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1. The meeting was called to order at Town Hall. The time was 7:08 PM.
2. **Roll Call:** Present: Dave Spirk, Chair; Tom Butera, Vice Chair; Donna Bristol, Sheri Herman, members; Glenn Kern, Council Liaison; Jack Cahalan, Staff Liaison. Absent: Scott Schanzenbach, John Sweeney; Guests: Priscilla and Rett Oren
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Dave moved for approval of the April 6, 2009 minutes; second by Sheri. All in favor.

4. **Citizen Non-Agenda Items**

Dave said Rett and Priscilla Oren are here to speak. Priscilla said they are back from Florida. They continue their involvement with Parks and Rec in Florida. Each of them put in over 600 hours with Parks and Rec over the winter with the Florida State Parks. They brought back a few ideas to share with the group and to commend you on some things, as the first thing they did was to check out the parks. They are really pleased to see how nice and clean the parks are looking, especially Southeastern Park, that's such a nice facility that was put in and they checked out the wildflower meadow. They wanted to let you know some of the things they were involved with down in Florida that may be of interest to you. The last time they talked to you was about geo caching which most of you were not familiar with. They went through a policy with Jack and now people can have a form to use for putting caches in the parks. Before they left, they put out three caches in the Lehigh Valley, two of them in Lower Saucon Township parks and they had the form filled out. They thought you might want to hear some of the comments. The one is called Town Hall Natural and it's right up along the nature path and for those of you who aren't familiar with her history, when she started with the Parks and Rec board in 1980, the Boy Scouts put in that nature trail and she knew it was there and they took advantage of it. Geo caching is finding hidden high tech treasures and its very family oriented so there are kids involved and you have to hide things, you can't bury them. They have to be on the surface. You have to be clever. You can take a Tupperware container and put on camouflage tape. It has to be waterproof because when people find it by their GPS, they have to sign a log and if that log is wet, it won't work because anything you put out has to be waterproof. When they go, they have people checking them to make sure that they are still good. The form tells you the name of what it is – Town Hall Natural. It has a number assigned by Geocaching.com which is the website that goes through all of this. We are called Birdguise because we are birds guys. It tells you the degree of difficulty, the size of the container. This brings people in from all over and the Town Hall Natural is hidden well, but you can find it. It's been found thirty-two times. Rett said it's been out here about seven months. Priscilla said they have some comments which were:

- Very nice park
- We really enjoyed this birdguise, thank you
- March 28 – I never realized they had this park, it was really nice
- March 28 – Another nice walk, much appreciated, beautiful park
- March 29 – this cache is very close to home and a park we visit often, nice to see the nature trail in the upper area. Until now, we haven't gotten far from the parking lot
- April 19 – quick find with the family and some friends. Kids have changed trinkets. We then spent an hour at the playground.
- April 29 – nice area for a walk. Nice to see some parks still care about nature and preserving it. Thanks for bringing us to this area.
- December 2 – A quiet afternoon in the park, beautiful
- January 16 – nice quick find, even in the snow.
- February 21 – this was a nice short walk to the g's ground zero, nice park

1 Priscilla said that's what they were trying to accomplish – get people to the park. Rett said we did the same
2 strategy in Florida in Parks. Priscilla said the other one is called Heller High at the Heller Homestead. It's
3 been found twenty-eight times and here are the comments we were hoping to get?

- 4 • October 2 – nice park, I've never been here before
- 5 • October 3 – drove by here many times, but never stopped, thanks for all the wonderful parks in this
6 area
- 7 • October 4 – out on a pretty fall day, I like the smell of the woods in the fall, good hiding n a
8 beautiful area
- 9 • October 6 – this is a nice park
- 10 • October 10- really nice park and I had no idea it was here, thanks for bringing me here

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12 Glenn said can you tell where the people are from? Priscilla said yes. Rett said you can find out where
13 they live. Most people are close by, but geo caching, once you get to a certain level, you probably found all
14 the capsules near you, so you have both types. Initially you are going to get more people that are close
15 except when you have geo cache events, a lot of people will come from out of town. Priscilla said they
16 actually have picnics and have big events where people come all over from geographic areas to find the
17 ones that are local. Other comments were:

- 18 • Nice trail, nice Homestead
- 19 • I've lived here all my life and never knew this park existed.

