

**Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**January 22, 2024**  
**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)  
Jeremy Mack, Vice President (Coopersburg)  
Terri Fadem, Secretary (Hellertown Borough)  
Frank Thompson, Lower Saucon Township  
Victoria Opthof-Cordaro, Lower Saucon Township  
Cris Miller, Coopersburg Borough  
Sarah Sumoski, Hellertown Borough  
Peter Jarrett, Upper Saucon Township

C. Reorganization:

**Motion** by Terri Fadem to appoint Eric Bartosz as President, Jeremy Mack as Vice President and Sarah Sumoski as Secretary. Seconded by Cris Miller. **Motion passed.**

**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: There are no updates at this time. There was a brief discussion regarding the potential establishment of a Liberty Bell Trail in Coopersburg.
2. Bethlehem Update: Steve LaBrake is still attending the Bethlehem meetings and providing updates as they are available.

B. Trail Improvement Projects

1. "RR Signs" additions to signs: Eric Bartosz reported he received information and photos from Lower Saucon Township Historical Society and is currently working on the designs and write ups. Renderings of the signs will be provided by Fossil in the near future.
2. SRT Bridge over Preston Lane: The Upper Saucon Township Board of Supervisors awarded the bid for the prefabricated bridge at their December 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. The project is expected to begin Summer 2024 when schools are out because it will require the road to be closed. DeSales University funded a majority of the project.
3. Mile Marker status: Steve LaBrake is currently storing the markers. As trail connections are completed, the mile markers will need to be extended.

4. Geology Kiosks: Peter Jarrett reported the three Kiosks are showing signs of wear and tear. The rock outcrop needs to be cleaned and the kiosk at Landis Mill is missing tags. Peter recommended the Commission look into refurbishing these signs.
5. Native Plant Garden: There are no updates at this time.

#### C. Upcoming Events

There were applications received for events. The Historical Society of Hellertown invited reps from SRTOC to set up a table at their upcoming event on May 18, 2024. Members of the Commission also expressed an interest in attending any dedication events hosted by DeSales University when the trail opens to the public.

#### D. Other Business

1. Saucon Rail Trail Market: Targeted to reopen Summer 2024.
2. Data collection of future events: The feature will be up and running on the website by Spring 2024.

#### E. Website / App

Website / App: Jeremy Mack reported all 2024 meeting dates and information have been updated and all 2023 files archived.

### V. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. Previous Meeting Minutes: **Motion** by Jeremy Mack to approve the meeting minutes of November 27, 2023 as presented. Seconded by Cris Miller. **Motion passed.**
- B. Financial Report: **Motion** by Terri Fadem to approve the financial report as of November 30, 2023, as presented. Seconded by Jeremy Mack. **Motion passed.** Terri will confirm which entity donation checks for the SRT should be made payable to.
- C. August 26, 2024 Meeting: The Commission will request an interior meeting room be provided by Lower Saucon Township in lieu of reserving the pavilion.

### VI. COMMISSIONER INDIVIDUAL STATEMENTS & UPDATES

- A. By Municipality: Victoria Opthof-Cordaro introduced herself to those in attendance as the new representative for Lower Saucon Township.
- B. Other Business: There was no other business.

### VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Frank Thompson to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 pm.

The next meeting will be held on March 25, 2024 at Hellertown Borough at 6:00 pm.