

Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Commission Meeting Minutes
March 24, 2025
Hellertown Borough

I. OPENING

a. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Eric Bartosz.

b. Roll Call:

Eric Bartosz, President (Upper Saucon Township)
Cris Miller, Coopersburg
Dan Edelman, Lower Saucon Township
Frank Thompson, Lower Saucon Township
Terri Fadem, Hellertown
Victoria Optof-Codaro, Lower Saucon Township (via phone)
Peter Jarrett, Upper Saucon Township
Susan Roeschke, Hellertown
Janice Olshan, Hellertown
Vincent Costello, Hellertown
Jerry Holum, Lower Saucon Township
Christine Serta, Hellertown

II. PUBLIC COMMENT / CITIZEN NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Vincent Costello, candidate for Eagle Scout with Troop 311 presented a plan to install an information board to advertise events at the Grist Mill. Vincent advised there is a Troop Historian that will also provide information for these signs. A design schematic was distributed and reviewed. The Commission advised that because the sign will be installed on Hellertown Borough property, permission from the Borough will be required. Project is expected to commence in August and end in November.
- b. Susan Roeschke submitted the following statement to the Commission: *“My name is Susan Roeschke and I live at 182 Front St. My property is adjacent to the Rail Trail. I would like to bring to your attention some issues of the vegetation maintenance of the trail. There is an overgrowth of poison ivy that has grown over to my garden. I spoke with the borough last summer and was told they only are authorized to maintain one foot off the trail. If I wanted to maintain the vegetation from that area to my property I was welcome to do so. I was also concerned about the high vegetation growth harboring ticks. Since I had no other option I tried to clear the overgrowth. I always make sure that I take the appropriate steps to guard myself against ticks. I wear long pants and sleeves and spray myself with deet. In Oct. of 2024 I became very ill and I was diagnosed with lyme disease. After maintaining my garden for 40 years taking the same precautions and not acquiring lyme disease, I can only assume I was bit while maintaining the trail. What I am asking you is to maintain up to the property lines for those that have homes close to the trail or at least those that request it. When I was clearing the area I received comments from people on the trail that they appreciated my work making it look so much better. Also, do you get any information of people getting bit by ticks on the trail. Is there a way to get funding to have the trail sprayed to kill ticks? Thank you.”*

III. PUBLIC COMMENT / AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment on agenda items.

IV. PRESENTATIONS / TRAIL BUSINESS

- a. Mile Marker Status: Replacements are underway.
- b. Trail Updates: There are no updates at this time.
- c. Native Plant Garden: Peter Jarrett reported MaryAnn Snyder has a schedule in place and volunteers lined up.
- d. Dedication Plaque: Eric Bartosz reported he met with Patrick Leonard to review placement of two plaques on the stone bridge at Desales. The plaque will be funded by individual contributions from SRTOC members.
- e. Geology Kiosks: The signs at Meadow Road and Landis Mill Road need attention.
- f. Hellertown Marsh Signs: There are no updates. Eric will solicit a current quote from Fossil Signs and then seek sponsorship.
- g. Upcoming Events:
 - a. Southern Lehigh Cross Country Meet, September 9, 2025: **Motion** by Peter Jarrett to approve. Seconded by Dan Edleman. **Motion passed.**
 - b. Heritage Day: There will be activities and presentations on May 17th from 10am to 3pm.

V. NEW/OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Website/App: There are no updates at this time.
- b. Safety Light: Eric will ask Patrick Leonard about the installation of a flashing crosswalk light at Passer Road.
- c. Trail Incident: Jerry Holum inquired about a recent accident on the trail. The Lehigh County Coroner is fielding all questions regarding this tragic event.
- d. Greenways Project: The Commission will invite a representative from Bethlehem to attend a future SRTOC meeting for a status update.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS

- a. January 27, 2025 Meeting Minutes: **Motion** by Frank Thompson to approve as presented. Seconded by Dan Edleman. **Motion passed.**
- b. January 31, 2025 Financial Report: **Motion** by Frank Thompson to approve as presented, seconded by Dan Edleman. **Motion passed.**
 1. Question whether to waive municipal funding fee for 2025: **Motion** by Cris Miller to decline waiving any municipality funding in 2025. Seconded by Peter Jarrett. **Motion passed.**
- c. February 28, 2025 Financial Report: **Motion** by Cris Miller to approve as presented. Seconded by Frank Thompson. **Motion passed.**

VII. COMMISSIONER INDIVIDUAL STATEMENTS & UPDATES

There are no updates at this time.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Eric Bartosz to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 pm. Seconded by Dan Edleman. **Motion passed.**

The next meeting will be held on April 25, 2025 at Coopersburg Borough at 6:00 pm.