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22 Priscilla said that's what we were hoping to accomplish by putting these caches in the park. We are now
23 going to try Polk Valley and have a two stage which means one stage where they find a clue to the second
24 stage. Rett said they have to be a tenth of a mile apart. Polk Valley is so big; we can have a lot of caching.
25 Priscilla said while we were in Florida, we were responsible for holding a geo caching event at the Carlton
26 Reserve, which is a 25,000 acre park in Sarasota County. We had about 75 people. A lot of families came
27 in for the day and there were twelve caches hidden. It was a big family day. At one of the caches, Rett was
28 out and she was with the Ranger and Rett called and said there's a six foot diamond back rattlesnake and a
29 pigmy rattlesnake sitting on one of the caches. What should I tell him to do? The Ranger said they will
30 leave eventually. It's another world of geo caching down there. There is a Lehigh Valley geo caching
31 website. They found over 500 geo caches already. Glenn said do you put the coordinates in where the geo
32 caches are? Rett said it has to be approved by the geo caching association. They have a coordinator and
33 they approve it. You can put it on public areas. You can't put it on private property without permission.
34 Our first cache is down where Glenn lives, it's on the bridge. We got permission to do that from the owner
35 who owns that property. Priscilla said their friends live near Glenn and it's a very clever one. Someone
36 said could they use a car GPS? Priscilla said you can't use a car GPS. Rett said the software on here is
37 different. Priscilla said it was used by the military so they could locate bombing fields, etc. Rett said we
38 use the actual satellite. Right now is a good time to go as there are no leaves up there. It's a lot of fun.
39 When you find it, you log in on the internet and you write a little note. There's one opposite Starter's Pub.
40 Priscilla said the businesses put them there so you go into their place of business. You go to Geocache.com
41 and it gives you the map and it will give you the Google map and the road maps, whichever you want to
42 use. They have found over 500 and they have been doing it less than a year. Priscilla said they try to get
43 one in every state. Inside of these, there are gorgeous field coins that are made and you take them and put
44 them at another place. There are travel dogs that have little dog tags on. That's why kids like this as there
45 are little trinkets in there that you can take. If you take something, you have to leave something. We leave
46 because we are birders, little plastic toads and frogs. There is stuff you actually have to log in that you take
47 like the travel bugs and the coins. The coins are really beautiful and valuable. You take them, and then
48 you log them in and move on. You can see some of the travel bugs we've passed on have gone 4,000 to
49 5,000 miles. Some have come from Europe. It gives you a whole new level of people that you've never
50 met before. Rett said high tech education with families that are a little bit high tech, and they take their
51 kids out, the kids enjoy it. That's why it works very well for family groups and for people that are retired.
52 Priscilla said a lot of birders do it as we are all out there birding anyway. Any age can participate. We're
53 happy to get a start in Lower Saucon. He asked if they received any interest from anyone else? Jack said

