

Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Commission Meeting Minutes
June 24, 2024 at 6:00 PM – Upper Saucon Volunteer Fire Department

I. OPENING

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm by Eric Bartosz.

B. Roll Call

Eric Bartosz, President (Upper Saucon Township)
Jeremy Mack, Vice-President (Coopersburg Borough)
Sarah Sumoski, Secretary (Hellertown Borough)
Peter Jarrett (Upper Saucon Township)
Cris Miller (Coopersburg Borough)
Frank Thompson (Lower Saucon Township)
Terri Fadem (Hellertown Borough)
Victoria Opthof-Cordaro (Lower Saucon Township)

II. PUBLIC COMMENT / CITIZEN NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- A. **Motion:** Maryann Snyder, who volunteers to lead the Native Plant Garden along the trail thanked Jeremy Mack for the Facebook announcement to recruit volunteers. This year, 9 new volunteers offered help, with 5 continuing to assist. Ms. Snyder requested continued volunteer recruitment announcements. Jeremy Mack agreed to continue posting on Facebook, and also requested new verbiage and photos for the website to help promote the Native Plant Garden further. Eric Bartosz offered to take updated photos. Ms. Snyder will also speak with the township about updating the kiosk information located nearby. She shared that passerby's often stop to learn more about the garden, and thus far in 2024 volunteers have added mulch & woodships (provided by the township), a new Eastern Redbud tree and numerous bushes. The township has also removed some downed tree limbs near the garden and has begun mowing a 5 ft. buffer around it. Ms. Snyder requested \$40 for more Deer Repellent for the garden. Peter Jarrett made a motion to approve funding, seconded by Frank Thompson. **Motion Approved.**

III. PUBLIC COMMENT / AGENDA ITEMS

IV. PRESENTATIONS / TRAIL BUSINESS

- A. Vision/Future Plans -
B. Trail Improvement Projects
C. Station Signs – Station signs are complete and look great.
D. Mile Marker status – no new updates per Jeremy Mack.
E. Geology Kiosks – Peter Jarrett spoke with Dr. Frank Pazzaglia with Lehigh University. They have not had a chance to meet up, but will continue to coordinate schedules. Cris Miller said he can also assist when needed to cut vegetation. Any issues from the township side Victoria Opthof-Cordaro is able to help in regards to obtaining a Power Washer.
F. Native Plant Garden – See above, Jeremy Mack mentioned there may be some students and faculty at Lehigh University that could help. Peter Jarrett said he will mention it to Ms. Snyder.
G. Grist Mill Signage – Waiting for Larry Sutton to create the signage and raise funds.
H. Upcoming Events

- i. **Motion** Southern Lehigh Middle and High School Cross Country Meet, August 28, 2024 (Rain Date August 29, 2024) – Does not appear that the route would be impacted by construction should it occur simultaneously. Peter Jarrett makes a motion to approve the event, Jeremy Mack seconded. **Motion Approved.**
- ii. DeSales University Bridge Opening – Construction pushed back to fall 2024.
- I. Other Business
 - i. Heritage Day – Rainy day, unfortunately. Event seemed to go well.
 - ii. Website / App – No new updates per Jeremy Mack.
 - iii.

V. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. **Motion** Previous Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2024 – Terri Fadem motioned to approve, Jeremy seconded. **Motion Approved.**
- B. **Motion** Financial Report as of May 31, 2024 – Terri Fadem motioned to approve, Victoria Opthof-Cordaro seconded, **Motion Approved.**

VI. COMMISSIONER INDIVIDUAL STATEMENTS & UPDATES

- A. By Municipality
 - i. Eric Bartosz (Upper Saucon Township) spoke with Patrick Leonard who wanted to bring up that people are walking dogs on Lutron Property adjacent to the trail and not cleaning up after their dogs. Jeremy Mack will post a reminder to the Facebook page about respecting private property. Peter Jarrett mentioned Lutroon could also put a sign up indicating the private property.
 - ii. Victoria Opthof-Cordaro (Lower Saucon Township) shared that there is money generated from Casino taxes allotted throughout the state. There are grants available that open in July and non-profits and municipalities you can ask for anything. Victoria will help get an indoor meeting in August.
- B. Other Business
 - i. No other business at this time

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Eric Bartosz to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 pm.

The next meeting will be held on August 26, 2024 at Lower Saucon Township at 6:00 pm.