

SAUCON VALLEY PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Date: Wednesday, January 12, 2011
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: Hellertown Borough

- A. **Call to Order:** The Saucon Valley Partnership meeting was called to order by John Bate on January 12, 2011 at 7:00 PM at Hellertown Borough.
- B. **Roll Call: Present:** John Bate, Lanita Lum, Priscilla deLeon, Glenn Kern, Ed Inghrim, Jack Cahalan, Charlie Luthar and Tom Harp from Northampton County. Guests: Jim Milot from Hanover Engineering, James McIntyre, Luciano Iaratola.
- C. **Election of Governments**
1. **Election of Chair** – Glenn moved to nominate Priscilla as Chair; second by Ed. All in favor.
 2. **Election of Vice Chair** – Priscilla moved to nominate Lanita for Vice Chair; second by Ed. All in favor.
 3. **Appointment of Secretary-Treasurer** – Priscilla moved to nominate Jack for Secretary-Treasurer; second by Lanita. All in favor.
- D. **Council of Governments**
1. **Minutes of the December meeting** – Priscilla said the minutes are ready for approval. Motion for approval from Ed to accept the December 8, 2011 minutes, seconded by John. All in favor.
 2. **Treasurer's Report** – Jack said the checking account balance at the end of December 2010 was \$3,870.42. There were no receipts and they did have a bank service charge from Wachovia Bank for \$2.00. The Treasurer's account at the end of December 2010, the balance was \$12,520.26. There were no receipts or expenses out of that account. Priscilla said the four of us each owe \$1,000.00 in January. Jack said correct, but they usually get the school district's payment in July. Motion by Ed, second by Glenn for approval of the Treasurer's Report. All in favor.
 3. **Approval to pay bills (if any):** Jack said there were no bills to pay.
- E. **Saucon Valley Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan**
1. **Peer-to-Peer Technical Assistant Grant Application** – Update – Jack said Charlie has been in touch with DCNR. Charlie said the peer consultant assigned by DCNR will be introduced at the February SVP meeting. Jack said they will ask the Recreation Study Committee members to come to that meeting also. That will be the kickoff and they will also have to set a schedule of meeting dates for that group. Ed asked if things were still working out with Bob Frey? Jack said the information Bob gave him has been circulated to everyone. There was no Parks & Recreation Board meeting this month, so he hasn't had any feedback. They will take it to the Recreation Study Committee as soon as they start meeting. Bob needs it by March or April so he can come to the school board and give you his recommendations.
 2. **Application for Gaming Funds for Zoning Audits** – Update – Jack said this has been submitted. in the uncommitted round of gaming grants. We were notified that there will be presentations before the Gaming Authority on February 28th. There were a number of applications submitted. We are making four presentations. He doesn't know if the zoning audits are going to make the cut. Priscilla said at the November Gaming Authority meeting, the committee that was appointed to