1 he hasn't received anything since the last time they talked. Rett said he will send a form to Jack when he
2 gets back to Florida. There is one in Southeastern Park. Someone said is it a written rule that you wouldn't
3 put one in Southeastern Park as well? Priscilla said they have to be a tenth of a mile apart, so if there is
4 enough room in Southeastern, they can. Rett said they are going to put one out there when the meadow
5 blooms. Priscilla said it will be a tribute to the meadow. Jack said there is a story about Larry Weaner
6 when he came and proposed the meadow and it came out and council approved it and he planted it. The
7 next year after, they were not seeing anything, only a couple of weeds came up. The second year, he got a
8 report from PW that there was still nothing growing there. He panicked and called Larry Weaner and told
9 him to come out and take a look at it as nothing is growing. He comes out and checks it out and says
10 everything is fine. That was two years ago. Last year Jack was reading an article in the newspaper about
11 Larry Weaner doing a 100 acre meadow for this rich guy in Connecticut, and he said at the end of nine (9)
12 years there will be a beautiful meadow right outside his door! Jack said he doesn't remember him saying
13 anything about it taking nine years. Someone said it's already been at least three years. Jack said we don't
14 have to do anything to it. It continues to grow. Rett says it just takes time. Jack said in nine years you will
15 have a full meadow and can sit out there and appreciate it. At the end of the year, you mow it. You just let
16 it go. It is coming. Priscilla said if you want us to do any program to introduce people to geo caching, they
17 can do that. They did an introduction to bird watching for Freemansburg and they would be happy to do
18 that. In one day, they raised \$1,000 for a park by having a bird-a-thon which is an all day count from 7:30
19 AM to 1:00 PM. They had the high school biology teacher get student volunteers. They had pledge for the
20 number of birds you saw. Rett said the parks in Florida are basically run by volunteers. Most are run by a
21 friends of the parks organization which you could do in Lower Saucon. What they basically do is
22 independent fundraising and do volunteer events and run those events. He hasn't seen anything in
23 Northampton County. There are a lot of retired people involved in it. Priscilla said down there, they give
24 matching funds from the government for the volunteer hours they have. She doesn't know if it exists up
25 here, but it's something to look into. The friends organizations have meetings and come up with ideas on
26 how to raise a lot of money and do a lot of volunteer work. Rett said the one friends organization, they
27 have over \$10,000 in their budget and they are unrestricted to what they can do with that money. It's just
28 an idea. Dave said if you wanted to have a class or presentation at the park, he can't imagine anyone who
29 would not like that idea. It's something educational and brings people into the park and showcases our
30 parks. Rett said they have open houses to show people the parks. Priscilla said maybe you can have a park
31 tour. Dave said you are so far ahead, would you mind giving us some ideas. Rett said that's why they
32 came tonight to share some of their ideas. Priscilla said most of the things they do is educational. They do
33 trail maintenance. Volunteers down there are allowed to use big tractor equipment because the liability is
34 covered by the State. In Sarasota County, they can use the four wheel drive vehicles and can use minor
35 equipment to clear the trails, but can't use any big equipment. They get a lot of work out of the volunteers.
36 Jack said right now, Polk Valley Park isn't finished and there's a lot of potential at Polk Valley Park. That
37 is still being developed and there are features that haven't been finished there. We haven't really thought
38 about programming. The fields have been open for sports teams, but the rest of the park is still growing.
39 One thing that will be coming is the rail trail. If we move ahead with that this year, there will hopefully be
40 an Advisory Committee. People like Donna Bristol from Park and Rec Committee will hopefully be on
41 that committee plus others from the other four communities. Rett said they have a rail trail that just opened
42 down the road from them in Florida. They go to the meetings and there are 30 people there. Donna said
43 the Ironton Rail Trail has a lot of people involved with it. Priscilla said they attended a lot of the meetings.
44 She said she can get the organizational chart for the friends group they belong to, and why don't you think
45 about having Friends of Lower Saucon Township parks. It would be an outgrowth of this group and they
46 would be glad to help in any way they could to bring the information to you. That's a way to get people to
47 protect your parks also. At the Carlton Reserves, they have such dedicated people who just love that
48 25,000 acre park and want it to be kept natural. They have cameras that they put out which are motion
49 detectors and have gotten pictures of panthers, deer and everything imaginable. The friends buy those
50 cameras. Jack asked for any information they can give to him. The Orens said they will be here for five or
51 six months. Let them know how they can help. Sheri said they could do a flyer for school as it's a family
52 type of thing. Rett said everything is announced by the way of the internet. Jack said who runs the Geo
53 caching.com website? Priscilla said it was started by geeks who worked for the government, and then in

