

**Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Commission Meeting Minutes  
August 26, 2024 at 6:00 PM – Lower 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 Borough)  
Sarah Sumoski, Secretary (Hellertown Borough)  
Terri Fadem (Hellertown Borough)  
Frank Thompson (Lower Saucon Township)  
Cris Miller (Coopersburg Borough)  
Victoria Opthof-Cordaro (Lower Saucon Township)

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT / CITIZEN NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT / AGENDA ITEMS**

**IV. PRESENTATIONS / TRAIL BUSINESS**

A) Trail Improvement Projects -

- i. Jeremy Mack mentioned that citizen member Jerry H. had wanted a volunteer list to spearhead some projects on the Lower Saucon portion of the trail, Victoria will contact him to see if he is still interested in leading a group, if so, Jeremy can put out a request on Facebook.
- ii. A paper wasp nest, reported by a citizen, has been removed thanks to Upper Saucon Township.
- iii. Previously Approved: Southern Lehigh Middle and High School Cross Country Meet, August 28, 2024 (Rain Date August 29, 2024)
- iv. The oversight commission agreed to look into replacing the signage along the Hellertown Marsh in the section between Grist Mill and Water Street Park. Eric will contact the sign company, Fossil, for pricing and graphics.

B) Mile Marker status – Jeremy Mack is planning to get student volunteers from Lehigh University to assist with the installation.

C) Geology Kiosks – Peter Jarrett is absent this meeting and has been the primary contact for this project. Victoria will followup with Lower Saucon Township about power washing the rocks. Jeremy will check with Peter and/or Dr. Pazzaglia regarding the cleanup of that area.

D) Native Plant Garden - The open house event went well and new signage is out along the Native Plant Garden. Jeremy will check with Maryann S. for another volunteer call for Facebook. Eric suggested contacting the Saucon Creek Watershed Association to connect them with Maryann as well.

E) Grist Mill Signage – No new updates, waiting on signage for approval from the Historical Society

F) Upcoming Events

- i. **Motion** Blue Ribbon Cancer Coalition of Pennsylvania, E-Racing Prostate Cancer Run/Walk Lehigh Valley, September 22, 2024 – Jeremy Mack motioned to approve, Frank Thompson seconded. **Motion Approved** pending insurance.

- ii. DeSales University Bridge Opening – Bridge work has started on the Preston Lane bridge, expected to be open to pedestrian traffic before end of year.
- G) Other Business
  - i. Website / App – no new updates per Jeremy.

#### V. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS

- A) **Motion** Financial contributions from municipalities – Eric will draft a proposal for the municipalities to contribute their annual contribution. Terri Fadem motioned to approve asking for contributions of \$1,000 from each municipality, Victoria Opthof-Cordaro seconds. **Motion approved.**
- B) **Motion** Previous Meeting Minutes of June 24, 2024. Frank Thompson motioned to approve minutes, Jeremy Mack seconded. **Motion approved**
- C) **Motion** Financial Reports as of June 30, 2024 and July 31, 2024. Terri Fadem motioned to approve June and July as presented, Jeremy Mack seconded. **Motion approved.**

#### VI. COMMISSIONER INDIVIDUAL STATEMENTS & UPDATES

- A) By Municipality
  - i. Terri Fadem reports that the Hellertown Police Department will hold a bike ride from Water Street Park to the Bingen trail head and back to Water Street Park. The event will begin at 5:15 pm on September 12, 2024. Terri will ask if there is a flyer that can be shared.
- B) Other Business – Sarah will be out of town for the next meeting, Terri will take minutes.

#### VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Terri Fadem to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 pm.

The next meeting will be held on September 23, 2024 at Hellertown Borough at 6:00 pm.