review the 50 some applications went through them and picked out what they considered were priority applications and they came up with sixteen. They eliminated four grants because they exceeded the funding that was available in the uncommitted funds. They deleted the awards that were duplicated as they were already awarded in the committed allocation round. Bethlehem Township withdrew their application for the signaling on Washington Street. That left the sixteen plus twenty-six others that in the Committee's opinion, they didn't feel should be priority. That doesn't mean the rest of the authority might reconsider that. At the moment, the sixteen applications that are going to be considered would be Bethlehem Township for a new ambulance: \$113,000.00; Bethlehem Township for nine (9) Opticom units: \$42,000.00; Bethlehem Township for two police cars: \$70,000.00; Bushkill Township for the Keller Road Bridge: \$50,000.00; Freemansburg for AEDs: \$20,000.00; Freemansburg for a Community Development Strategy: \$20,000.00; Northampton County EMS submitted one for training of volunteers for \$125,000.00; Stockertown for a police officer operative: \$5,238.00; Stockertown for a police vehicle: \$30,000.00. They are going to be on the January meeting for presentations. The February meeting will be Hellertown for Dewey Fire Company for Stortz adapters: \$25,067.00; Hellertown for six AEDs: \$8,646.00; Hellertown Police for four tasers: \$5,844.00; Hellertown/Lower Saucon Dewey Ambulance Lifepak upgrade: \$71,771.00; Hellertown/Lower Saucon Dewey Ambulance Life Stat: \$20,035.00; Lower Saucon for two police vehicles: \$60,000.00; Lower Saucon for a spill response trailer: \$5,000.00. They total sixteen and the meetings in January and February are at the County at 5:30 PM. Lower Saucon and Hellertown will go in February. As far as the other grants, in her opinion, they are not eliminated as they are trying to figure out how much uncommitted money we have because if it's not spent as of January 31, 2011, it becomes uncommitted. She's not happy the way the restricted money was handled; she wanted another round. She would have liked to see two rounds of funding for the restricted funds because the first round went up to October and November money and we really didn't know what the real money was going to be at the end of November, and according to the newspaper, there was a lot of money being wagered in December. She's not sure of the exact date. There has to be some money saved in the uncommitted money for operating expenses for the year. Glenn said how do they do that with the payroll? John said when they got the committed funds, they had to buy the things for the projects. They haven't received all the funding yet for the first round. They have to worry about spending it by January 17th. The checks were only partial. They will pay for the expense and when the check comes in, they will credit it. Charlie said the 75% that was received was deposited in an account at KNBT and they will be drawn down during the year. It will zero out in December. Charlie said the number of dollars for the sixteen projects, is that equal to what was available in funds that the Gaming Authority had? Priscilla said they total up \$712,000.00. She doesn't have that figure, so she doesn't know how to answer that. She can look it up and get back to him. Charlie said the reason for his question is that the zoning audit was not on the list you were talking about. He's wondering if there is any funding left that they can make an appeal before the meeting on February 28th. Priscilla said that's why her comments were that the sixteen were discussed at the October meeting as we'll interview them, but the rest of the Authority may look at the other list and say what about this, what about that. There's only so much money. If that can be tied in again, it has to be casino related. Charlie said land use and traffic is all part of that. Priscilla said the committee that looked at this which was comprised of Tom Nolan, Chris Bodnar, and Mayor Yob. They were the three that reviewed the applications and came up with this chart. This list is not prioritized. It's on the second tier, but they felt these other sixteen were more important than those.

F. Brief Reports and Discussion Items

- 1. Casino Impacts Funding/County Gaming Authority** – Update – Priscilla said she pretty much stated above all she knew.
- 2. Joint COG Projects (Rail-to-Trail; Joint Recreation Study Committee)**
Saucon Rail Trail – Jack said on the Township portion we are putting up the railings on the two bridges and that also covers a part of the bridge we share with Hellertown. They should have the

gates and bollards installed shortly. Charlie said they need about 60 feet of similar fencing for their Silver Creek portion. They are going to go back and try to get a better price on it and get some more bidders. In terms of bollards, at this point, they don't have the funding for that. They will use the Jersey barriers temporarily. They are still waiting on Signal Service to make a field visit and to move the pedestrian signals on the east side of Heller Homestead further into the Borough so they can use it for multiple purposes. They have an estimate of \$35,000.00 for that. Jack said they are waiting for the report on the slag for the surfacing material. Charlie said the Lehigh Valley Land Initiative has completed a Phase I and they are ready to do a Phase II on the Thomas Iron Slag. That would determine whether the material is okay to use for structural reuse. We tried some on the rail trail and it worked out very well. Before we do that, we need to make sure we have the environmental clearances on that. Another option would be to go with crushcrete and put stone on top of it. Charlie said they are pushing to get that done. The letter went to Upper Saucon and Coopersburg about the lack of an intergovernmental agreement. They haven't heard anything yet. They have a meeting scheduled for the 24th at Hellertown; and hopefully, there will be some movement.