1 the year 2000, the government decided to release to the public some of the GPS coordinates. These guys
2 who were really working with the government, they did this to each other. They would take things and
3 hide them. Jack said who supports it, is there a fee? Priscilla said no, it's free to join. Rett said it's mostly
4 donation and it's \$30 per year. Jack said is the price of these GPS units gone down at all? Rett said he paid
5 \$280 and he got it through the internet. This is for hunters and fisherman. They could give Parks and Rec
6 a demonstration. Jack said in June, July and August, they have their meetings at a park. Rett said he'd like
7 to do it wherever you want. Tom said we could start 15 to 20 minutes before the meeting. Dave said let's
8 meet at Polk Valley Park. The group said that would be fine.
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10 **5. Projects**
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- 12 • **Town Hall Park** – Jack said we are going to be adjusting the lights on the softball field. He spoke to
13 Roger about them and apparently the last time the lights were adjusted was when Saucon Fest was out
14 there, which has been awhile. We are going to get the aerial truck out there one night when the team is
15 there and they will adjust the lights. Most of them are shining straight down and they must be spread
16 out to cover more of the field. They will take care of that. The other thing that happened was there
17 was graffiti written on the walls at the restrooms and the police are investigating. That's the first time
18 that has happened in awhile.
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- 20 • **Southeastern Park** – Jack said they are trying to get out and look at the meadow. He's been trying to
21 get a sponsor for the further development of the meadow plan. The Saucon Creek Watershed
22 Association at one point said they would be a sponsor and would be in charge of the development.
23 That's putting the trails in, the gazebo; some of the bird watching areas that we need to start putting in
24 there so when it grows up, people can walk through and enjoy the whole thing. He's still looking for
25 someone to take charge of that. The trails will be easy as they are mulch. The only expense would be
26 the gazebo and some other types of benches in some of the areas. We just need someone to get in there
27 and kind of spearhead it.
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- 29 • **Steel City Park** – Jack said nothing new on this. They looked at the sketch plan, made some
30 recommendations and Council took a look at it, discussed it, and they had some recommendations as
31 far as the parking. That has all gone back to the Planner. The copy of the sketch plan is in the lobby for
32 the public and there is a copy on the website under "Parks – Steel City Park". Dave said was the
33 parking changed to face the field? Jack said Judy hasn't gotten back to us on that. She heard from
34 Parks and Rec and Council and has all the recommendations. Glenn said on Riverside Drive, they
35 can't do it other than parallel. It's really dangerous to back up on a main road. Dave said that's true in
36 every municipality, but that road is not that heavily traveled. Most municipalities do waive it if the
37 roads are not that heavily traveled. The problem is going to be they are just going to have to park all
38 around the park whether it's designated parking or not. If you make it head on, there won't be as much
39 parking. Riverside is a PennDOT road. That would then be virtually impossible. Jack said it is a state
40 road going all the way up to the Narrows. That is still being looked at and we'll have another
41 opportunity to look at it again. There were some other recommendations about the ball field and the
42 fencing we discussed. Glenn said he brought the color of the fence to the Planner and the Planner said
43 black was actually better.
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- 45 • **Heller Homestead** – Jack said based on a recommendation from the Saucon Valley Community Center
46 (SVCC), we recommended to Council to NOT hold a summer recreation youth program there, so we
47 are going to go with three parks – Town Hall, Southeastern and Steel City. He did a count on the
48 number of children and it's close to 300 in the two sessions at those parks. There are a lot of kids being
49 served by those programs. That's been approved for another year and we'll also have the program for
50 pre-school children at Seidersville Hall. Dave said were there sign ups yet? Jack said they will start on
51 May 18th. The information is on the SVCC website and you have to show up in person at the
52 Community Center in Hellertown to register. They don't do it online. People will be lining up to get
53 into that program.

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- **Polk Valley Park** – Jack said with the dog park, the turf is not developing to the point where we thought it was adequate to open it for use because it would have been torn up and turned into dust and mud pretty quickly. We asked the Planner to come up with some recommendations and Public Works is going to do everything, except for the herbicide application, to re-seed it and water it and by September, we are hoping it will have a nice, thick turf. We will get another sign that says “Opening in Fall 2009”. We had to chain the gates. People were pushing the gates so hard and going inside the fence. That is shut down and we’ll keep you posted. If you get up there, take a look at it and hopefully you’ll see some progress with the grass.

