

**Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Commission Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2024 at 6:00 PM – Coopersburg Borough**

I. OPENING

- A. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:11 pm by Jeremy Mack
- B. Roll Call: Jeremy Mack, Sarah Sumoski, Frank, Pete, Cris, Jerry, Sarah,
Jeremy Mack, Vice President (Coopersburg Borough)
Sarah Sumoski, Secretary (Hellertown Borough)
Terri Fadem (Hellertown Borough)
Peter Jarrett (Upper Saucon Township)
Cris Miller (Coopersburg Borough)
Frank Thompson (Lower Saucon Township)
Victoria Opthof-Cordaro (Lower Saucon Township)

II. PUBLIC COMMENT / CITIZEN NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Christine S. is interested in learning about events and volunteering, including cleaning in the areas just off the trail. She volunteers regularly for the Native Plant Garden and removes trash as she enjoys the trail.
- B. Sarah S. questioned the maintenance schedule in Coopersburg regarding loose boards on the bridge. Peter Jarrett confirmed that bridge is the responsibility of Upper Bucks County as it is part of their trail. Sarah S. also asked about the gravel material in Upper Saucon, specifically around Spring Valley and Flint Hill roads. Lower Saucon/Hellertown use Crushcrete for their section of the trail, Upper Saucon uses Trail Mix. There is a difference in the materials.
- C. Jerry H. commented that the Bingen Trail tire pump is not working. Cris Miller offered to check on the pump, if the piece is broken Lower Saucon can repair or replace it.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT / AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Trail Improvement Projects
 - 1. Jerry H. is curious about the next historical markers to go in, following the completion of the Station signs. He mentioned there are 4 bridges on the Lower Saucon Rail Trail that could be good candidates. Jeremy Mack mentioned that SRTOC representative Eric Boyer had interest in including more historical signage. The Commission has no immediate issues with adding more should the historical material be available.

IV. PRESENTATIONS / TRAIL BUSINESS

- A. Vision/Future Plans
 - 2. Upper Bucks Rail Trail – Peter Jarrett confirmed they are realigning the trail as it exits into Veterans Park. At the moment, there is no plan to more directly connect the Upper Bucks Trail into downtown Quakertown.
 - 3. Bethlehem Update – Greenway Trail Gap: No new updates.
 - 4. There was a brief discussion on re-converting the Saucon Rail Trail back to active rail lines in the future. Peter Jarrett confirms that the entire purpose of Rail Trails is to preserve the Rail Lines for any possible future need. The Commission has no further information at this time.
- B. Trail Improvement Projects

1. Station Signs– Signs are printed and in, Per Jeremy Mack, SRTOC representative Eric Bartosz is in discussion with Public Works to have signs installed. Terri Fadem confirmed that Hellertown is moving forward with sign installation. Victoria Opthof-Cordaro confirmed that Lower Saucon needs the exact coordinates for dig permits, but are ready to make the installation happen when those coordinates are confirmed.
3. Mile Marker status: Peter Jarrett said Upper Saucon Township has the original schematics with exact locations of mile markers. There are currently no markers South of Landis Mill Road.
4. Geology Kiosks – Peter Jarrett has been in contact with Dr. Frank Pazzaglia at Lehigh University. Dr. Pazzaglia confirmed he would be happy to meet Peter there to direct what needs to be cleaned at the locations. Victoria Opthof-Cordaro said Lower Saucon does have the cleaning of that on their project list. Peter will meet with Dr. Pazzaglia and stake in the area to clear and then will follow up with Cathy and Roger at Lower Saucon Township.
5. Native Plant Garden – Christine S. confirmed that the volunteer group has been weeding the garden for the past few weeks. The next volunteer event will be April 27. Volunteer turnout has been good this season.
6. Grist Mill Signage – No new updates at this time

C. Upcoming Events

1. Hellertown -Lower Saucon Heritage Day: May 18. – There will be a volunteer signup list at the table, copies of the new Station Signs, and the SRTOC store will be open. Jeremy Mack and Terri Fadem offered to volunteer for the event.
2. DeSales University Bridge Opening – No new updates
3. Lutron 5k May 2, 2024 event (Closed to public; Rain date May 30, 2024) – event approved March 2024

D. Other Business

1. Saucon Rail Trail Market – Will open at the Heritage Day event on May 18.
2. Data collection of future events – No new updates.

E. Website / App – Jeremy Mack has been updating the website.

V. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. Previous Meeting Minutes of March 25, 2024 – **Motion** Jeremy Mack motions to approve minutes, seconded by Terri Fadem, **Motion Approved**
- B. Financial Report as of March 31, 2024 – **Motion** Terri Fadem motions to approve, seconded by Peter Jarrett. **Motion Approved**

VI. COMMISSIONER INDIVIDUAL STATEMENTS & UPDATES

A. By Municipality –

- a. Peter Jarrett confirmed Upper Saucon did a great job cleaning up downed trees and fixing fences after a big storm.
- b. Sarah Sumoski updated that Hellertown regularly conducts maintenance on the trail: weekly, after big storms, and more in-depth in the spring and fall.
- c. Victoria Opthof-Cordaro said Lower Saucon Parks and Rec is considering doing an Adopt-a-Trail program so that may come back to the SRTOC.

B. Other Business – There were no new updates

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Jeremy Mack Motions to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 pm.

The next meeting will be held on June 24, 2024 at Upper Saucon Township at 6:00 pm.