Charlie said the High Street Bridge, the City of Bethlehem applied for funding from Transportation Enhancement. They have about \$800,000.00 and need about another \$500,000.00 in order to get the amount they need to replace the bridge with a two lane structure. They were turned down for the Transportation Enhancement grants. He doesn't know where they stand now as they have to come up with the balance this money. DCNR gave them \$400,000.00 and they had a settlement of \$400,000.00 from Norfolk Southern. That's still not enough to replace the bridge. They were also talking about a box culvert as that's cheaper, but it has some drawbacks as you are talking about a box that's pretty long and someone might be concerned about walking through it at night.

Priscilla said if she can back up, they were talking about the crosswalks at the Water Street Park and Heller Homestead - no one stops for the crosswalk. She's tested it millions of time. No one knows it is there, especially coming down Friedensville Road from Society Hill. She doesn't know how to fix it. Charlie said if Council would agree, they could install a speed table on Walnut Street, which is an elevated bump to slow traffic on that road. Jim Milot said they are doing something similar to that out at Northampton Community College as there's a lot of concern about the traffic on Green Pond Road. They had pedestrians hit, so they are looking at various options for them. It's a matter of cost and is it cost effective. There are programs with the state that have been approved on an interim trial basis for rapid flashers instead of the traditional flashers. It's not state approved, but is something that is eligible for interim approval. The biggest thing is to make everyone stop. A lot of it has to do with visibility and alertness. He likes the in-street warning signs just drawing people's attention. Maybe something simple at Society Hill would be advanced placement signs, which are the bright sticks and something like the rapid warning flashing lights could be an option. Priscilla said PennDOT should be made aware of this as it was one of her concerns. She voted no to Society Hill as she wasn't happy with the way the pedestrian crossing was going to be and she was right. They approved it knowing it was going to be there and there was going to be an in-out at Society Hill. Jim said any type of improvement of that nature falls back on the municipality. They would do some studies and assist the Township, but it would fall back on the municipality to initiate and follow through. With traffic signals, they look for a letter of commitment and an appropriate scenario that you are committed to install it. The last thing they want to do is identify the need for something and not have it installed. Priscilla said at the function in December at the Heller Homestead, a Saucon Valley Conservancy volunteer was putting up the orange cones in the road and was almost hit by a car. There are definitely issues there. Glenn said the contractor that did the fence railings for Lower Saucon, the estimate they gave Hellertown was outrageous? Charlie said he doesn't know why he would have the estimate so high. The price was like five times per foot what they did for Lower Saucon. Jack said they have a call in to them as they should give them the same price.

Joint Recreation Study Committee – Jack said we covered this when we talked about the Peer Consultant coming to the next SVP meeting.

