from Springfield or Richland Township and write a letter to them and ask them if they would appoint someone from their municipality to sit with this group. Not a voting member, but someone who could understand where we are in the planning process. They could sit in as a liaison. Springfield was looking at the rail trail as an alternative to the power lines that were going through Springfield and they didn't like the location of the power lines. They suggested instead of condemning land and going through people's yards, move the power lines to the old rail line and that would be a better route. Springfield is in a legal fight right now with PPL over the location of power lines, so he's not sure if they are open to the idea of making the old rail line a trail as he thinks in their minds they'd like to see it as the location for the power lines. The two may be compatible though. Their Manager is Richard Shilling. Jack said do they have a Parks and Recreation Board? Tom said he knows they at least had an Open Space Committee. Someone said the last time she checked in with them, they didn't even have a designated municipal park. Someone said with the rail service going to Quakertown and to Shelly, not necessarily Shelly, but Hilltop or something like that. It might terminate at Shelly or just stop at Quakertown. Tom said they could draft a letter coming from the Chairperson and have this group look over it. The letter will ask them to participate in our meetings, tell them who we are and what we do, and we'd like to get them involved. Roger said that sounds like a good idea.

- Roger said with the website and the kiosk on the table, maybe we should put some timeframe on developing a plan of action. We've discussed the website sometime back and threw around some numbers on what the cost would be. Is there anyone here that has done this or has some background experience that might lead us on the development? Steve said as a Commission, should we be getting bids for a website development from three people? Tom said we should probably get at least three quotes, but we don't have to as it's under \$4,000.00. They pay someone to post the website. Joe said for their own municipal website, they put a budget together for probably around \$11,000.00. That was to update their website. Service and server space goes with that. Sara said she can check too. For their greenway plan, they have a website and they are using that for that single purpose. She can talk to the person who is hosting their website. Steve said the person who set up his website made it so simple for him to go on and put things on and take things off. Whoever develops the website, we can make sure it's easy enough that we have someone on our board so they can go in and do updates. It's really more of an issue of developing the website. We have domain names already www.sauconrailtrail.org and www.sauconrailtrail.com Currently, Lower Saucon is paying for the domain name. Jack said they paid the initial money which was about \$25.00. Steve said when the renewal comes up, it's about \$25.00 a year. He doesn't see this as being a real elaborate website. We want to pack it full of information. The rules of the trail should be on there. It shouldn't be a very complex website to build. We need to talk about what we all want on it. Erin said she has a friend who designs websites. He did the website for the Saucon Creek Watershed Association and the Saucon Valley Farmer's Market. It's very, very cheap and it's good. He's very fast. Maintenance is about \$15.00 an hour. It could be done well under \$1,000.00. Steve said he can work on getting the three quotes. Maybe at the next meeting we can narrow it down to all what we want on the website so we can go to somebody and tell them what we are looking for. The Facebook site has 700 fans so far. People are obviously looking at that avenue. Long term for the website, he would like to put up a walking historic tour that they could just print out a pdf file. Jerry said that's one of the things we'd want on the website, the history part of it. Everything from the train station to the grist mills that were along the Saucon Creek along with all the historic sites. We've done some work in those regards, it's just bringing it all together. He and Roger have done some things already. What we want to stress is the history and what exactly the North Penn Railroad was all about. Sara said we probably want some interpretive signs on the trail. Jerry said what their idea was a year ago, they were going to have

plaques along the trail route designating all those historic locations. That's where they want to get too. It will take some time to get there. Sara said like the D&L has the history of the canal, this is how the lock house worked and it will work with a plaque for individual locations. Jerry said it would have more of a history supporting those plaques with detail if we had a website. Roger said where we are Steve may be able to outline what the website might contain. We have a sheet with all our emails on it and as we incubate on it, you might want to shoot an email to Steve. Steve said he can start working on this.

