

**Saucon Valley Partnership Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 11, 2012**

- A. Call to Order** – Priscilla deLeon – 7:00 p.m.
- B. Present** – Priscilla deLeon, Glenn Kern, Tom Rieger, Ed Inghrim, John Bate, Richard Fluck, Tom Harp, Cathy Kichline, and Leslie Huhn.
- C. Election of Officers (One Year Term)**

- 1. Election of Chair**

- Motion was made to have Ed Inghrim serve as Chair. Motion was unanimously carried.

- 2. Election of Vice Chair**

- Motion was made to have John Bate serve as Vice-Chair. Motion was unanimously carried.

- 3. Election of Secretary/Treasurer**

- Motion made to have Leslie Huhn serve as the Secretary/Treasurer. Motion was unanimously carried.

- D. Council of Governments**

- 1. Minutes**

- Motion made by John Bate, seconded by Glenn Kern, to approve the December 14, 2011, meeting minutes as written. Motion was unanimously carried.

- 2. Treasurer's Report**

- Ms. Huhn – The fund balance as of December 31, 2012, is \$15,357.35. No bills have been paid. There are still \$2.00 bank fees and Cathy Gorman is still working with the bank to have them waived. The checking account balance as of November 30, 2011, is \$3,867.49.

- Motion made by Glenn Kern, seconded by John Bate, to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion was unanimously carried.

- 3. Approval to Pay Bills – None**

- D. Brief Reports and Discussion Items**

- 1. Casino Impacts Funding/County Gaming Authority – Update**

- Ms. Kichline – New representatives for Hellertown and Lower Saucon have been nominated to fill the vacancies on the Gaming Authority. The nominees will go before County Council for approval. I will report back at the next meeting.

- We were invited to an information session on January 9, 2012, to discuss the new rules for gaming grants. The administration can now review the applications for completeness

and will let the municipally know what needs to be corrected. There will not be a presentation but rather a question and answer session. The 5 contiguous municipalities will be awarded first and the County and City of Bethlehem can apply for any funds left over. March 2, 2012, is the deadline for Committed Fund Applications.

Mr. Inghrim – Who has been nominated?

Ms. Kichline – Hellertown Borough Council nominated David Heintzelman.

Mr. Kern – Lower Saucon nominated John Blair.

2. Joint COG Projects (Saucon Rail Trail; Peer Recreation Study Committee) – Update

Ms. Huhn – The trail markers have been installed in Upper Saucon Township.

The Peer Recreation Study is working on the Survey Monkey and getting the Memorandum of Understanding signed by all parties.

Mr. Rieger – We are looking to have the survey ready by mid-March..

Ms. Huhn – Lower Saucon Township has made a few minor changes to the Memorandum. A copy of those changes will be sent to Saucon Valley School District and Hellertown Borough.

Mr. Rieger – We may be able to get a discount on the Survey Monkey if we go through the Lehigh Valley Chamber.

3. Roads & Traffic (Polk Valley Road/412 Intersection HOP Application) – Update

There was nothing to report.

4. Saucon Valley Compost Center – Update

Ms. Kichline – It has been a good year for the Compost Center. A report will be provided at the next meeting.

Mr. Kern – When will the Compost Center be open for Christmas Trees?

Ms. Kichline – January 14, 21, and 28, 2012.

5. Fire Services – Update

There was nothing to report

6. Library Task Force – Update

Ms. Huhn – There is a meeting on January 12, 2012. The Committee is also looking into using the Survey Monkey.

Ms. Kichline – They will have a Public Hearing on April 12, 2012, to discuss the findings and to make recommendations.

7. Regional Police Study – Update

Ms. Kichline – The study is moving forward. They peer consultant has met with staff, Mayor, and Councils. We should be getting a report in February.

8. Other Issues

1. Emergency Management

Ms. Huhn – We are waiting to hear from Sandra Fellin to have her speak to the Partnership. Mr. Cahalan is looking into Nixle, which is a free alert system.

Mr. Rieger – Hellertown is looking into the system that we have and the system has more capability than what we have been using.

Ms. deLeon – Would this create an additional cost to the Authority?

Mr. Rieger – The costs are already shared. The Borough can create different lists and we would get the bill.