3. **Roads & Traffic – (Polk Valley Road/412 Intersection HOP Application)** – Jack said they asked Jim Milot to come this evening as he's the Township Engineer that is handling the HOP application for the signal permit. They reported previously that we thought that the permit was going to be approved last fall and on December 23rd they got another letter from PennDOT with a list of more things that had to be done. Jim said there have been minor adjustments to the design over the past year. Jim said PennDOT sent back a comment letter and with a list of things that needed to be changed in the plans. On this set of notes, they have a note for general references and they said make the match on the plans, so instead of fighting PennDOT, they just put the same notes on the page. They've adjusted the segment offset tabulation for the roadway and basically the offsets require them to make changes to these numbers as they pertain to the location in the roadway under their system of segments and offsets. It's very minimal. Nothing that adversely changes the design right now. The primary holdup is the district's interpretation and policy regarding meeting the ADA requirements for handicapped ramps. They had been through about four different submissions. They provided it and PennDOT came back and said no, we don't want spot grades on there. That was a matter of two of the submissions right there. This has been the biggest series of adjustments – just how to have their ADA requirements met. Another example is the detectable warning surfaces. The district has gone back and forth at least two or three times over the past year over the way they want these detectable warning surfaces. They started out wanting them parallel to the curbing. Then they wanted them running with the crosswalk. Current design standards are now asking them to turn them back parallel with the curbing. We've been moving back and forth with this many times. It's frustrating on his end, but he also realizes they are getting their direction from Central Office. Ed said he met some of the guys that worked on these handicapped ramps in Hellertown, several times on the same ramps. They put them in, rip them out, and put them back in again. This is absolutely ridiculous. Jim said that's one of the reasons he's trying to spend the time and effort now as one of the problems with the construction that has been going on in the past couple of years – contractors either overbid as they know that a very likely scenario will be that they are going to put it in and rip it right back anyway. Ed said they are happy to do that. Jim said only if they are under a cost design contract. If they are on a fixed budget, they don't get that option and they sure don't want to be ripping it out. Ed said the people doing the work are happy as they get paid no matter what. Jim said that may be the case. Based on this, the marks on this sheet, this sheet alone has been the biggest area of changes on this project over the past year. He was fully confident that the December letter that would have been issued would have been "okay, we're ready to process the paperwork, now you need to finalize right-of-way with the other people who have properties there". The application that's going to be with the Borough of Hellertown as a joint co-permittee for right-of-way purposes as part of the HOP - things of that nature for the final issuance of the permit. The design changes were frustrating to him, but there's nothing here that is substantial. The actual layout of the intersection has remained relatively consistent. It's just the fine tuning of the parameters of the crosswalks. Jim gave a general overview to the group of the lane configuration of Route 412 and of the light that will be there at Polk Valley Road and Route 412. As part of these improvements, the biggest improvement to the lane and configuration and widening of Polk Valley are the expanded radii coming in. He's seen busses and trucks going up Polk Valley Road and the radius is not adequate. They are putting more suitable radii in at the intersection. Ed said the problem has been meeting the requirements for the handicap access. Jim said any pedestrian facilities at this time have to accommodate the handicapped. What we have here is the issue of the crosswalks. There is going to be pedestrian push buttons all around the box. State law requires if there are not sidewalks, the vehicle has to yield to a pedestrian.

Lanita said how does this affect McDonalds? She'd like to see how his egress and ingress are affected. Jim said they have left the existing approach area as it is. The only change along the

frontage property is the stop bar that is put in behind the pedestrian crossing requires them to relocate the arrow and only symbols in the lane from where they are at now back about 25'. There's no change to the driveway accesses. Lanita said is the person coming out of the driveway going to have to make a right hand turn or can they make a right or left? Jim said they have not proposed any restrictions on the driveways. They are still full access driveways. The lane configuration with the existing left turn lane is remaining the way it is. As you continue up into Hellertown, that's where it goes into the two ways center turning. Lanita said the people leaving McDonalds are going to have a traffic light? Jim said no. Lanita said they will never get out. Ed said it will be difficult to make a left hand turn. Nothing has changed since the last time. Lanita said she hopes there is a nice person that is going to let you out. Ed said eventually your customers are going to learn to make a right hand turn, drive down to the shopping center. Lanita said what if it said right turn only? Up on MacArthur Road, she was in a McDonalds there, and when she came in, she had to make a right. There was no choice. If she had to turn around, she'd have to go up to the next intersection. Even so if the median strip wasn't there, and it said you have to turn right, she would have turned right. Mr. McIntyre said he sells convenience and this affects his business. Jim said one thing no one is taking into consideration is a light also helps create gaps. If you are at the driveway and have a steady stream of north bound traffic on 412, you can't get out of there either. It's no different now. This light stops this. Mr. McIntyre said you will probably have 20 cars backed up here. They'll be a line of cars. Maybe they will get a nice person to let them out. Jim said that's called courtesy gaps and you do get those. Once the platoon goes through, they will have a chance to get out. The two lanes activate the signal. The right turn lane will be on a delay. No delay on the left turn. There's a tremendous amount of time on 412 and relatively little on Polk Valley and that's because of the concern to keep this moving as much as possible. The only difference is the right lane is on a delay that says okay, we got a call, but let's wait ten seconds and see if we have to turn it green. The left turner can't get out of there and it just cycles through then what the signal timing is designed to do. Ed said which is like every light in Hellertown. They all favor 412, which is what you would expect. Mr. McIntyre said what about flashing lights? Jim said flashing lights wouldn't work. What a signal does is it gives right of way to a vehicle. If this is always flashing, it's just like a stop sign. Mr. McIntyre said it's busy in the morning when school is in and busy in the afternoon when school lets out. John said he was told there are only four buses that go down Polk Valley Road. Mr. McIntyre said he never sees piles of busses. Priscilla said if there are only four buses, why can't they use Walnut Street? Lanita said there are not only busses, there's cars also. Keep in mind, the lots are full – parents, Mom's, people dropping their children off. You can't even find a parking space. Jim said this is a public roadway and a lot of people use it for a lot of different uses including the residential areas in that section of the Township in addition to the park that's out that way and the other residences. If he had to say based on the space in Lower Saucon available for development, this road is only going to see more and more traffic. Ed said they've seen a lot of accidents there at that intersection. Jim said and a pedestrian was hit also. Mr. McIntyre said give him a number. Jack said Jim and the Partnership do not have that information with them tonight. That information was supplied to PennDOT along with the other traffic data with our application. Ed said what is the bottom line? When are they going to put the light in? Jim said if everything goes according to what they were anticipating, they would go to construction next year. Lanita said you have all these corrections to make, it doesn't seem like it's going to happen. Mr. McIntyre said if you can keep a way to do 35 MPH, it's plenty of time to pull out at that street. The problem is they are moving and they are going to move even harder because of that light. Lanita said what percentage of your customers are from the local community? Mr. McIntyre said 65% to 70%. Lanita said she doesn't think it's going to affect the local people. Mr. McIntyre said we know that it will definitely affect McDonalds. Lanita said she doesn't think the locals are going to care. Mr. McIntyre said 30% of his business represents \$600,000.00 a year. Lanita said she doesn't avoid it at breakfast, at lunch, never. John said they could put the stop line back behind his driveway except at the intersection? It would leave him an opening. Jim said the stop bars could be pulled back. The one you'd want specifically turned back would be the left turn lane and the straight forward. When you pull them both back, you have a

