

Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Commission Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2025
Hellertown Borough

I. OPENING

Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm

II. Roll Call

Eric Bartosz, President (Upper Saucon Township)
Sarah Sumoski, Secretary (Hellertown)
Frank Thompson, Lower Saucon
Larry O'Donnell, Hellertown
Victoria Ophtof-Cordaro via phone, Lower Saucon
Dan Edelman, Lower Saucon
Jim Frese, Hellertown (Public)
Christine Seita, Hellertown (Public)
Michael Wadas, Lower Saucon (Public)

III. PUBLIC COMMENT / CITIZEN NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Mr. Frese is looking to fund a bike station at Upper Saucon Community Park – ideally at the end of the parking lot opposite the bathrooms. Eric Bartosz will discuss with Upper Saucon Township regarding installation of the Bike Fix-it Station to be privately funded. Dan Edelman mentioned including a plaque for recognition.
- B. Christine Seita, a volunteer with the Native Plant Garden joined the meeting to share that the volunteers are rearranging some plantings, the garden is thriving and the signs still look good.
- C. Mr. Wadas shared his ideas for converting the trail to mixed usage with a light rail system. Eric Bartosz shared that Mr. Wadas should be contacting the municipalities, state or Septa with his ideas.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT / AGENDA ITEMS

Nothing at this time

V. PRESENTATIONS / TRAIL BUSINESS

- A. Mile Marker Status – Will discuss at the next meeting when Jeremy Mack is present.
- B. Trail Updates – Frank Thompson shared the Greenway Connection will have groundbreaking in Summer 2026 with completion estimated in 2027 per information provided at the ceremony.
- C. Native Plant Garden – Ms. Seita shared that there was a Monarch event held with Wildlands Conservancy and that the event went well.
- D. Geology Kiosks – Peter Jarrett is absent, so this will be readdressed next meeting.
- E. Hellertown Marsh Signs – Eric Bartosz shared that his Fossill contact has been out, but that the pricing will be available for next meeting to recruit sponsorship for replacing the signs.
- F. Utility Poles – Dan Edelman shared that he is more concerned about the dead trees in Lower Saucon Township around Reading Road than the utility poles. Larry O'Donnell will follow-up for more clarification regarding the utility poles and maintenance/removal of them and the legality of who is responsible for them. Hellertown felt it was Septa's responsibility versus

Lower Saucon who felt it was the municipalities responsibility. Victoria Opthof-Cordaro will share her communication regarding the removal and Eric Bartosz will share with Upper Saucon Township. Regarding trees, if the tree is off of Rail Trail property the municipalities could send notice to homeowners for recommended removal. Victoria Opthof-Cordaro will notify LS regarding removal of the dead trees from the Reading Drive area.

I. NEW/OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Website/App – Jeremy Mack absent, no new updates.
- B. E-mail Updates – no new updates

II. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. **Motion** August 25, 2025 Meeting Minutes, Larry O'Donnell motions to approve, Dan Edelman seconds, **Motion Approved**
- B. **Motion** August 31, 2025 Financial Report, Frank Thompson makes motion to approve, Larry O'Donnell seconds, **Motion Approved**

III. COMMISSIONER INDIVIDUAL STATEMENTS & UPDATES

- A. Frank Thompson had the following to share:
 - i. Planning for Heritage Day in May 2026 has begun, the first meeting will be on 10/21. The SRTOC will have a table at the event, Larry O'Donnell will be present at most meetings.
 - ii. Where the trail crosses the Saucon Creek there is damage to the railing on the bridge. Eric Bartosz will send the exact location and Victoria Opthof-Cordaro and Larry O'Donnell to coordinate with public works for repairs.
 - iii. There is old PPL maintenance signage that needs to be removed, Dan Edelman will remove tonight.
 - iv. Reorganizing for officials will occur in January 2026.
 - v. Inquired about the relationship between the SRTOC and the trails to the north and south – The Greenway and Bucks trails. Eric Bartosz will reach out to the find out when the next meetings are for the other trail groups. Frank Thompson will contact Bethlehem regarding updates for the Bethlehem Greenway.
- B. E-bike concerns and safety
 - i. The following options were discussed to address continuous concerns regarding e-bikes on the trail.
 - a) Formal discussion with Police and other Rail Trails on possible prevention/solutions.
 - b) Increased patrols by either police or volunteers
 - c) Rules and speed limit signage at every road crossing, to also include directional signage to stay to the right and pass on the left for added pedestrian safety.
 - d) Trail cameras installed at a nearby business to identify frequency of e-bike useage on the trail. - Eric Bartosz shared that cameras will be coming to the Preston Bridge.
 - e) Speed trap set up by the Police department.
 - f) Larry O'Donnell and Victoria Opthof-Cordaro will reach out to their respective Police Departments for ideas.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Frank makes a motion to adjourn, Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

The next meeting will be held on October 27, 2025 at Coopersburg Borough at 6:00 pm.