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With Polk Valley Park, Saucon Valley Soccer had made an offer to reseed bare spots on the soccer fields. Glenn passed that information on to us and Jack reached out to Joe Long. They were prepared to go ahead with it except we ran into a conflict as we have scheduled an application of the crabgrass pre-emergent on the fields. We talked to them about using a spray instead of a pellet type of thing. Joe then said they would hold off as they were going to seed all of the fields. We will be doing a slit seeding in the fall. Dave said has anyone addressed that bad spot? Jack said he asked Roger about that and he hasn’t been able to see any evidence of it because there has been a lot of rain on the fields and the whole field is wet. He hasn’t been able to pinpoint it yet. It was on field no. 3, closest to the road at the east end. Dave said they talked about shutting the field down. He said it’s a bad spot, either it got compacted or there’s not enough topsoil. There was a washout on the warning track on one of the baseball fields and we did put a drain to take care of that. Jack said the “No Mow” signs were approved by Council. It was the version that the P&R recommended. The EAC also agreed with that sign. There was a question about should they read the “meadow” area or “naturalized” area because they will be used both for the meadows and the naturalized detention basins? They spoke to the planner and they can get both. Where there’s a meadow, it will say no mow as this is a meadow area and where there is a naturalized area, which some of the detention basins are going to be naturalized, we’ll use those signs there to indicate why they aren’t being mowed. There will be ten (10) signs at Polk Valley and two (2) signs at the Southeastern Park.

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The plaque up at the park has been placed for Manny Tavormino on a rock and it looks nice. It’s on the area as you overlook the soccer fields. Public Works will be up there to finish the rest of the concrete walkways. They have a lot of landscaping to do. They need to come in with topsoil. We will be working in September on the meadow area on top and will be spreading a herbicide and will do a meadow mix. Heritage Conservancy is doing this as part of a grant we received. The bid package is being put together for the additional landscaping that will be done at the park which includes the fencing that we recommended on the soccer fields. The two baseball fields are about 98% finished. They are being used by the different sports groups. The backstop has been fixed. It looks good. The only thing up there is Lou Moyer from soccer reported that he was up there lining one of the fields and noticed that an adult group of soccer players was using the field and they were not registered. They were identified and we called them. The other was a baseball group which was using the soccer field. He saw them practicing at the baseball fields. It’s Little League and they were on the soccer fields. If you see anybody, let the Township know. We are working on a program to get the schedules for the fields on the website and also on the bulletin boards that we will be locating at the parks showing who has reserved the fields. If the fields are closed because of inclement weather, we will get some signage up there that says the fields are closed. Dave asked if ChemLawn was put out to bid? Jack said it’s under the amount that is required for bids, so we just call them and they come in. They do the crabgrass in most of the fields in all the parks. Dave said what is the threshold? Jack said \$4,000 to \$10,000, we can get quotes by telephone and anything over \$10,000 we have to put out to bid. Under \$4,000 we can just call somebody up. For pest management services, we use Terminex. Because we added all other parks, we could do an RFP and put it out for bid. We did the port-a-johns to see what was out there. We got rid of the firm from last year. The one we have now is a little bit better. They are cleaning the port-a-johns on a regular schedule. When you are out there, check those things out. Open the door and see what it looks like, when it was serviced last. Give him a call or email him as