compliance issue as now you have people that are too far back from the intersection. Some people will comply and those are the people we don't have to worry about going over 35 MPH. It's that type of scenario. It gets dangerous when you start stopping vehicles too far back from the intersection. Then you have to start adjusting the yellow time and you have to worry about people trying to run the red light because of the greater distance. Signs saying "don't block driveway" may help, but whether you get compliance is the issue. Ed said what would work is to have two lights that are staggered at Polk Valley. Lanita said you don't have to have the light in the middle of the intersection. Jim said it's dangerous to stop vehicles like that. You have to follow regulations and can create a dangerous situation having non-standardized control. Ed said common sense doesn't apply here. Jim said correct. If it wasn't for people acting sensibly, we wouldn't have to worry about half of this. If we start putting a light in a non-standard position you are going to have people running lights and going through them and potentially creating more catastrophic accidents. Mr. McIntyre said no one got hit by a car there? John said there have been accidents there, but no pedestrians. Priscilla said all the information was submitted and PennDOT reviewed the information and they are the ones that came up with the light thing. Jim said when he said a pedestrian was struck, he didn't know the exact proximity, but the intention is to get them cross at a crosswalk. Mr. McIntyre said Meadows Road has a right turn only sign on it. He believes Polk Valley and Meadows were studied together. Jim said they were studied together with Springtown Hill Road in conjunction with the Giant signal as well. The other thing PennDOT will not do is put a lot of multiple small spaced signals. They'll try to signalize and hope the signal channels the people to use it and helps the side streets. Mr. McIntyre said his suggestion would be to put a police officer there in the high rush periods. John said Bethlehem is doing that now for the casinos. Lanita said there are lights there already. They are controlling the lights. Mr. McIntyre said if the police would sit in the bank parking lot with their lights on, people would slow down. Priscilla said we are at the point with PennDOT there's no turning back now once they issue their warrant. Jim said the warrant was met, but they haven't issued the permit yet. Mr. McIntyre said they are not committed yet.

