

Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Commission Meeting Minutes
June 23, 2025
Upper Saucon Township

I. OPENING

- A. Call to Order – Meeting called to order at 6:01 pm.

II. Roll Call

Eric Bartosz, President (Upper Saucon Township)
Sarah Sumoski, Secretary (Hellertown Borough)
Dan Edelman, Lower Saucon
Cris Miller, Coopersburg
Frank Thompson, Lower Saucon
Larry O'Donnell, Hellertown
Victoria Optof-Cordaro, Lower Saucon

III. PUBLIC COMMENT / CITIZEN NON-AGENDA ITEMS

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT / AGENDA ITEMS

- A. E-mail request to add trail signs for the Highlands Trail Hike Challenge - Commission is in agreement that the signs will be allowed as this is a club promotion and not a business.

V. PRESENTATIONS / TRAIL BUSINESS

- A. Mile Marker Status – Jeremy Mack not here, will update at next meeting.
- B. Trail Updates – Cris shares that Upper Saucon Township was clearing downed limbs along the trail today. Eric Bartosz noted some trees need maintenance in a Lower Saucon portion of the trail. Victoria Optof-Cordaro will make contacts to clear them. Victoria notes that Lower Saucon has been closing the trail for PPL work related to the Meadows bridge construction. She also shares that a vandalism incident in Lower Saucon portion of the trail took place recently. The township has already replaced the vandalized sign.
- C. Native Plant Garden – Township Manager met with Maryann Snyder who is working to get paperwork together for the butterfly event planned for later this year.
- D. Geology Kiosks – Eric Bartosz shares that the powerwashing is complete on the geology kiosks. Regarding both the kiosks and Hellertown Marsh signs – Larry O'Donnell and Victoria Optof-Cordaro discussed sharing sponsorship opportunities to replace both the Geology and Hellertown Marsh signs. Eric Bartosz will finalize the number needed associated costs. Preference is for one sponsorship per sign.
- E. Hellertown Marsh Signs – See above
- F. Upcoming Events:
- i. **Motion** Southern Lehigh Cross Country Meet Rescheduled from 9/9/2025 to 9/11/2025 (Rain Date 9/12/2025) – Sarah Sumoski motions to approve contingent on Upper Saucon Townships schedule. Frank Thompson seconds, **motion approved**.
 - ii. Frank Thompson updates on Heritage Day. Received about 12 comments during event, most were positive. Some comments regarding motorized vehicles and ticks. The Relay for Life race was not well attended.

II. NEW/OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Website/App – E-mail comment on outdated Upcoming Projects page – Sarah Sumoski will reach out to Jeremy Mack to update
- B. Safety Light – Intention was to put a safety light in at the Passer Road crossing. Eric Bartosz spoke with Patrick Leonard at Upper Saucon Township. It's not economically viable as it must be installed by PennDot which drastically increases costs.
- C. Eric Bartosz shared that many utility poles are within range of the rail trail and are past their lifespan. The poles were originally installed by Septa. This would fall under the purview of the townships. Victoria Optof-Cordaro suggested a joint letter from the municipalities to Septa and also copying the state representatives. Victoria will contact Lower Saucon Township to try to find a contact through Septa for removal and disposal.

III. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. **Motion** April 28, 2025 Meeting Minutes – Frank Thompson motions to approve, Cris Miller seconds, **Motion approved.**
- B. **Motion** March 31, April 30, and May 31, 2025 Financial Reports Dan Edelman motions to approve, Cris Miller seconds. **Motion approved.**

IV. COMMISSIONER INDIVIDUAL STATEMENTS & UPDATES

Dan Edeman shared that a bench on the north side of the trail by the new DeSales bridge is awkwardly located and should be moved back a few feet. Eric Bartosz suggests taking a photo and sending to Patrick Leonard.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Cris Miller motions to adjourn at 6:38 pm.

The next meeting will be held on August 25, 2025 at Lower Saucon Township at 6:00 pm.