1 sometimes after a weekend people dump trash in them. When the dog park opens, people are not
2 supposed to be putting the dog poop in the port-a-johns, they are supposed to be using the mutt mitt
3 stations.
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- 5 • **Kingston Park** – Jack said we thought we could do this in May, but because the Engineer has to do
6 storm water testing, this is going to be pushed off until the June meeting so Council is looking forward
7 to that discussion on Kingston Park to look at the final plan and see what it looks like. We are pretty
8 good with the trails and all the other things. There's a garden that's been recommended by a group and
9 it's something that Council has to look at. The other thing that went up there was the Township paid
10 for a bat exclusion project on the Lutz-Franklin Schoolhouse. The bats had made a home up in the attic.
11 We brought in a bat expert who blocked all of the openings in the roof. The bats left to go to their
12 winter home, and while they were gone, we had to get the exclusion done by April as they were due
13 back the first week in April. He showed pictures of the bat condo. It holds up to 1,000 bats. There are
14 a couple of levels inside of it. There is a door that can be opened once a year to clean it out and we
15 don't know right now who will be doing that.
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- 17 • **Grants** – Jack said there is nothing new with the grants.
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- 19 • **Volunteers/Scout Projects** – Jack said he had another Eagle Scout candidate come in and talk to him.
20 This was a young man who came in with his father. Jack asked him what his time limit was on
21 working on this project. The Scout said he had to have it done by the time he's 18. Jack asked him
22 how old he was and he said he was 14. Jack put together a list of possible Eagle Scout projects. The
23 Scouts are helping Sandy Yerger in Polk Valley Park by doing bird houses. If you have any other ideas,
24 let Jack know and he'll keep a list and keep adding to it. He would like the native plant garden as
25 priority as it needs attention. Dave said in the paper, MJ Roche won the Donnelly Award that's given
26 to some of the top students at SVSD. He'd done very well. Jack said there are a lot of young people
27 getting involved with projects.
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29 6. **Old Business**

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- 31 • **Dog Park – Update** – Discussed above under Polk Valley Park.
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- 33 • **Draft Pest Management Policy** – Jack said the Planner is working on this as a stand-alone policy. It's
34 mentioned in the Park Maintenance policy and it's a good pest management policy that we can work
35 with. He's working with staff on some designs and drafts for the park maintenance signs which is one
36 of the things that we need and we will put up some regulations and some schedules about events like
37 Rett and Priscilla are doing. We will bring those to Council for approval.
38
- 39 • **Draft Policy for Use of Township Parks & Athletic Facilities** – Jack said the Maintenance Policy
40 was adopted by the township Council for the parks. We spent a lot of time working on that. We need
41 to tweak it because Dave Oatis from the USGA had a look at it and he made some recommendations.
42 We are going to change it slightly based on his recommendations. Otherwise, we have been using it for
43 the lawn mowing contract and that regulates how the fields should be mowed. We are using it for the
44 fertilization of the fields.
45
- 46 • **RFP for Agronomist/Turf Management Specialist – Update** – Council approved that and we made
47 some revisions to that based on recommendations from Dave Oatis and that was sent out. Dave Spirk
48 gave recommendations for a Soils Specialist. We sent it out to ten (10) people. Dave said it is open to
49 anyone who applies. Jack said it does say you need some background qualifications. Dave said it
50 doesn't have to be those ten people. Jack said we sent it out to ten professionals. Some were soil
51 scientists. Two were from Silver Creek Country Club. One was from Saucon Valley Country Club
52 and Adam Moeller is an associate of Dave Oatis at USGA. Jack said there is someone from Lawn
53 Magic. Adam from the USGA and said this may be a little bit more than he's willing to do. Jack said