Mr. Iaratola said then you have his property which is a nightmare. Where he parks his cars now on the side of the building, he has a flatbed tow truck that every shop has to have. When the car is loaded, it's just the amount of room to the corner and to load a car that's missing a rim or tire, it unloads and it's good there. If the entrance is set back this far, he wouldn't be able to park anymore cars in that section which is about four parking spaces. Where's he going to park cars and how are trucks going to let them off? It kills him. Someone from Zoning told him when he bought the building said they were only going to take a couple of feet from the center of the corner. Now he understands 14-1/2 feet in to make that radius. Jim said after a meeting and seeing the fenced area for the cars that he has along Polk Valley, they are going to try to adjust the radius in the opening. The fence that he's installed, would preclude that access from being utilized. There has to be an adjustment. As part of that, he told Mr. Iaratola that he would try to make some adjustment to the radius to be less intrusive. Mr. Iaratola said if he can park his cars there and trucks can pull into that parking space, then okay, what can he say. Priscilla said is that acceptable to you then? Mr. Iaratola said there is another concern. His driveway is going to becoming a right turn lane when the light is red. He has two openings on Route 412. They go right through his driveway in front of his door and come out the other side. He doesn't have the time to get license plate numbers. Ed said he should put a sign up, No Trespassing. Mr. Iaratola said his door is open to the public. He said to fix one problem, you are creating ten. To him, he hasn't seen any accidents or anyone get hit by a car. Lanita said she met him and he's from New Jersey. He grew up in Jersey. She's not used to driving in Jersey and that's why it doesn't scare people from Jersey. That's nothing for people from Jersey. For her, that's frightening. You may not think it's a big deal but for her, that's a very scary intersection. Jim said at peak hours, that's a problematic intersection for traffic. There's no doubt if people are going 25 MPH instead of 45 MPH, it would be much easier to get in and out of Polk Valley Road. Ed said 35 MPH is a good speed for that road, but the problem is no one is doing it. Jim said he's being conservative saying 45 MPH. Mr.

Iaratola said you should see all the people pulled over by the Giant every day. Ed said he's in Hellertown everyday and hardly ever sees anyone exceed the speed limit. Lanita said she sees it every day. Ed said during the commuting hours, you can't go over the speed limit. When he goes down Polk Valley Road during the daytime, he'll go into the shopping center and hang a right at the bank or at the diner. Mr. McIntyre said what's going to happen when there's a light there? You are going to do that. Ed said no, not if there's a right and left hand turn there. Jim said at a stop light, you know you are going to pull out. Glenn said that McDonald's location is not typical for a McDonald's location and doesn't go by the industry standards for McDonalds as far as the location. He knows McDonalds has a formula of where they put their stores. Lanita said there's a reason why. It was originally before I-78 came through and it was anticipated that I-78 was going to come down through that side and they saw it was coming and that's why Burger King was in the shopping center. Then when the plans changed and 78 went up to the other end, McDonalds normally would have not put it there. Charlie said there were three options for 78, a southern route, a northern route and a route in-between. Glenn said how much interstate traffic do you get at McDonalds? Mr. McIntyre said he doesn't know but he could find out for you. Glenn said he's not sure it's the amount of traffic a typical McDonalds gets as you are not close enough to the 78 corridor. You see a couple of out-of-state plates, but it's not the typical interstate traffic you see at McDonalds. Glenn said he's guessing there's not a lot of interstate traffic at that location. He will still go there whether there's a light there or not and he's guessing that 65% is going to be a little bit higher. Mr. McIntyre said 50% comes from the south bound and 50% comes from the north bound. The people coming from 611 may be on their way to 78. When there's lines of cars there blocking their entrance, they may try it once, but they aren't going to try it twice – to get in and get out. They'll get on 78 and go somewhere else. Ed said if they are going to 78 in the morning, there will be no blockage at McDonald's and at night, they'll be coming the other way. Priscilla said he wants to help, but Jim is the expert on the traffic. You are part of our community and the tax dollars help Hellertown and the school. Jim said the intent is to try to keep things as un-intrusive to them as possible but still raising the level of safety for that intersection. That's really what it comes down to - is safety. He can't say he can guarantee that people are going to have trouble getting in and out of your driveway and drive by, but he thinks if someone wants to go to McDonalds, they'll go there whether there's a line there or not. You are the only game in town down there. Mr. McIntyre said that's their business. Lanita said that may be in a community where there are so many other choices. Glenn said that's a standard location of McDonalds where those figures are coming from. Mr. McIntyre said a 10% drop in sales is a tremendous drop in profitability. That doesn't pay his bill when he sells a double cheeseburger for a dollar. He has 60 employees and pays over \$600,000.00 a year in wages. Mr. McIntyre said is there any possibility of putting a police officer there and just trying it for a month and see what happens? Jack said he can ask the Chief, but the answer is it's a matter of resources. We can't afford to post someone there for that period of time. They have a large Township to patrol. It's Hellertown's responsibility too. Mr. McIntyre said can't they take turns – one week Hellertown does it and one week Lower Saucon does it? Jim said what you are proposing is to have the police officer do what the signal is doing, and it will still back vehicles up by your driveway if that is the concern. It's still going to happen. Mr. McIntyre said he's just talking about doing it during school hours. Glenn said that's assuming the traffic impact is just those hours and it's not. Lanita said other than those hours, most of the time the light on 412 will be green. That's not high impact. Mr. McIntyre said as it is now, they can get out. You put a light there, you will have 20 or 30 cars backed up and nothing is going to happen. Priscilla said what are the scenarios with the permit? Jim said the permit is at the point now that the only thing from a design standpoint that needs to be changed are the handicapped ramps, the orientation of the detectable warning surfaces and additional labeling on the ramps. From a design standpoint, the work is done. Now there is the filing of the additional pedestrian needs, forms, things like that. Its forms that PennDOT has issued this fall. John said how can you change the radius on his property? Is there a code? Jim said the radius is based upon the anticipated turning templates of the vehicles utilizing the intersection as well as the functional classification of the roadways. What hurts Mr. Iaratola's corner is Polk Valley Road and 412 do