- Jerry said we want to finalize a logo. Jack said that was put off, but he still has the details on it. Jack said that he will email the proposed logo to everyone. Jerry said that maybe after the newcomers see the logo, they might have some refreshing ideas to change it, other than what we have put together earlier.
- Someone said there was discussion of a physical map we had talked about last time. Roger said he was going to cover that under trail markers as to where we were. For everyone's review, the map that was on the webpage for Upper Saucon was taken from existing maps and kind of blended in. The discussion was going forward, are we pretty sure about where the mile markers would go and the distances? In terms of having a formal map, we probably have sufficient map information we could use, not as a measureable device necessarily. For the time being, we might want to refer to and use the map that's already on Upper Saucon's. One of the earlier discussions had to do with what as a trail should we be providing to the trail users? He thinks what the opinion was at the time, if we had webpage information, you could print a copy of the map out, which would keep our costs down as compared to a handout. That might be a way of keeping our budget as low as possible and trying to focus on improvements. Steve said Hellertown's kiosk has a map and as we have more kiosks, he thinks a map should go in the kiosk and give information as far as website, walking tours, etc. We shouldn't be providing maps necessarily at the kiosk. He thinks they will just litter the trail. Let them do that.
- Someone asked about the kiosks since Hellertown has one, is that going to get replicated at the other sites? Steve said Hellertown's was an Eagle Scout project. We'd love to see that happen a couple more times with different Scout troops or with Eagle Scout projects. The same with the mile markers. The next five are going to be paid for. So far that's been a non-expense. If we were to put our own kiosk up, do you know what it would run? Roger said the costs were pretty much funded out of the resources of the Eagle Scout. Steve said would it be like \$250.00 or so? Roger said no, it's more than that. Jack said you can put up a park bulletin board and it's about \$800.00 with just two sides and glass doors and a cork board. It's pretty basic type of bulletin board, but not as good looking as the kiosk. Steve said if we wanted to do one like Hellertown's, we'd have to budget \$1,000.00. Someone said she's wondering if that's something we could find someone to do for us. Steve said maybe we can find some Eagle Scouts to do them. Joe said they had a group from Dun and Bradstreet come to Upper Saucon as they wanted to do a community project. They are willing to do a kiosk at the park for the trail. He can contact their scout leader and see if he could get plans to see what material is needed and the cost. Roger drew up the plans for the Hellertown kiosk. Tom said does anyone have any idea where they should put Upper Saucon's kiosk? Steve said long-term wise, you should have two. One should be at the ramp going up to the rail trail. The other one would be at the other side of Preston Road, on the library side, wherever you enter the rail trail again. Sara asked if there was a directional sign at Upper Saucon for the parking lot? If there is, she missed it. She used it, and for other people, it may not be apparent how to get to the rail trail. You may be able to put a sign that says "To the Rail Trail". Roger said should we hold off discussions further until we gather up information? Someone said if there's one already in Hellertown, on a scale 1 to 10, would you say it's elaborate or functional or bare minimum? Roger said he would say it's elaborate. It's a two-sided kiosk. It has a green roof concept and plants on top. It was made out of oak and very well put together. It was extremely executed by the Eagle Scout and his family. Steve said if we could adopt that plan for future kiosks, that would be great. Someone said she thinks we should have a logo to put on the kiosk, it's a branding of the trail. The logo is on Facebook.

▪ **Trail Markers, Memorial Benches – update –**

- **Trail Markers** - Roger said Jack could probably give us a summary of where we stand on markings on the trail. Jack said there are actually three different markers out on the Hellertown-

