

SAUCON RAIL TRAIL OVERSIGHT COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

September 27, 2021 – 6:00 PM
Hellertown Borough

I. OPENING

A. Call to Order by Steve LaBrake at 6:04 pm.

B. Roll Call

Hellertown-Steve LaBrake, Matt Marcincin, Cathy Hartranft Borough Manager
Lower Saucon Township-Rebecca Miller, Tyler Zulli, Roger Jurczak (former member)

Upper Saucon Township-Diana Inglis

Coopersburg Borough- Lynne Morgan

II. PUBLIC COMMENT / CITIZEN NON-AGENDA ITEMS

III. PUBLIC COMMENT (Related to Agenda Items below)

IV. PRESENTATIONS / TRAIL BUSINESS

A. Vision/Future Plans

1. Upper Bucks Rail Trail Update -Diana will respond to an email regarding the weeds on the Upper Bucks Rail Trail portion and contact the township down there.

2. Bethlehem Update-Bethlehem did not purchase the rights from Norfolk Southern for the land where the Saucon Rail Trail ends. They cannot build the trail yet.

B. Trail Improvement Projects

1. Station Signs – Post Status and Installation Schedule-posts are ready. They can be stored until we are ready. A date to put up the first sign in Hellertown needs to be established.

2. SRT Bridge over Preston Lane – Status update -Release date is October 6th to go out to bid on Penn Bid. Clearing work will start this fall.

3. Mile marker status & updates to complete SRT markers -no update

4. The Eagle Scout, Max Wetterau, is working on his project, the historical information for the signs.

C. Upcoming Events

1. Team NPF Walk in Lehigh Valley – 10/9/2021 - POSTPONED

2. SL Cross Country Meet – 10/12/2021

3. Pitt Hopkins Bike and Hike – 10/24/2021

D. Other Business

1. Trail Event Applications – Procedure -Discussion about how we approve the applications for events on the trail. It was decided to keep the procedure the same, making sure all interested parties in the municipalities are notified of the approvals as done in the past.

2. Memorial Flower Vase at Reading Drive Trailhead- The municipality will take care of this issue.

3. Advertising signs for other community events-Those events that have been approved are allowed signs on the trail.

4. Tim Butrie is willing to pay to replace the dinosaur sign that has been damaged.
5. Walnut Street in Hellertown will be adding crossing signals at the Rail Trail and a sidewalk connecting to the trail.

E. Website/Facebook Updates

1. Adding a trail map(s) (both static and interactive) to the Maps section of the SRT website (Jeremy Mack)

The basic build of the web app has started. They've worked on edits to the background map, using OpenStreetMap data, and added one of Frank Pazzaglia's digital files as a test (located in a general spot on the map for now).

One of the students is working on building location functionality, so if a user loads the application on their phone while using the trail, it will show them their current location, relative to the points of interest (assuming they allow location tracking on their phone). They were also talking about adding mile markers, major street crossings, and are open to suggestions for anything else others feel would be helpful.

2. MaryAnn Snyder has requested volunteers on October 2nd for maintenance help at the Reading Rail Trail Head. It is posted on the website.

V. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. Previous Meeting Minutes Diana Inglis made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes, Matt Marcincin seconded the motion, so moved by Steve LaBrake .
- B. Financial Report -Lynne Morgan made a motion to approve the financial report, Tyler Zulli seconded the motion, so moved by Diana Inglis.
- C. Bills to Pay

VI. COMMISSIONER INDIVIDUAL STATEMENTS & UPDATES

- A. By Municipality (Coopersburg Borough) Lynne Morgan spoke with Tim Paashaus concerning the bike business on the trail. Tim shared the following:
 1. This person is not just on the trail in Coopersburg, he is on all sections of the trail.
 2. He has a permit to fix bikes at his home. His business is named Coopersburg because that is his place of business.
 3. He will be sent a letter with a reminder that he needs to do business at his home and not to go outside of that area. He will also suggest in the letter to the business owner to get permission from our committee.
 4. He does not have an illegal business in town. Tim cannot regulate if it is illegal on the trail.

A letter will be sent to him from the committee in regards to breaking the trail rules. The letter should be cc'd to the police departments and municipalities.

- VII. ADJOURNMENT at 7:06 pm There was a motion to adjourn the meeting by Tyler Zulli and seconded by Diana Inglis so moved by Steve LaBrake.

Next Meeting: **October 25th – Coopersburg Borough**

