

SAUCON RAIL TRAIL OVERSIGHT COMMISSION MEETING

April 23, 2012 - 6:00 PM

Upper Saucon Township Building

5500 Camp Meeting Road

Center Valley PA 18034

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL- Roger Jurczak, Chairman

Present were: Roger Jurczak, Chairman, Lower Saucon Township

1. Steve LaBrake, Vice Chairman, Hellertown Borough
2. Chuck Hampton, Hellertown Borough
3. Joe Pampanin, Hellertown Borough
4. Jerry Holum, Lower Saucon Township
5. Perrie Layton, Coopersburg Borough
6. Susan Anderson, Upper Saucon Township
7. Sara Pandl, Upper Saucon Township
8. Joe Geib, Upper Saucon Township
9. Jack Cahalan, Lower Saucon Township

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Judy Krasnicke, Saucon Creek Watershed Association and PSU Master Gardeners

Ms. Krasnicke had an update about the plantings along the County Club. She spoke with Jim Roney, Grounds Manager, and he expressed interest in helping manage invasive plants along the Trail, as well as helping to plant hemlocks and rhododendrons and other native plants. The Country Club cannot provide any financial support for any replanting, especially since they have many other storm damage replantings to do already.

Chris Cummings of Springtown Hill Nursery offered to donate trees for the planting project. We would recognize his donation at one of the kiosks.

3. ITEMS REQUIRING COMMISSION APPROVAL

- a. Minutes from March 26, 2012 meeting - Motion as made to accept meeting minutes of March 26, 2012 as corrected; Chuck Hampton was not present at the meeting. Motion was unanimously approved.
- b. March Financial Report - The balance as of March 31 was \$6,422.03. The receipts for the month were \$18.15. There were 223.08 in expenses in March. Mr. Cahalan reported that the bank had stopped the monthly checking account fee, and will reimburse us the previous fees. A motion was made to accept the financial report. The motion was unanimously approved.
- c. Bills to Pay (if any) - None. It was noted that no contract has been received from the web hosting site and that a contract would need to be received before payment could be made.
- d. Website Designer Contract – Questions about scope of work, maintenance, and future support have been addressed. Municipal Managers & SRTOC Chairs will have access to update content and perform maintenance.
There will also be content about the businesses near the Trail, and available on a map. Steve is working to get a list and a map from the Valley Voice.

4. TRAIL PROJECTS
 - a. SRT Website – the website will include content on the following information:
 - Map
 - Business Directory (Hellertown, Coopersburg)
 - Rules of the Trail
 - Walking History Tours
 - Mile Markers
 - Memorial Bench Donation Information
 - Calendar
 - Geocaching
 - Photo Gallery
 - Facebook
 - b. SRT Map / Flyer – Joe Geib distributed a new copy of the map and flyer for the trail. The updated map included all the parks and access points along the Trail, as well as mileage between the points. The new map was met with approval. We can have the map printed to be posted at the kiosks. We do not want to dispense the maps at the kiosks, as we do not want the Trail to be littered with discarded maps.
Roger noted that Mile 0 along the route started at Reading Terminal in Philadelphia. We will include this fact on the flyer.
 - c. Trail Markers & Benches - No new news to report.
 - d. Kiosk (Hellertown) – Roger recently sanded and put tung oil on the kiosk.
 - e. Bingen Station History – to be renamed “History of the North Penn Railroad”
 - f. Creek Visibility by Wagner Dam – Roger and Jerry had suggested altering the fence along the creek by adding a section of chain link fence to create a viewpoint to allow Trail users to take in the view of the creek.
5. Trail Maintenance
 - a. Trail Dust – Hellertown and Lower Saucon are looking at solutions for the dust, including treatments to the trail surface.
6. Trail Events – Hellertown Borough Council approved the Event Registration Form, but expressed concern about distinguishing between Trail and Park events. Due to the mixed use of the Parks and Trail in Hellertown Borough and Upper Saucon Township, event organizers would need to get approval from the respective municipalities prior to an event being approved and held.
7. Other Issues –
 - a. Official Roster – Joe will be compiling and distributing an official master roster of all members.
 - b. Mile Race – There is an event request for a Mile Race on the Trail on July 22 (rain date July 29).
 - c. Master Plan – There needs to be a master plan made for the long-range maintenance of the trail and its vegetation – which areas will be manicured, and what will be left naturalized. Jack will get a map to Judy Krasnicke.
8. Next Meeting - June 25, 2012, Lower Saucon Township [July 23rd HB; August 27th CB]
The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.