Lower Saucon section. The first one was originally called a mile marker, but they are half-mile posts. Those are the ones that Roger did the work on putting on the initials SRT, the designation for the municipality (HB or LST), and we used the historic North Penn Railroad designations, 51, 51-1/2 and so on. In Hellertown, 53 is by Bachman Street; 51-1/2 and 52 are located in Hellertown Borough, 51-1/2, 51 and 50-1/2 are in Lower Saucon Township. There are six of those half mile posts. Those you've seen with the little metal sponsor tags on the bottom. They look very nice. The second one is our quarter-mile posts. There are no markings on them, but it has the colored tape up at the top. What they did was after Roger had started work on the 1/2 miles posts, the Emergency Service people came into us and said there was an incident on the trail, and they had trouble locating where the victim was. Someone called and said their child was injured and the emergency responders didn't know if they should go up to the Hellertown end or the Lower Saucon end. They talked to us and we came up with a couple of ideas. We hit on this color designation. Hellertown is green; Lower Saucon is orange; Upper Saucon is blue; and Coopersburg is yellow. That would augment what is out at the 1/2 mile posts. The feeling is that if someone is out on the trail, and too far from a half mile post, and they are calling 911, this would allow them to identify where they are on the trail. They could say they are in the green section of the trail. Those are up and they were placed at quarter-mile intervals. Coming down the track, every quarter-mile there's a post. At the roadway crossings, the Emergency Services people also said it would be good if we could alert both the trail users and the Emergency Services people to what the road crossing was. Roger came up with these roadway posts, the name of the road or street which is carved on two sides so it can be visible to the trail user who is coming up and down the trail and it's also visible from the street. Those are 4'x4' posts and there are six up in Hellertown and Lower Saucon Township. The idea would be to continue those down to Upper Saucon and Coopersburg. Roger said right now the mile marker continuation will pick up at basically Bingen Road where the 50 is, and will go through Community Park in Upper Saucon. Those were funded through the Facebook page. Steve assembled that group and they are now going to put it in production. Maybe Tom could get his Public Works guy aware of how they did them on the Northampton County side. Jack said he will put together a sheet with a photograph of all of the roadway markers and give them to everyone. That would be placed in the kiosk, and then when they are out on the trail, they will understand the significance of how they are used. It also gives a little bit of background on the history of the markers on the North Penn Railroad. They also got the GPS coordinates for the 1/2 mile and 1/4 mile posts. He will add the roadway posts to that and will send it to the County 9-1-1 center. If someone calls up and says they are at mile post 52-1/2, the 9-1-1 center has the actual GPS coordinates of where it's located and can get that back to the dispatch who will be sent to that incident. We can continue that down the trail. Roger said is that something we can pull together and summarize in the next couple of weeks? Jack said yes, if you have the roadway markings, he can get it to you by next week. Roger said from Grist Mill Park all the way down to Old Mill, those are in. He didn't go in the other direction. Jack said when it's finished, they will send it to 9-1-1 and see if they need anything else, and then they are basically good to go. The only other thing may be the numbers on the back of the stop signs. Roger said when he talked with the Lower Saucon Chief of Police, he requested that in addition to the posts and the mile markers, if there was some way at the roadways to identify what mile markers were accessible from that roadway. For example, Old Mill Road is right at 51. Each time you come off the trail and cross the trail, there's a stop sign on the trail. The stop sign is visible on the trail, but on the back side, it's just blank aluminum, so he can use a fairly large stick-on number label similar to what you would stick on your mailbox to identify your house number, and he could put that number on the back on the stop sign. As different patrols are going by that intersection, the thinking was they are looking up and down and now they will see a number and as they patrol different road crossings, they'll get to know that's where they are at an intersection. It's just for our Police Officers and Emergency Responders and it will help them to define where the trail is as it relates to the municipal roads.

- **Memorial Benches** – Roger said there's been a program set up by Lower Saucon and Hellertown. Tom had mentioned at the last meeting he had a program for that also. Tom said they have benches that have been donated to the Township. There was a gentleman who set aside \$20,000.00 in his will for benches for the park and they assumed it also included the rail trail. Jerry said are they the same type of benches they have in Lower Saucon and Hellertown? Tom

said no, they already have the benches. Steve said it really wouldn't matter as long as they have benches along the trail, as long as they can sit. Tom said for the next meeting, he will bring a photo of what the bench looks like and they are in the process of finding locations to put the benches. They have two types of benches. They have benches that were installed when the park was first built in 1996. The original benches are wooden. The new benches are like a composite material that doesn't rot. He thinks the new benches look a lot nicer than the older benches. It would be the newer design they would put on the rail trail. Roger said what are the guidelines as to the placement of the benches? Jack said they selected a bench that was shown to this group by Scott Pino, who owns Eternal Products in Coopersburg. He actually brought a bench to one of our meetings one night. It looks good, and it's heavy and durable. It weighs about 210 lbs. It's anchored down. They were looking something that could withstand use and vandalism and couldn't be carried off by someone. He sent the Public Works Director down to look at it and he said it's a pretty good bench. They selected a green color. The price is \$995.00 and that's for the whole setup and installation. They went out on the trail and tried to select locations that were remote and weren't in residential areas and they came up with seven (7) locations. They pinpointed them on a map and have their GPS coordinates. Scott Pino knows where these locations are. If somebody contacts him about a bench, he can give them the coordinates and they can go out and look at the bench and get in touch with Scott; pay him the \$995.00 and work on whatever they want on the Memorial Plaque and then the bench goes out on the trail. He hasn't had any offers, only some feelers. They purposely held it off from businesses as he wanted to see if there were individuals or organizations who wanted to sponsor something. If there isn't any interest, then they may throw it open to businesses if they want to be a sponsor. Roger said the trail has been evolving over three years now and the fact that we're at where we are now, and we established this commission, people have been using the trail since we opened it. There's been a lot of inquiry about the bench program and there's been a meeting and presentation to what's in place and where the locations are. He thinks that this gives us a good timeframe as to bring the information together and make an announcement as to how the system would work. He's not sure if someone wants to memorialize and use the benches in Upper Saucon. Tom said the gentleman who donated the benches was John Carroll. There's a plaque on each of the benches by him. There's already going to be a plaque. It's just a matter of where they would put the benches. He would already have his plaque on them already. Roger said with that, if we can get that information out, you probably will get more hits once it's been summarized. Jack said it's on Lower Saucon Township's website and the Facebook site. There are a couple of thumbs up from people who looked at it, but no one actually said they wanted to buy one. Hellertown has three locations. Same bench, same price and they are working with Scott at Eternal Products. He doesn't think there is anyone that bought any benches in Hellertown either. Steve said if we don't get any bites, we may have to go look at another product that's cheaper. Jack said yes and no. You may get a cheaper bench. He knows people like the wooden type bench, but doesn't know if that's durable enough for the trail. In Lower Saucon's section of the trail, it's pretty remote and he'd be afraid of putting anything out there which would be destroyed and especially if he took money from someone to buy a bench. The price is a little more and the bench is a little fancier than what you have in a park. The ones in a park don't have arms on them and they are just basic. His price is not really out of line with regular park equipment if you're looking for a good, solid, sturdy bench. Jerry said couldn't part of the grant money be used to subsidize that? Jack said they do have grant money for benches at the trailhead site. We could put those out on the trail, but he thought we were putting it out to the public so people could memorialize them. The benches could be on the kiosk and the website and could say they are available. Roger said we need to get the word out, we're at that point in the development.

