

Saucon Rail Trail Oversight Commission Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2026
Coopersburg Borough

I. OPENING

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

II. ROLL CALL

Eric Bartosz, President(Upper Saucon)
Jeremy Mack, Vice President (Coopersburg)
Sarah Sumoski, Secretary (Hellertown)
Peter Jarrett, Upper Saucon
Dan Edelman, Lower Saucon
Cris Miller, Coopersburg
Chad Heimbecker, Lower Saucon
Gail Nolf, Hellertown
Frank Thompson, Lower Saucon

III. PUBLIC COMMENT / CITIZEN NON-AGENDA ITEMS

1) Mr. Dale Stover, noted the presence of dirt bikes on the trail and bicyclists not stopping before crossing the street. He would prefer the gates at intersections be closed or decreased from current 8 ft opening so bike have to stop to cross the road, as is indicated on signage. Eric Bartosz, shared that the gates must be ADA compliant. Mr. Stover also commented that the crosswalk is not always lit when crossing. There is an automated light at the crossing on Spring Valley Road that was roughly 40k, likely a prohibitive expense to have at every crossing. Cris Miller noted that regarding motorized bicycles and scooters the best course of action may be to speak with state representatives as a statewide safety issue.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT / AGENDA ITEMS

1) Jennifer Mack has taken over the Native Plant Garden this year. Roughly 8 master gardener volunteers and a handful of community members are helping at the garden. Jennifer would like to begin some small educational events at the garden. Peter Jarrett offered to continue as the native plant garden liaison.

V. PRESENTATIONS / TRAIL BUSINESS

A. Mile Marker Status – no new updates

B. Trail Updates

- i) per Frank Thompson the Bethlehem Greenway is still on track for a spring 2026 groundbreaking.
- ii) Meadows Road bridge will be opening in June 2026. Concerns presented regarding the road crossing with the opening. There's no light at the crosswalk, but there is a stop sign going towards the creek on the road. Chad Heimbecker mentioned adding a light to the crosswalk through the township.

C. Native Plant Garden – See above

D. Geology Kiosks – Peter Jarrett shared that the missing disk at Landis Street has been replaced and the sign cleaned. Peter also noted that the signage at the Geology kiosk is beginning to fray, Eric Bartosz mentioned it may be within warranty for replacement.

E. Hellertown Marsh Signs – Eric Bartosz updates that the marsh signs have been ordered. Goal is to have signs by Heritage Day on May 16.

VI. NEW/OTHER BUSINESS

A. Website/App - No new updates at this time

B. E-mail Updates – No new updates

C. Heritage Day – Gail Nolf shares that she has chairs and a tent, Peter Jarrett can provide a table. SRT location is along the Grist Mill pond.

D. Chad Heimbecker asked about the apparel store and having it open for the Heritage Day event. Chad volunteers to take over the Rail Trail store and will look into keeping it open full-time.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Motion March 23, 2026 Meeting Minutes - Jeremy Mack makes a motion to approve, Frank Thompson seconds. **Motion Approved**

B. Motion March 31, 2026 Financial Report Jeremy Mack makes a motion to approve, Cris Miller seconds. **Motion Approved**

C. Motion Request to move Mental Health Awareness 5k from May 2, 2026 to 2027; final date pending. Cris Miller makes a motion to approve, Peter Jarrett seconds. **Motion Approved**

VIII. COMMISSIONER INDIVIDUAL STATEMENTS & UPDATES

A) Eric Bartosz shared that Upper Saucon Township will be able to coordinate with the SRT to have a live feed of the Preston Lane bridge camera on the Rail Trail website. The footage should be available soon.

B) Chad Heimbecker shared that the grant is approved for bathrooms at the Reading Trailhead for an estimated 2027 completion. Chad will look into the plans for the restroom and any potential impacts on the Native Plant Garden.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Jeremy Mack makes a motion to adjourn at 6:49 pm

The next meeting will be held on June 22, 2026 at Upper Saucon Township at 6:00 pm.