

Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Commission Meeting Minutes
April 28, 2025
Coopersburg Borough

I. OPENING

A. Call to Order - Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm

II. Roll Call

Eric Bartosz, President (Upper Saucon Township)

Jeremy Mack, Vice President (Coopersburg)

Sarah Sumoski, Secretary (Hellertown)

Peter Jarrett, Lower Saucon Township

Cris Miller, Coopersburg

Frank Thompson, Lower Saucon Township

Victoria Optof-Cordaro, Lower Saucon Township (via phone)

Maryann Snyder, Upper Saucon Township

III. PUBLIC COMMENT / CITIZEN NON-AGENDA ITEMS

No updates

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT / AGENDA ITEMS

A. Maryann Snyder, gives her thanks for the new signage and announced that volunteers with the native plant garden will also be at Heritage Day.

B. Maryann asked about the bathrooms going in at Reading Drive and whether there will be an impact to the garden, and also if there is the possibility of a utility closet where some gardening supplies may be kept. Victoria Optof-Cordaro will follow up with Lower Saucon Township.

C. **Motion** Maryann also asked about hosting a Monarch Lesson and release along with Wildlands Conservancy. Victoria Optof-Cordaro will assist with coordination of the event between Maryann and Lower Saucon Township at the Reading Drive Trailhead. Peter Jarrett makes a motion to waive the security deposit for the event through Lower Saucon Township, if such deposit can not be waived the SRTOC will cover the refundable fee. Frank Thompson seconds. **Motion approved.**

V. PRESENTATIONS / TRAIL BUSINESS

A. Mile Marker Status – Jeremy Mack updates that students are marking locations when classes end. He will bring the proposed locations to the next meeting.

B. Trail Updates – Cris Miller shares that the grant funding for the Bethlehem Greenway connection is with Bethlehem and the project is going out to bid. The anticipated completion will be Spring 2026.

C. Native Plant Garden – Updates above

D. Geology Kiosks – Peter Jarrett emailed the acting Manager with Lower Saucon Township regarding the cleaning of the Geology Kiosk signs. As of two weeks ago trees were removed, but no noticeable cleaning of the rocks were observed.

E. Hellertown Marsh Signs – On hold until next meeting

F. Upcoming Events:

- G. Rita's Italian Ice Ribbon Cutting Opening Day, 7001 N. Route 309. May 10, 5 pm. Members are invited.
- H. **Motion** Heritage Day adult and children's races coordinated by American Cancer Society. Frank Thompson makes a motion to approve the event permit pending an updated Certificate of Insurance listing American Cancer Society. Cris Miller seconds. **Motion Approved.**

VI. NEW/OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Website/App – Jeremy Mack will update the website with the approved regulations.
- B. Safety Light – On hold until next meeting regarding costs and feasibility.
- C. Trail Incident – Reiterated that the Townships do work to remove trees and this was an unfortunate accident.
- D. Greenways Project – Updates above
- E. **Motion** The rules and regulations section of the SRTOC website will be updated to reflect the use of e-bikes, closely following those listed by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Cris Miller makes a motion to approve the changes, Jeremy Mack seconds. **Motion Approved.**
- F. Peter Jarrett suggested an SRT banner be created for the Heritage Day event – Eric will work on that.
- G. Political signage has been added to the Rail Trail in the Lower Saucon portion. Lower Saucon Township is checking with their Solicitor regarding whether they should be removed or not. The SRTOC will wait for the response.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. **Motion** March 24, 2025 Meeting Minutes: Frank Thompson makes a motion to approve, Cris Miller seconds. **Motion approved.**
- B. March 31, 2025 Financial Report – Was not provided, will follow-up with Lower Saucon to provide for the next meeting.

VIII. COMMISSIONER INDIVIDUAL STATEMENTS & UPDATES

- A. Frank asked about more volunteers for the Heritage Day event. Eric Bartosz will also provide mugs to sell.
- B. Dan Edelman said, via e-mail, the entirety of the trail was in great shape as of 4/23.

IX. ADJOURNMENT - Cris Miller motions to end the meeting at 6:49 pm. Frank Thompson seconds.

The next meeting will be held on June 23, 2025 at Upper Saucon Township at 6:00 pm.