

Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Commission Meeting Minutes
June 26, 2023
Upper Saucon Township

I. OPENING

A. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Eric Bartosz.

B. Roll Call:

Eric Bartosz, President (Upper Saucon Township)
Terri Fadem, Secretary (Hellertown Borough)
Dan Edelman, Lower Saucon Township
Peter Jarrett, Coopersburg Borough
Steve LaBrake, Hellertown Borough
Cris Miller, Coopersburg Borough
Patrick Leonard, Upper Saucon Township
Gwen Herzog, Whitehall Township
Michael Sutherland, Upper Saucon Township
Frank Thompson, Lower Saucon Township

II. PUBLIC COMMENT / CITIZEN NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Gwen Herzog of Penn State University inquired about opportunities to assist the SRTC by either adopting a section of the rail trail or participating in an early spring cleanup in March or April 2024. Maryann Snyder could also use volunteers maintaining the native gardens. Eric Bartosz will follow up with Gwen as we get closer to a date for cleanup.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT / AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Michael Sutherland asked about future rail trail access and connections.
- B. Frank Thompson inquired about open space requirements.

IV. PRESENTATIONS / TRAIL BUSINESS

A. Vision/Future Plans

- 1. Upper Bucks Rail Trail: Peter Jarret reported that Upper Saucon Township may be looking to put a trail head at Mine Road.
- 2. Bethlehem Update: There are no updates at this time.

B. Trail Improvement Projects

- 1. "RR Signs" additions to signs: Content is being created to submit to Fossil.
- 2. SRT Bridge over Preston Lane: Upper Saucon Township to rebid project at the end of 2023. Desales University may also be contributing financially, and an application is being submitted for a \$500,000 DC&R grant.
- 3. Mile Marker status: There are no updates at this time.

C. Upcoming Events

- 1. Corporate Fun Run: **Motion** by Steve LaBrake to approve the Special Event Application for August 14th. Seconded by Cris Miller. **Motion passed.**

2. Greater Lehigh Valley SCADaddle for Research: **Motion** by Dan Edelman to approve the Special Event Application for September 30th. Seconded by Steve LaBrake. **Motion passed.**

D. Other Business

1. SRT Native Plant Garden: There is now signage installed at the gardens and plans to install shrubbery on the west side.
2. Saucon Rail Trail Market: The market will be re-launched closer to September.
3. Data collection of future events: There are no updates at this time.

E. Website / App

Website / App: There are no updates at this time.

V. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. Previous Meeting Minutes: **Motion** by Steve LaBrake to approve the meeting minutes with one correction. Seconded by Peter Jarret. **Motion passed.**
- B. Financial Report: **Motion** by Steve LaBrake to approve the financial report as of May 31, 2023, as presented. Seconded by Peter Jarret. **Motion passed.** Terri Fadem will reach out to Coopersburg to inquire when they will be making their contribution.
- C. Volunteer Opportunities: Volunteers will be solicited for 2024 spring cleanup.
- D. Resident Correspondence: Jeremy Mack forwarded some resident feedback regarding dust on the trail. There was a brief discussion regarding the need for resurfacing sections of the trail.

VI. COMMISSIONER INDIVIDUAL STATEMENTS & UPDATES

- A. By Municipality: There were no statements or updates.
- B. Other Business: Steve LaBrake turned in his resignation effective August 1st. Steve stated that he will continue the work on the greenway committee. The Commission thanked Steve for his hard work and dedication to the SRTOC.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Steve LaBrake to adjourn the meeting at 6:54 pm.

The next meeting will be held on August 28th, 2023 at the Lower Saucon Township Pavilion at 6:00 pm.