not come out at a 90 degree angle. Mr. Iaratola said what if they move the stop lines back? John said the example he was thinking of was on Water Street. Jim said that sounds great in theory, but all you need to have is one vehicle go past that and a truck can't get around. Mr. Iaratola said at the Rite Aid, the left turn lane is back further. Jim said that's why these are staggered because of the left turn radius. John said engineering has to be approved by PennDOT again? Jim said yes. They have to be submitted again. Ed said they may send them back to you again. Priscilla said what is the status of this right now? Jim said they are waiting for the permit based upon these changes. The part that is not complete is the acquisition of right-of-way from both the shopping center and Mr. Iaratola and the final sign-off when Hellertown comes in as a co-permittee for those right-of-way purposes. From a design standpoint, if that radius changes, that's the only design parameter that needs to be done on the project. Jack said the reason he asked Jim to come here was there was a lot of frustration with the delay. Last December, Lanita said let's start going public and contacting people. We asked Jim to hold off on that as he anticipated approval sometime in the fall. That's why we asked him to come here because at some point, if it doesn't get approved, what do we want to do? Priscilla said this was one of the grants applied for at the gaming, and she has one of the authority members asking her if PennDOT issued a warrant for it, and she didn't know. Mr. McIntyre said these delays are costing the Township money. Jim's not doing it for free. He asked what the cost of the light would be? Jim said it would typically be from \$120,000.00 to \$140,000.00. There are other engineering issues and costs. Priscilla said the grant that Hellertown and Lower Saucon applied for was for \$300,000.00. Jack said the total cost would be in the \$400,000 range.

