

Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Commission Meeting Minutes
November 27, 2023
Upper Saucon Township

I. OPENING

A. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Eric Bartosz.

B. Roll Call:

Eric Bartosz, President (Upper Saucon Township)
Terri Fadem, Secretary (Hellertown Borough)
Dan Edelman, Lower Saucon Township
Rick Kerr, Upper Suaon Township
Frank Thompson, Lower Saucon Township
Patrick Leonard, Upper Saucon Township
Mark Inglis, Lower Saucon Township
Cris Miller, Coopersburg Borough
Sarah Sumoski, Hellertown Borough
Michael Sutherland, Upper Saucon Township

II. PUBLIC COMMENT / CITIZEN NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment on non-agenda items.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT / AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment on agenda items.

IV. PRESENTATIONS / TRAIL BUSINESS

A. Vision/Future Plans

1. Upper Bucks Rail Trail: The Bucks County Rail Trail to Quakertown will be realigned since the possibility of extending the trail on the tracks to Quakertown are essentially dead. The trail is planned to leave the sidewalks in the Walnut Bank Farm development and follow a greenway / drainage basin through that developed. A much nicer, cooler and more interesting path. The AMC through the Highlands Trail Initiative is helping with the planning and will lead the trail building.
2. Bethlehem Update: There are no updates at this time.

B. Trail Improvement Projects

1. "RR Signs" additions to signs: Content is still being finalized. Pending Fossil sending proof to Eric Bartosz.
2. SRT Bridge over Preston Lane: Tom Beil reported the project is currently out to bid and work expected to commence in Spring 2024.
3. Mile Marker status: There are no updates at this time.

C. Upcoming Events

2024 Corporate Fun Run Lehigh Valley 5K: **Motion** by Eric Bartosz to approve the event application for August 12, 2024 contingent upon submission of required proof of insurance. Seconded by Cris Miller. **Motion passed.**

D. Other Business

1. Saucon Rail Trail Market: Eric Bartosz reported about ten items were sold. The scheduled pick up date is December 16, 2023.
2. Data collection of future events: There are no updates at this time.
3. Rail Trail Map: The Commission appreciated the effort that Michael Sutherland put into creating a new SRT map, but the Commission will continue to use the map that Hanover Engineering created and is currently available on the SRTOC website.

E. Website / App

Website / App: There has been an uptick in bot posts on the SRTOC FB page advertising fake SRT merchandise. Sarah Sumoski volunteered to be an admin for the SROTC Facebook page to monitor these posts.

V. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Previous Meeting Minutes: **Motion** by Eric Bartosz to approve the meeting minutes of October 23, 2023 as presented. Seconded by Sarah Sumoski. **Motion passed.**

B. Financial Report: **Motion** by Eric Bartosz to approve the financial report as of October 31, 2023, as presented. Seconded by Cris Miller. **Motion passed.**

C. 2024 Meeting Dates: **Motion** by Eric Bartosz to approve the 2024 meeting date schedule as presented. Seconded by Dan Edelman. **Motion passed.**

VI. COMMISSIONER INDIVIDUAL STATEMENTS & UPDATES

A. By Municipality: Maryann Snyder has put the native plant garden to rest for the winter. She celebrated by hosting a casual get together in her backyard for all who have helped throughout the year. Maryann is planning on hosting possible hikes / work sessions next year and also some educational outreach days. All this is very preliminary and will be decided over the winter.

B. Other Business: There was no other business.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Frank Thompson to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 pm.

The next meeting will be held on January 22, 2024 at Upper Saucon Township at 6:00 pm.