- **Trail Maintenance** – Roger said the trail tenders and adopt-a-trail program was discussed briefly at the last meeting.
- **Trail Tenders/ Adopt-a-Trail Program** – Roger said if we went with Trail Tenders, this would be sort of an organized group, but its consistency would be varied and it would be on a basis of when the maintenance is going to take place. It would almost be like a community event. We had a representative discuss the trail tenders at an EAC meeting. Dennis Scholl made a presentation as

to how they are organized and what they did. He was at that meeting and it was stated that they advertise when the event is going to take place and they ask for a list of volunteers and supervise how it's done. It may be a good idea to ask Dennis to come to our next meeting. We need to get something in place on how to maintain the trail. The trails look pretty decent, but we have to keep it looking nice. Steve said the trail tenders are more concerned about the plantings along the trail. Roger said in part he is right. Jack said Dennis' group did some heavy maintenance on the D&L trail. They literally cleared it like trees and thick bushes. They opened the whole thing up as it was overgrown. It can range from small to bigger projects. Steve said regular trail maintenance might be adopt-a-trail program. Trail tenders are a little more about plants and replanting the native plants. He thinks its two different things. Roger said would it be valuable for him to come to the meeting and clarify what they do? Roger said if we were to go with the adopt-a-trail program, a section of the trail would be a permanent responsibility of whoever adopted it, much like the roadway system. Tom said we should have as many people who want to be involved, involved. If we do the adopt-a-trail, we have eight miles and will have eight people or groups. By doing that, you're excluding everyone else that wants to help. If we have a group called Trail Tenders, whatever those activities are, it can always be in the summer, spring, weekday, weekend. There's always going to be people who you can rely on. He'd like to include as many people as we can rather than excluding them. Someone might say that they want to help only to find out all the miles are taken. Roger said he get in touch with someone come from the Trail Tenders and see if they can come to the next meeting.

