

## SAUCON RAIL TRAIL OVERSIGHT COMMISSION MEETING

Date: Monday, October 24, 2016  
Time: 6:00 PM  
Location: Lower Saucon Township

### **I. Opening**

- A. Call to Order: President Steve LaBrake called the meeting to order.
- B. Roll Call: Lower Saucon Township: Jerry Holum (arrived 6:10), Roger Jurczak & Leslie Huhn  
Hellertown Borough: Steve LaBrake, James Hill  
Coopersburg Borough: Linda Minarek; Ruth Poole  
Upper Saucon Township: Peter Jarrett, Diana Inglis

### **II. Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items) – None**

### **III. Public Comment (Related to Agenda Items Below) – None**

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

#### A. Vision Future Plans

- 1. Springfield & Richland Twp. Update – An open house was held in Richland Township. No negative feedback was received. Engineering drawings have been finalized. This is being funded by Act 13. Project should start in spring/early summer 2017. They plan to boardwalk the wetlands. PennDOT is fixing water at Rt. 309. The Septa lease has been executed.
- 2. Bethlehem Update – None

#### B. Trail Improvement Projects

- 1. Signal Restoration – Project looks great. Jerry Holum said the pictures look inaccurate and asked if the stainless steel will remain visible or will it be painted. They will paint them.

#### C. Upcoming Events – The 5k will be held this coming weekend. The SRT has a form for events. If an event is advertised they should be responsible for submitting a request.

#### D. Other Business

- 1. Emergency Procedures on Trail – Chief Struss (Coopersburg), Chief Coyle (UST), Chief Lesser (LST), and bike officers Jim Connell (LST) and John Donato (HB) were present to discuss safety on the trail. Discussion ensued regarding the mile marker locations and whether the PD's would have a problem locating someone on the trail. LST gets very few calls.

Suggestions were to incorporate geographical landmarks, distribute trail maps to emergency responders and place at trailheads. Notify 911 regarding the color coding of trail markers and municipal locations. Chief Coyle said County location is an issue due to the trail spanning, Northampton, Lehigh and Bucks. Request to LST to put road signs at our crossings and to deter bike riders from crossing without looking by using some additional gates or chains. Discussion regarding the reasoning for signs that state you must dismount bikes, because it is not enforceable and suggested they be removed.

Steve will send maps and mile marker program information to be distributed to the Police Departments. Roger described the various posts and markings, and that GPS coordinates were provided to 911. There are apps for phones that provide someone's location in an emergency.

- 2. Samantha Bamberger/Girl Scout Project – Samantha is working toward her Gold Award and looking for a service project. She enjoys the trail and would like to do a project that would involve the SRT. Some suggestions were identify the rail station and include signage. Jerry

suggested something on historic landmarks that about the trail. Steve suggested a walking tour informational project. They will discuss and come back with ideas.

3. Other business – Master gardener Maryann Snyder is looking for assistance on maintaining the garden at the Reading Dr. Trailhead. We should advertise for help on the website. Discussion for next meeting. Put out date and time, trying to build database for volunteers. Leslie suggested posting on the Township website or include information in a newsletter.

The sign at the fossil formation in LST is starting to lean and asked if public works can look at it and straighten it. It was also discussed about a sketch proposal for the outcrop. Frank asked about putting steps at the geological outcrop markings, but it was felt that was too much of a liability.

Trail Rule Enforcement – There was a discussion regarding trail etiquette – i.e. dogs on leashes, riding bikes, getting off bikes. Ask Saucon Source to post ideas from people using the trail. Raise awareness. Ruth stated she was bitten by a dog on the trail and asked what the protocol is for an incident. It was stated anyone experiencing something like that should call the non-emergency number so a report can be filed, not everyone knows that.

Patricia McClosky with the Appalachian Trail Club stated they approached by Lehigh to work with students. What they are proposing is to work on gathering and posting information on the semi-circle of boulders at the Water St. Park. They would like to educate people on the geologic features of the seascape of where they came from. They would do a sign with minimal wording and have visuals regarding the boulders. They have approval from Hellertown of the draft layout. The cost is approximately \$1,800 which the Appalachian Club will cover 100% of the cost. They would also like a plaque. Hellertown would need to install that and they would like to complete by the end of the year or sooner. The commission approved the image and to continue to work with the ATC.

- E. Website/Facebook Updates – there is no information on Facebook or the website regarding emergency procedures.

#### V. Miscellaneous Business Items

- A. Previous Meeting Minutes – Upon motion by Roger, seconded by Jerry, the September 26, 2016 minutes were approved.
- B. Financial Reports – Upon motion by Diana and seconded by Roger, the September 30, 2016 financial reports were approved.
- C. Bills to Pay – None

#### VI. Commissioner Individual Statements & Updates – None

#### VII. Adjournment – Upon motion by Peter, seconded by Linda, the Commission adjourned the meeting at 8:15 pm

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE SRTC IS November 28, 2016 at 6:00 pm at Hellertown Borough.**