Mr. Bate – We should look into doing a joint database.

Mr. Rieger – It would be easier to have one database rather than having to make changes in six. We need to explore what we have and expand on it.

Ms. deLeon – Perhaps we can mail the information forms with the property taxes.

Ms. Kichline – I would like a web-based form where the residents can go in and change their information rather than having staff do it.

2. Animal Control

Ms. deLeon – Lower Saucon signed the contract with the Center for Animal Welfare because we had no other choice.

Ms. Kichline – Hellertown has an animal control officer. He makes every effort to find the owner and would only take an animal to the shelter as a last resort. We did not renew our contract with the Center. We built pens to house 2 dogs. The animals will be housed in the kennel and we have a lost dog page on our website. We also have a list of people willing to house/foster the animals. If there is a sick or injured animal, it would be taken to Saucon Valley Animal Hospital at the Borough's expense.

Ms. deLeon – The Center has already turned away 2 dogs.

Ms. Huhn – Eventually Lower Saucon may have to follow suit and build a holding area and look into hiring an animal control officer.

Ms. deLeon – We are looking into having a booth at Community Day about chipping/tattooing pets.

Ms. Huhn – We will also be including information in our next newsletter.

3. Other

Ms. deLeon – I attended a meeting on Passport to History. March 11, 2012, will be a celebration of the incarnation of Northampton County in 1752. It will be held at Siegel Museum from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. There will be a historic slideshow and light refreshments will be served.

There will be a Hellertown/Lower Saucon Chamber luncheon on January 26, 2012, from 11:30 – 2:00 p.m. Steve LaBrake will be speaking and registration is due by January 20, 2012.

Lower Saucon has been giving money to the Saucon Valley Community Center to run senior programs at Seidersville Hall. The program is limited to Lower Saucon residents. Recently a Hellertown and Upper Saucon resident were told that they could not participate in the program. I feel we can come up with a plan to include them.

Mr. Kern – That would need to be taken up with Lower Saucon Council.

Mr. Rieger – The senior programs are also part of the Peer Recreation Study but the Peer Recreation Committee cannot solve this problem. It should be handled by Council.

Mayor Fluck – How much does the Township pay the Community Center?

Ms. Huhn – We pay about \$18,000.00 per year.

Mr. Bate – I was thinking about the need for an alternate if a member is not able to attend?

Mr. Rieger – Our Ordinance provides for any Council member to be an alternate if the need arises.

Mr. Inghrim – I will suggest to the school board that any member can be named an alternate.

F. County Report

1. County Update

Mr. Harp – Northampton County had a reorganization meeting on January 3, 2012. John Cusick was elected president and Peg Ferraro was elected Vice-President.

In 2004, the County entered into a swaption and it will cost 6.8 million dollars to get out of the deal. The County will need to make a payment by October 2012. Last year, the County passed a budget that did not balance. We may have to dip into the fund balance.

The County is also looking into building a place to house archives.

We had a celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the old portion of the Courthouse. All of the construction has been completed.

The Miracle League needs to raise \$750,000.00 to build and run the field. We are currently at \$400,000.00. We also received a \$25,000.00 grant.

Ms. deLeon – I attended the Joint COG presentation held at Hellertown Borough Hall. We had presentation on sustainable energy funds, a DCED update on economic development, upcoming recycling events, an EMA update, and a discussion on using the census maps to help with redistricting.

Ms. deLeon – We want to include the Miracle League with the joint study.

2. County Bridge #15 (Meadows Road Bridge)

Mr. Harp – I spoke with Mr. Stoffa and Mr. Kohler and they are interested in learning more about the bridge restoration. We would like to see other completed projects before we have someone come in.

G. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items – None

H. Calendar of Events

Ms. deLeon – The 5th Annual History Day will be held April 28, 2012.

Mr. Inghrim –I attended the first meeting with the Teacher’s Union. We will have a new law firm representing us. The Governor is looking into not reimbursing the school districts for their pension programs.

Mr. Rieger – The other bargaining units took a one-year pay freeze, correct?

Mr. Inghrim – Yes

I. Adjournment

Motion made by Priscilla deLeon, seconded by Glenn Kern, to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Motion unanimously carried.