

Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Commission Meeting Minutes
January 27, 2025
Upper Saucon Township

I. OPENING

1. Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Eric at 6:04 pm

II. ROLL CALL

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

III. PUBLIC COMMENT / CITIZEN NON-AGENDA ITEMS

1. Facebook comment from Cindy Freed regarding wetlands plants signage needing repair or removal along the Hellertown section of the Rail Trail. Discussion to re-create the graphics and replace the signage along the trail using an all weather graphic sticker. Will revisit in March to replace. Terri Fadem will contact Cathy within Hellertown Borough to see if they have copies of the graphics or determine who originally installed the signage.
2. Comment from citizen regarding historical signs along the trail. Advice is to contact Lower Saucon.
3. Interest in volunteering from Magellan Behavioral Health, will put them in contact with MaryAnn with the Native Plant Garden and the Hellertown Climate Action Committee, who will be holding a volunteer event tentatively on April 5, 2025.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT / AGENDA ITEMS

1. No updates

V. PRESENTATIONS / TRAIL BUSINESS

1. Mile Marker Status – Jeremy Mack had a student take GPS locations of the mile marker signs and will be taking photos as well to confirm if there is any pre-existing structure there. Peter Jarrett also suggested using the Townships existing schematics of the RailRoad which includes the distances, so that could be used as a blueprint for the location placements south of DeSales.
2. Trail Updates: Nothing from Peter Jarrett regarding Upper Bucks.
3. Article from Morning Call regarding the connection between the Hellertown section to the Bethlehem Greenway.
4. Upcoming Events: Heritage Day update; May 17 from 10 am – 3 pm. Frank Thompson shared that there could be a fun run between Water Street to Walnut Street and back. The organizer, Run for Your Lives would assist with the FunRun. Frank will discuss with Run for Your Lives to see if they will organize the Fun Run and submit an event for approval. The Commission will also man a table.

5. Question for Heritage Day to add a small flag every 4 – 6 feet along the Rail Trail put flags this or next year to commemorate the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Concerns regarding the addition of holes along the trail and time it would take to install all of the flags.
6. Heritage Day organizers also inquired about replacing the wetland signage on the same section of the Rail Trail.

VI. New/Other Business

1. Website/App – no new updates.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS

1. **Motion:** November 25, 2024 Meeting Minutes, Frank Thompson motions to approve, Jeremy Mack seconds **Motion approved.**
2. **Motion:** November 30, 2024 Financial Report – Terri Fadem motions to approve the November and December financial reports, Peter Jarrett seconds. **Motion approved**

VIII. COMMISSIONER INDIVIDUAL STATEMENTS & UPDATES

1. By Municipality
 1. Patrick Leonard updates that the bridge is completed. Bridge will also have functioning lights shortly, just waiting for electrical hookup.
 2. Eric Bartosz asked about adding a Saucon Rail Trail sign to the new bridge, Patrick Leonard asks that the graphic be sent for Council to approve.
 3. Eric Bartosz adds that the Bridge Opening Ceremony was a success with many in attendance.
 4. **Motion:** Terri Fadem motions to approve the purchase of 50 additional commemorative mugs, Peter Jarrett seconds. **Motion approved.**
 5. Victoria Opthof-Cordaro shares that citizen Jerry Holum would like to sponsor a mile marker. The mile markers are already made so the suggestion is to open sponsors to the updated wetland signage instead.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

1. Frank Thompson motions to adjourn the meeting at 7 pm. Jeremy Mack seconds.

The next meeting will be held on March 24, 2025 at 6:00 pm at Hellertown Borough