

Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Commission Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2024
Coopersburg Borough

I. OPENING

II. CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 6:02 pm by Eric Bartosz.

III. ROLL CALL:

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

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT / CITIZEN NON-AGENDA ITEMS

A. Bob Swain attended to comment on the new bridge construction over Preston Lane. Mr. Swain inquired about a ribbon cutting ceremony and mentioned he would like to be a part of one if such an event is held. Mr. Swain collects unique bikes and has an assortment he would be happy to bring. Upper Saucon Township currently has no concrete plans for such an event. Eric Bartosz will contact Mr. Swain and coordinate his involvement. The estimated completion date is in December 2024.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT / AGENDA ITEMS

A. There was no public comment on agenda items.

VI. PRESENTATIONS / TRAIL BUSINESS

- A. Trail Improvements Projects – Regarding the wetland signs along the Hellertown Marsh section of the trail. Eric Bartosz contacted Fossil, they could not find order, Dennis Scholl is trying to find the original images and has components. To make new signs we would essentially have to start from scratch. SRT will revisit this in the spring. Terri suggested a photo contest for the updated signs. Sarah can also help with the verbiage of the signs if it is in need of updating. Members agreed to put this project on hold until the New Year.
- B. Mile Marker Status – Jeremy Mack has the signs and just needs to mark the locations and install. Discussions were made on the best material to use for the sign posts. Options include treated lumber, Trex decking, i-beams, or another metal, possibly reclaimed from an old railroad. Eric Bartosz offered to research options and provide cost estimates at the next meeting.
- C. Geology Kiosks – Peter Jarrett met with Dr. Frank Pazzaglia earlier in the month at the Geology Marker at Meadows Road. Dr. Pazzaglia mentioned highlighting an additional feature by creating a new, small plaque to affix to the rock. Peter also spoke with Lower Saucon Township about refreshing the site. Peter is willing to lead a volunteer event

when there is a date closer to when the township could powerwash. The post also needs to be straightened. The site located in Upper Saucon just needs to be cleaned, which Peter can handle, but the two discs will need to be remade and affixing them just requires a glue. Peter will work out a concept plan and cost for the new plaque.

- D. Native Plant Garden – MaryAnn and Master Gardeners had a year-end picnic and closed out the Native Plant Garden for the year. They've cleared a sight line between the trail and the garden and will be planting low-maintenance native ferns. Maryann mentioned creating new yard signs for each season along the Native Plant Garden and can let us know when she is ready to add signage.
- E. Upcoming Events – No upcoming events at this time.

VII. **New/Other Business**

- A. Peter Jarrett reports the following:
 - i. He has been seeing an electric motorcycle and a gas-powered bike on the trail. He spoke with the township. Recommendation from SRT is to take a photo.
 - ii. There is movement on the Liberty Trail in Springfield Township connecting with Locust Valley Road, more on this to come.
- B. Peter and Eric Bartosz discussed adding the SRT logo to the new DeSales bridge when appropriate.
- C. The City of Bethlehem received approval to purchase the Norfolk Southern property that will connect the Hellertown section of the SRT with the Bethlehem Greenway.
- D. Eric Bartosz suggested a January date for a ribbon cutting ceremony: Saturday, January 18, 2025, 1:00 pm. Eric will reach out to DeSales for a sponsorship opportunity for a giveaway.
- E. Hellertown Heritage Day – planning meeting 10/30 at 6:30 pm. Frank Thompson offered to attend the meeting. Meeting will occur the first Wednesday of each month thereafter.
- F. Website/App – No new updates at this time.

VIII. **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS**

- A. Financial Contributions from Municipalities – Eric Bartosz sent letters to each municipality requesting their annual donation of \$1,000. There are no updates of any municipality apart from Lower Saucon Township contributing at this time. Terri Fadem will follow up with Hellertown Borough's contribution. Eric will resend the request.
- B. **Motion:** September, 2024 Meeting Minutes - Jeremy Mack makes a motion to approve, Cris Miller seconds, **Motion approved.**
- C. **Motion:** Financial Report, September 30, 2024 – Jeremy Mack makes a motion to approve, Frank Thompson seconds, **Motion approved.**

IX. **COMMISSIONER INDIVIDUAL STATEMENTS & UPDATES**

- A. By Municipality – No new updates
- B. Other Business – No new updates

X. **ADJOURNMENT**

Jeremy Mack makes a motion to adjourn at 7:21 pm

T

The next meeting will be held on November 25, 2024 at Upper Saucon Township at 6:00 pm.