1 maybe it's more than we need, but we need to see a full range of these proposals. He told him to send
2 in a proposal and give us a cost estimate and we'll look at it. Dave said he does do a great job. The
3 answer should be just give us a proposal whatever it may be. It could be once they start, we don't need
4 as much or we may need a little more. Jack said hopefully we'll get some good responses and bring it
5 back to P&R. He gave them to the end of May. The other professional that Council has asked for
6 proposals on is for the trees along Polk Valley Road that we felt were going to be impacted by the
7 connector trail to the school district campus. We got a proposal back from Joshua Tree in Hellertown.
8 Council reviewed that and had some questions about some things he had recommended. There was a
9 meeting held out at the trail with Ms. Herman and the Joshua Tree, the Planner and Tom Maxfield were
10 there. One of the things they discussed was the horse chestnut directly in front of the farmhouse, that's
11 the one they are most worried about. The spruce tree next to it is going to be taken down. The main
12 thing is that with any trail with pavement or concrete, there would have been some excavation and that
13 they felt was going to cause a problem with the root system and impact on the longevity of the trees.
14 The recommendation the Planner made was to lay the trail on a board walk type of construction over
15 the section where the trees were. It's a series of grids filled with an aggregate. It's all designed so the
16 trees will be okay. Dave said he read it and it sounds like a great idea. Jack said when we talked about
17 the trail; we talked about a couple different surfaces. He showed P&R members a picture of what he
18 was talking about. The main thing is not to dig down to the root system. Dave said the arborist
19 believes you can put more soil on existing surface and it won't affect the roots. Jack said it's a board
20 walk type of trail with a non compacted gravel base that is installed on existing grade. Dave said when
21 they were developing land, anytime they run it over the areas that are underneath the canopies, they do
22 damage to the root systems or if we put extra soil on top, not doing any digging and eventually the tree
23 will die. Jack said there won't be any equipment allowed in the trail section. It has to be performed on
24 the street to avoid any compaction. Dave said it's a great idea and we're doing the best to keep the tree.
25 Jack said that's coming to Council. The barn removal is being held up by the Herman's attorney. We
26 are trying to find out what his issues are. We are trying to get that settled and get a meeting with the
27 Herman's to discuss the demolition of the barn section. We'll push ahead on that.

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- 29 • **Polk Valley Road Connector Trail – Update** – This was talked about above under Polk Valley Park.
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- 31 • **SEPTA Rails to Trail – Update** – Jack said we will be holding another meeting on May 11th. We are
32 bringing in the SEPTA lawyers and SEPTA engineers. They are going to meet with our solicitors as
33 we want to get this ironed out. The SEPTA engineers in the Real Estate Department and the Chairman
34 of the Authority has been pushing this. The legal department is taking their good old time. We will get
35 their lawyer in here. That's coming up next Monday. They are still some rails left in place in
36 Hellertown. They started on the signal boxes and we want to get a progress report on that as there's a
37 lot of stuff that has to be taken out. There are tanks in Hellertown that are buried and have to be
38 removed. We can't do anything physically on the track right now until the lease is signed. Jack said
39 he was at the opening of the Farmer's Market on Sunday and he said they were in the perfect spot as in
40 the future their customers could bike to the Farmer's Market. Council did adopt the resolution on the
41 formation of the Rail Trail Advisory Committee. He passed it out to the other three municipalities and
42 he hasn't heard of any progress, but he's hoping at the meeting of May 11th we can get that moving.
43 They have some recommendations from other residents who want to be on the committee and we have
44 to decide on the length of the term of appointment. The Township is also looking at a piece of property
45 adjacent to the trail that could be a potential trailhead. They are talking to the properly owner right now
46 for either purchase or easement to use that. The big thing on this, as Donna pointed out; he hoped we
47 would have a name for the trail. He sent something out a while ago, but never heard anything back.
48 That's what starts it out – an identity. Dave said we cannot send people on to that trail yet until we own
49 it. Donna said it's a long process. Jack said he didn't hear from the other bodies about the Joint Rail
50 Trail Advisory Committee. Dave said it's important for us to move along quickly. Jack said from the
51 township's perspective, as soon as we hear that we are getting close, and the Council signs the lease
52 agreement, we need to move fast to block four wheeled vehicles from using the trail. Dave said maybe
53 we should put signs telling visitors what can and what cannot go on. Jack said we'll take care of that as

