

Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Commission Meeting Minutes
November 25, 2024
Upper Saucon Township

I. OPENING

1. Call to Order – Meeting called to order at 6:03 pm.
2. ROLL CALL:
 - Eric Bartosz, President (Upper Saucon Township)
 - Jeremy Mack, Vice President (Coopersburg)
 - Sarah Sumoski, Secretary (Hellertown Borough)
 - Victoria Opthof-Cordaro (Lower Saucon Township)
 - Frank Thompson (Lower Saucon Township)
 - Peter Jarrett (Upper Saucon Township)
 - Cris Miller (Coopersburg)
 - Patrick Leonard (Upper Saucon Township Liaison)

II. PUBLIC COMMENT / CITIZEN NON-AGENDA ITEMS

1. Jeremy Mack relayed a message asking to have direction signage on the trail when walking/biking and passing. Patrick Leonard shared that it likely won't help and will add sign clutter/opportunity for vandalism. Rules and regulations are posted on the website and shared through Facebook.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT / AGENDA ITEMS

1. No new updates

IV. PRESENTATIONS / TRAIL BUSINESS

1. Mile Marker Status – Patrick Leonard would like to re-explore mounting mile markers on existing fence posts instead of adding new structure. Eric Bartosz mentioned there are areas with no fence. Consensus is to only add posts for mile markers where they are needed. Jeremy Mack is continue working on the installation.
2. Geology Kiosks – Peter Jarrett sent a letter to Lower Saucon, and is waiting on a response; assuming this will occur in the Spring and will be revisited then. Peter also commented on Landis Mill and the two metal tabs that need replacing, this will also need to occur in the Spring.
3. Native Plant Garden – The Garden is to bed for the winter.
4. Upcoming Events
5. **Motion** 2025 Corporate FunRun Lehigh Valley, August 11, 2025. Peter Jarrett makes a motion to approve, Jeremy Mack seconds, **Motion Approved.**
6. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – Moving ahead with the ribbon cutting ceremony on Saturday, January 18, 2025 at 1 pm. Patrick Leonard confirmed the bridge should be completed in functionality by mid-December. Eric Bartosz is working with DeSales on details for the event including a commemorative item. Confirmation from DeSales that the parking area by the softball field will be open for parking for the event. Eric will create a basic flyer for Facebook.

V. New/Other Business

1. Hellertown Heritage Day – Frank Thompson attended the last meeting at the end of October. SRTOC can provide an information table at the event. They asked about a kids charity Fun Run at the start of the event. Legally, the SRTOC may not be able to host the event, but can approve it for another organization. Event is projected to be May 17, 2025 from 10 am – 3 pm.
2. Website/App – no new updates

VI. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Financial Contributions from Municipalities – Coopersburg, Hellertown and Upper Saucon Township have yet to contribute. Eric Bartosz will send out a follow-up e-mail.
2. **Motion** October 28, 2024 Meeting Minutes – Jeremy Mack makes motion to approve, Cris Miller seconds, **Motion Approved.**
3. **Motion** Financial Report, October 31, 2024 – Jeremy Mack motions to approve, Cris Miller seconds, **Motion Approved.**

VII. COMMISSIONER INDIVIDUAL STATEMENTS & UPDATES

1. By Municipality
 1. Peter Jarrett confirms the land connecting Hellertown and Bethlehem has officially been closed and transferred to City of Bethlehem.
 2. Victoria Opthof-Cordaro confirmed that Grant funding came through for a physical restroom at Reading Drive Trailhead.
 3. Other Business - No new updates

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

1. Jeremy Mack makes a motion to adjourn, at 7:14 pm

The next meeting will be held on January 27, 2025 at 6:00 pm at Upper Saucon Township