

SAUCON RAIL TRAIL OVERSIGHT COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

August 23, 2021 – 6:00 PM
Lower Saucon Township

I. OPENING

- A. Call to Order by Steve LaBrake at 6:03 pm
- B. Roll Call:
 - Hellertown - Steve LaBrake, Matt Marcincin
 - Lower Saucon Township - Rebecca Miller, Dan Edleman, Diane Palik
 - Upper Saucon - Peter Jarrett, Diana Inglis
 - Coopersburg Borough - Lynne Morgan, Jeremy Mack

II. PUBLIC COMMENT / CITIZEN NON-AGENDA ITEMS

1. Max Wetterau, Eagle Scout-Community Service Project, proposed building an informational kiosk. This would include a map, trail rules, and possible other information at one or two of the major entrances of the rail trail. One kiosk is about \$160.00 and would include a green roof. Steve LaBrake shared with Max what the committee is working on now regarding the kiosks. We proposed that maybe he can help with what we are doing, a historical kiosk that is part of our existing project. It features the history of the railroad station. First one would be the Hellertown Station. Another suggestion, we have 8 kiosks that are 12 years old. They need to be refurbished. Max could report on the current conditions of the kiosks and do the repair. Also talked about a smaller kiosk underneath the station **signs** with the historical information. And/or gathering the historical information for the signs that are on concrete metal pedestals. Steve will be contacting Max, via email, regarding the project. There will be coordinated work with AMC in regards to the signs.
2. Paul Berk, from Lower Saucon shared his concern over the dangerous crossing of the roads that he observed on his bike rides on the trail. He felt the burden is on the rider instead of the driver to be safe. He shared he has almost been hit. He said the worst crossing is Water Street. Matt Marcincin shared this is a problem that has been talked about at Hellertown Borough Council and that the police are trying and are aware of the situation. Paul Berk stated the policy needs to be enforced for safety.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT (Related to Agenda Items below)

IV. PRESENTATIONS / TRAIL BUSINESS

- A. Vision/Future Plans
 1. Upper Bucks Rail Trail Update - Pete reported that there was an event on the trail in Richland and they didn't communicate with Springfield. 30-40 gun cartridges were found on the trail South of the Shelly Fire Company.
 2. Bethlehem Update-no update
- B. Trail Improvement Projects
 1. Station Signs – Post Status and Installation Schedule -The posts are being worked on. St. Luke's Rehab is supposed to be writing a check for the cost of the posts. We are starting in Hellertown as a test for the signs.

The municipality will be drilling holes and helping with this. The goal would be to have the sign up by the end of September.

2. SRT Bridge over Preston Lane – Status update- The bridge is paid. DeSales is paying for ½ the township is paying for the other ½. Digging footers will be starting shortly. The township will put up a sign with the Saucon Rail Trail logo. The bridge is expected to be completed by next summer.
3. Mile marker status & updates to complete SRT markers -We will come back to this when the station signs are completed.
4. The Reading Drive Trail Head wants a blurb on the SRT FB page for volunteers for maintenance of the garden. It is being well maintained and looks really attractive. In the future we will discuss some recognition for May Ann Snyder’s 10 years of work.

C. Upcoming Events

1. Saucon Rail Trail 10K – 9/6/2021 - APPROVED
2. Bikes & Brews: Pedal for a Purpose – 9/9/2021 Motion to approve by Lynne Morgan Seconded by Matt Marcincin- all APPROVED
3. Robins Rehab East – 9/18/2021 - APPROVED
4. Team NPF Walk in Lehigh Valley – 10/9/2021 - APPROVED
5. SL Cross Country Meet – 10/12/2021 Motion to approve by Diana Inglis Seconded by Pete Jarrett all APPROVED
6. Pitt Hopkins Bike and Hike – 10/24/2021 Motion to approve by Pete Jarret Seconded by Jeremy Mack, all APPROVED

There will continue to be Facebook Posts listing all the upcoming events. Posts for scheduled events 24 hour in advance are being looked into.

D. Other Business

1. There was a residential request for trucks to access the trail for septic work in Lower Saucon, Arden Lane. Diane Palik is going to let the municipality know we think it is a neighborly gesture and are comfortable with allowing that.
2. Agenda will now be posted.

E. Website/Facebook Updates

1. Adding a trail map(s) (both static or interactive) to the Maps section of the SRT website (Jeremy Mack) - Students are ready to get working on the maps and electronic kiosks. The goal would be completed by December. The app development may take a bit longer to get up and running.

V. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. Previous Meeting Minutes - Lynne Morgan made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes, Diana Inglis seconded the motion, so moved by Steve LaBrake.
- B. Financial Report - Diana Inglis made a motion to approve the financial report, seconded the motion by Jeremy Mack, so moved by Steve LaBrake.
- C. Bills to Pay -none to pay

- D. There is someone working on the trail, repairing bikes etc. Lynne will reach out to Tim Paashaus about our concern.
- E. Brush clearing by PPL where power lines cross the trail. They were told to contact the municipalities when in the area. They did contact anyone yet.

VI. COMMISSIONER INDIVIDUAL STATEMENTS & UPDATES

- A. By Municipality - from Patrick Leonard -the trees down on Landis Street were taken down from the trail. The response needs to be more immediate for a response to the resident
- B. There is a sign that needs to be replaced, funding could be available from Springfield Township. They haven't said a word, and took it under advisement.
- C. Diane Palik said they did receive a grant for crushed crete to be put down on their section of the trail in Lower Saucon. Their Public Works Director doesn't know when he will have time to put it down. Lower Saucon should notify the other municipalities when they plan to do this.

- VII. ADJOURNMENT at 7:06 pm there was a motion to adjourn the meeting by Matt Marcincin and seconded by Diana Inglis, so moved by Steve LaBrake.

Next Meeting: **September 27th – Hellertown Borough**