

SAUCON RAIL TRAIL OVERSIGHT COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

January 25, 2021 – 6:00 PM
Coopersburg Borough Hall

I. OPENING

A. Call to Order by VP S. LaBrake at 6:07pm

B. Roll Call:

Hellertown: Steve LaBrake

Lower Saucon: Rebecca Miller

Upper Saucon: Peter Jarrett, Diana Inglis

Coopersburg: Jeremy Mack, Lynne Morgan

II. PUBLIC COMMENT / CITIZEN NON-AGENDA ITEMS

III. PUBLIC COMMENT (Related to Agenda Items below)

A. Paul Stepanoff (Richland Township Manager) attending to discuss the UBRT joining with the SRT.

1. Richland Township is officially asking to join with the SRTOC to form a combined Oversight Commission for both trails. He indicated that Springfield Township would also be making this request.
2. The SEPTA lease is with the Townships, not the County. The County will turn the UBRT over to the Townships after the Punch List has been completed.
3. The SRTOC has already set precedencies on the trail and they see no reason to reinvent the wheel. They would like to incorporate our rules, guidelines, designs, etc.
4. This would also make it easier for events to be coordinated that would cross over between the two trails.
5. Things to consider:
 - a) The current SRT municipalities have a legal agreement in place regarding the trail. Would this need to be modified to merge the trails? Or would the trails remain legally separate but overseen by a joint Oversight Commission?
 - b) Would the UBRT information be added to the current SRT website and Facebook pages or would UBRT maintain separate pages with links between them?
 - c) Where would meetings be held to be convenient for all?
6. The SRTOC members will go back to their municipalities to discuss the merger and how to proceed.
7. We agreed to have some feedback for Richland and Springfield Townships at our next meeting in March.

IV. PRESENTATIONS / TRAIL BUSINESS

A. Elections/Reorganization

1. Election of 2021 Officers

President – Steve LaBrake

Vice President – Peter Jarrett

Secretary – Diana Inglis

Motion for the above appointments by SL, second by PJ. All Agreed.

2. New Members:
Matt Marcincin (HB), Dan Edelman (LST), Rebecca Miller (LST)
3. Updated List of Representatives is attached
- B. Vision/Future Plans
 1. Upper Bucks Rail Trail Update – see above on UBRT
Looking to eventually extend trail into Quakertown
 2. Coopersburg Update – Road crossing completed; Parking lot open
 3. Bethlehem Update – No Update
- C. Trail Improvement Projects
 1. "RR Signs" Signage – Status and Installation Schedule
Signs are finished and ready to be installed in the Spring
 2. SRT Bridge over Preston Lane – Expected to be completed in 2021
We want to be sure the Saucon Rail Trail name is on the bridge
- D. Upcoming Events
 1. None
- E. Other Business
 1. LVHN Sponsorship Opportunities – No update
 2. Mile marker status & updates to complete SRT markers
New markers will be a little different to avoid the rot issue of the current posts. Perhaps a concrete base with pressure treated 6x6 and an oak face for routing. SL to investigate options and report back to SRTOC.
- F. Website/Facebook Updates
 1. Adding a trail map(s) (both static or interactive) to the Maps section of the SRT website
Jeremy Mack has access to Lehigh students and resources to create an interactive map/ap for the SRT which could incorporate story maps and history. This could be incorporated onto the SRT website. JM to proceed and report back to SRTOC
- V. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS
 - A. Previous Meeting Minutes - None
 - B. Financial Report – Motion to approve by PJ, Second by DI. All agreed
 - C. Bills to Pay - None
- VI. COMMISSIONER INDIVIDUAL STATEMENTS & UPDATES
 - A. By Municipality – No additional updates
- VII. ADJOURNMENT at 7:17pm

Next Meeting: **March 22 - Hellertown Borough**
NO FEBRUARY MEETING