1 far as no parking signs, etc. Dave said the day that the lease if ours, they have to go up. Donna said we
2 should start getting things done and the other municipalities will probably follow our lead. Jack said if
3 they don't go for the Rail Trail Advisory Committee, then Lower Saucon will have an Advisory
4 Committee with Hellertown. Upper Saucon has a few issues with the Lutron Plant and the
5 Tumblebrook Golf Course. It's just a matter of them working that out with SEPTA legally. He hasn't
6 heard anything from Coopersburg. Dave said he doesn't think this will happen fast. Jack said the guy
7 from the Real Estate Department at SEPTA warned us to be prepared to deal with their legal
8 department. The last group they worked with, they did 42 drafts of the lease document before they were
9 done. We're only at seven or eight. With the meeting on the 11th, we should have something ready by
10 the end of May, beginning of June to bring to the Council. People are going to go down Old Mill Road
11 and Meadows Road and see this four mile open track, and they are going to go on it. Jack said he uses
12 a rail trail in New Jersey that is only one track wide. Ours is two tracks so it is very wide. Dave said
13 has the Council talked about putting modified stone down right away? Jack said we haven't discussed
14 it yet. Dave said it's going to be difficult to walk on those pieces of slag. Jack said we are going to roll
15 it and put something down. Dave said rolling it does not do a tremendous amount so you have to put
16 something else down and then you roll it. Jack said we will do that. Dave said you have to have a
17 decent budget. You have to put it down with a paver. Jack said the thing we are ready to get going is
18 the grant application. That all needs to be lined up. He'll hopefully hear from the other groups. Dave
19 said he thinks we should make a recommendation that the Council thinks about a budget, a number,
20 because that's going to be more important than anything else. Donna said with the Ironton Rail Trail,
21 there are different sections that groups are committed to. Dave said the problem he sees with that, if
22 Jack is correct and we get the trail in July, how are you going to get all these different groups together.
23 The Township has the equipment that could put this stuff down, and maybe \$10,000 worth of materials,
24 whatever it is, but you have to create a line item for that. He asked what the length was? Jack said it
25 was eight miles and 33 foot right of way; it's like a wide road. We don't have to surface all thirty feet.
26 Jack said by the time we come back for our June meeting, he will have all this information ready for
27 them. If it looks like we're not moving ahead with the Rail Trail Advisory Committee idea, then we'll
28 just focus on Lower Saucon. Dave said you have to talk about it, how much are we going to spend,
29 how are we going to do it, are we going to get an Engineer, what are the specifications, so maybe, as
30 this unit here, we should recommend to Council that someone thinks about exactly what is going to be
31 put down and what is the cost going to be. Donna said she's seen it many times that you get an
32 engineer in there, and you are spending more money on that then if you just went ahead and did it
33 yourself. The guys from PW could probably tell you what to do. Dave said he agrees. Jack said he
34 will have more information next meeting. He said you'll be walking on it this year sometime. The
35 other thing about the surface is we've got two bridges and we have to get railings on there. There are
36 some safety things, so until those safety features are in, we have to block it until it's ready. Maybe we
37 can open up sections that don't have the bridges; we'll see what we can do.

- 38
- 39 • **Christ Lutheran Church Ball Fields – Update** – Jack said we are still waiting for the congregation to
40 vote on that. It's just a matter of them taking a vote and then that property will be ours. We are out
41 fixing the dugout. The roof blew off and it's been replaced.
- 42
- 43 • **Lawn Mowing Bid** – Jack said he reported that Hill Crest of Coopersburg has started mowing the
44 grass. They'll have a lot to do this week after it stops raining. PW is staying on top of them and
45 making sure they are complying with the maintenance program. They seem to be doing a good job so
46 far.
- 47
- 48 • **Adopt-A-Road Policy** – Jack said we were approached by an organization who said they would like to
49 pick up litter on one of our roads sort of like PennDOT does. We put together a policy that will be
50 going to Council on Wednesday for Adopt-A-Road similar to the way PennDOT does it. It has all the
51 various rules and safety procedures. If Council adopts that, we'll be putting that out to various groups
52 and organizations and if they want to adopt Old Philadelphia Pike, or something like that, they can.
53 Hopefully it will be a two mile section. We'll give them vests, safety bags, the whole works.

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7. **New Business:**

- **Review Site Plans (Scenic View Apartments Revised Site Plan)** – Jack said this is on Flint Hill Road by Saddle Ridge. There is nothing new on this. They need a lot of variances.
- Jack handed out some FYIs. These are for different events. The Appalachian Mountain Club is working on holding some events to highlight the trails. The objective is to link the whole northeast into a trail system. They are doing a kickoff event at the Riegelsville Bridge on Saturday, May 16th.

8. **Adjournment:** Motion for adjournment. All in favor. The time was 8:50 P.M.