▪ **Other Issues**

- Jack said if there aren't any corrections to the minutes, he'll post them on Lower Saucon Township website.
- Jack said Cathy Kichline had given him a couple of notes as she couldn't be here tonight. Steve and Roger got a copy of this email. They have an organization in Hellertown, the Borough Business Revitalization Committee and they work on all types of stuff to promote businesses on Main Street in Hellertown. One of the ideas was to erect signage directing people from the rail trail to the Borough businesses along Main Street. Roger was asked if he wanted to volunteer with the signs and Roger declined. Steve thought it was too much signage. They are working on a business map of Hellertown they can put in the kiosk in Hellertown. He'd rather see a business map in a kiosk than a whole bunch of business signs coming off the trail. He'd rather see information on the businesses than the signs. Roger said the issue was they were looking to direct people who would be on the trail toward the business area and to effectively list the various businesses with an arrow pointing. The thought he had is we should not be advertising on the trail. The trail, being it's a park, should be for directing people and preventing their injury. Someone said you have Main Street in Coopersburg, how do you do it tastefully. Tom said could the sign say business district and be as basic as that instead of listing all the names. Roger said we have a kiosk at the park, real close in Hellertown. Certainly on there, you could say in short order go to Water Street, make a left turn and you will be going to the downtown area of Hellertown. If the municipality in Hellertown wants to put all the names of the businesses on the corner in Hellertown, then that's their choice as all four municipalities can do. In terms of the trail, we should just have a sign on the main road directing people to the trail and how to get to the trailhead. In terms of advertising on the trail, he thinks it's the historic information people are looking for. He's had people stop and asked him what street are we crossing and he thinks we answered that with the street signs that identify the street. He said he doesn't think as a citizen first, and a Commission person second, that we wanted to have advertising as it's not a need. We're here to deal with preventing too many wants and maybe dealing with the needs. Sara said she would think the website could provide distances from the trail of businesses for the trail users. You could advertise things like the Farmer's Market, Community Day, but she doesn't know you'd want signs all over the place. Steve said that is something that could easily be on the website. That's an easy piece to put on the website. Putting a business directory in the kiosk isn't a bad thing. Sara said she belongs to a running club, and afterwards they want to go to breakfast, but don't know where any diners are, so that would be a good thing to be able to look at. Peter said to Tom that the "Pedestrian Crossing" you put on Landis Mill Road, it's certainly having an effect. He stood there for three or four times for several minutes and cars are downshifting. He was surprised as the last time it was stated the

State wouldn't let you put those signs up, and then he realized Allentown College has them, and then he saw them at Landis Mill Road. Tom said the first time they contacted PennDOT as Landis Mill Road is a State road, they said you must remove them at the end of each day. Then they came back and said you don't have to do that, but they highly recommend that you do it. They also put "Dismount Bikes" signs up at the crossings.

- Jack said this if just for information. He had a contact at one of the meetings here, from the geocachers who are out on the trail. They are locating these caches and the rail trail is a very popular location as well as some of our parks. We wanted to establish a policy that regulates where they can be placed. He met with the geocachers at a Township Parks and Recreation Board meeting and they told him how they operated. They were concerned about how many could be placed along the rail trail. We settled that, and it's every 1/10th of a mile. They follow a geocaching code of ethics and they have a website, www.geocaching.com which kind of regulates how this is operated. The caches can be little containers and he didn't want them to impede anyone running or riding a bike down the trail, and that was okay. The other thing he made clear to them was they had to stay in the 30' right-of-way. One of the geocachers told him they were placing some geocaches up in trees in Upper Saucon. Jack told them there are no trees in Lower Saucon Township's section, so if they are going in a tree, they are going on someone's private property. They said that in UST, a woman walked with Bob Kassel, and he told them where they could put the geocaches. They can't be put behind any of the fencing. They also didn't want any in the historical areas. They are okay in the parks as long as they don't dig. They put this policy together which has an application form. They've been using the one from DCNR. The individual fills this out. They come into the Township. We review it and we give them the okay. They have to then go to the geocaching site, and the Township sent this policy to them. When the people go to register a cache, they are going to ask if they followed Lower Saucon Township's policy. They say yes, we have, and then it's put on the site. You put your zip code in and go out and find a cache. It's a growing sport. If you go on the geocaching site, and you put in the zip code, it gives you a map and shows you where all of the caches are. There's a bunch of them down in the Upper Saucon end of the rail trail. They are trying to regulate it, and that's why they put the policy together. The whole deal is you want people to find it and to do that, you have to post it on the www.geocaching.com site. He talked to ten geocachers and they all swear by this site. These people are good about policing the sport themselves.
- Jack said Jim Ravier is with the Spring Valley Sportsman's Club. If you were on the rail trail, it's just where you cross over from Upper Saucon into Lower Saucon. He was telling Jack that they hold turkey shoots in the spring and in the fall. There is one scheduled for November 13th from noon to 5 pm. He was concerned that with the shooting people would be alarmed and call the police. Jack put together information and sent it to Jim to look at. Jack suggested we might want to post this in Hellertown and Upper Saucon so the trail users see this is being held if they are on the trail on November 13th. It's a very controlled event. They are using a new type of shotgun shell trying to minimize the noise. As soon as Jack gets something back from Jim, he'll email it to everyone.
- Joe said this week the Township is holding their annual meeting with residents regarding student housing at DeSales. Phase II of their rail trail is on the agenda. They will let the residents know about the turkey shoot.

- **Next Meeting – November 28th – Upper Saucon Township; December – No meeting**

- The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.