

SAUCON RAIL TRAIL OVERSIGHT COMMISSION MEETING

Date: Monday, November 23, 2015
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Upper Saucon Township

I. Opening

- A. **Call to Order:** Chairman Peter Jarrett called the meeting to order.
- B. **Roll Call:** Lower Saucon Township: Roger Jurczak, Jerry Holum, Jack Cahalan
Hellertown Borough: Steve LaBrake
Upper Saucon Township: Peter Jarrett, Joe Geib, Diana Inglis
Coopersburg Borough: Linda Minarik
Guest – John Brunner – Appalachian Mountain Club, Burt Hoffman – Upper Saucon Township resident

II. Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items) - None

III. Public Comment (Related to Agenda Items Below) - None

IV. A. Vision Future Plans

1. **Springfield & Richland Twp Update** – nothing new to report. The Bucks County Planning Commission issued the RFP for planning consultants, and forwarded the final list to the County Commissioners for approval. Bucks County Commissioners pledged financial support of the project, using Act 13 funds, with the municipalities providing maintenance and oversight.
The Pennsylvania Highlands Trail needs a name for this Bucks County extension – perhaps the Tohickon Rail Trail?
2. **Bethlehem Update** – Bethlehem is looking at many options to connect all trails to the Bethlehem Greenway.

B. Trail Improvements Projects

1. **Signal Restoration** – Roger and Pete updated the committee on the Signal Restoration project. The signal is still in the hands of Blastco, where the targets and small parts are still awaiting servicing (at no additional charge). The paint was all donated by Sherwin Williams of Lower Saucon Township and Quakertown. We still need to source approx. 6 U-bolts of a certain tensile strength to complete the project. The current balance left to spend is \$777.57 (\$2,672.43 of the initial \$3,450 funding spent).
As for the additional costs from Blastco, the changing of the colors on certain parts for the project from silver to black were causes for the additional costs.
2. **Lower Saucon Road Gates at Meadows Road** – Jack described the crossing modifications at the Meadows Road crossing. They will install a chicane in the fencing to force bicyclists to slow down a bit as they approach the intersection, potentially leading to fewer car-bike conflicts at the crossing. It will be installed in 2016.
3. **Trash/Recycling Containers Along LST Trail Section** – Jack said that Lower Saucon Township crews will install recycling containers at the Reading Dr., Old Mill Rd., and Meadows Rd. crossings, as well as trash containers at Old Mill Road. They will be installed in 2016.

C. Upcoming Events - None

- D. **Other Business – Wildlands Conservancy proposal for removal of dams.** Wildlands Conservancy is advocating for the removal of dams along several creeks in the area. Some of the dams on their list include the dam near Water Street

Park, and the one by the Tuminello property (“Wagner Dam”). They are in the exploratory stage, gathering information on the dams. They may seek grant applications for feasibility studies on the benefits and impacts of the removal, particularly improving stream quality.

E. Web Site/Facebook Updates – None

V. Miscellaneous Business Items

A. Previous Minutes

- i. June 22, 2015** – The minutes (as corrected) were approved on a motion by Steve, seconded by Diana, and approved by all.
- ii. July 27, 2015** – The minutes (as corrected) were approved on a motion by Steve, seconded by Diana, and approved by all.
- iii. September 22, 2015** - The minutes were approved on a motion by Steve, seconded by Diana, and approved by all.

B. Financial Reports – Jack provided the committee with the October financial reports. **Upon motion by Steve, seconded by Diana, the financial reports were approved.**

- i.** The Commission questioned whether or not there will be a municipal contribution in 2016. Jack said that it shall be up to the Commission at the January Reorganization meeting.

C. Bills to pay – none

VI. Commissioner Statements and Updates

- A. Hellertown Borough** - Water Street Park is now open. Frank Pizaglia is also working on the geology signs for the Water Street Park stones

VII. Adjournment – Upon motion by Diana, second by Roger, the committee adjourned at 7:05 PM.

The next meeting of the Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Commission is January 25, 2016 in Lower Saucon Township.