4. **Joint Enterprise Zone with City of Bethlehem** – Update – Charlie said no update. They are still looking for credit arrangements for the enterprise zone.
5. **Saucon Valley Compost Center** – Update – Charlie said they opened last Saturday and will reopen for the remaining three Saturdays in January. They will also open on February 26 and March 26. The 2011 re-opening of the Compost Center will be on April 24th. They had a great year and looks like we're going to have another good year.
6. **Act 32 EIT Tax Collection Districts** – Update – Ed said we have our next meeting tomorrow at 9:30 AM in the Bethlehem Township building. The agenda includes the upcoming budget. We need to elect new officers because the current ones will be stepping down. The Business Manager from Bangor School District was not happy that the TCC went with Keystone instead of Berkheimer, so he won't run for re-election. There won't be any major changes.
7. **Fire Services** – Update – Jack said the Chiefs are continuing to meet on the merger consolidation and the Administrative side is meeting with Jack, Charlie and the Finance Directors. What they are looking to do is come up with a draft of a consolidation plan that has all the pieces to it – the financials, the equipment, etc. The fire companies have asked them for something that they can take back to their departments in May or June and put it to a vote as to whether they want to proceed to the finalization of a consolidation. The end goal is to come up with the consolidation plan that we can bring back to the Councils in Hellertown and Lower Saucon and do a presentation at the end of 2011, so if you give your blessing, the fire companies can begin to merge and they can put it on paper as the Saucon Valley Volunteer Fire Company. They would remain in the stations. They would work out the equipment they are going to keep or going to get rid of. They have to plan on how they are going to start pulling it together with all being at one station with one substation around the area. That's what the plan is and everyone is working hard and trying to stay on board. They are meeting at the end of this month again.
8. **Library Services** – Update – Jack said that is kicking off tomorrow night with a meeting at the Township. They have all the representatives from the Borough, the Township and Hellertown Area Library. He, Charlie and Robin, the Library Director will be ex-officio members and will be

bringing in finance people as needed. They will be sending out a schedule of meetings and putting it out to the public in case they want to attend. Tomorrow night is to get the structure set up. It starts at 5:00 PM.

9. **Leithsville Act 537 Plan** – Update – Jack said they are still waiting for the Authority. They are still doing some work on the redraw of the route for the sewer line. They heard reports that the proposed route they tested didn't work as it was too wet down by the Grist Mill ponds. They are going to have to look for another route and it may not be a gravity system. It may be a pump station, so they are waiting for that. When it's done the Authority will be doing some presentations at the Borough and Township Councils. Priscilla said this is taking way too long. She's very unhappy that our residents are suffering from lack of a proper sewer system out in Leithsville. She knows they are working very hard but the whole process is taking too long. John said he knew we were going to get to that pond and have problems. Priscilla asked Jack to pass this along to Gar. It just seems it's taking too long.

10. **Other Issues**

- Jack said Stephanie Brown brought this up at a previous meeting and asked that we consider having a pedestrian safety campaign in the community. She gave him and Charlie some information about this type of a campaign. She was trying to link it to the opening of the rail trail. We had the Chiefs of Police look at it and asked for their recommendations. If you look at this, it's basically a public service type or media type of campaign. It has radio announcements, safety posters, and a lot of other media type things. It also heavily involves the school district, so he wanted to share it to the school district. Something would have to be done with all three entities and they would have to be involved and behind it. The Lower Saucon Chief of Police recommended that we consider adding additional signage. Charlie said Chief Shupp had some cards that he got from Bethlehem for pedestrians and motorists. The speed table he mentioned before, he suggested it might work in places like Walnut Street. Chief Shupp is trying to get fold out pamphlets for kiosks along the rail trail as that is something the City of Bethlehem is using. He's getting some information on videos that could be shown on the Township and Borough's website that you could access somehow. Chief Shupp saw that the Rail Trail Committee is working on a Facebook communication and there may be ways to place online videos on that. He's checking on various signage. Lanita said the most effective thing was when Chief Balum ran those sting operations when pedestrians were crossing the street. You heard a lot of people talking as they got a lot of people to pay attention. She works in Bethlehem and the one at Donegal Square, you would think that with that huge area of crosswalk with the brick, maybe one out of twenty cars will stop. Even the cops don't stop. She sees the busses doing it. They don't listen. It's got to be awareness and people have got to get stung for it. That's the only way. Priscilla said she travels to the Adirondacks and people stop. Lanita said she sees out of state people stop quicker than Pennsylvania people. Pennsylvania people aren't used to in. Charlie said the stings are something that Chief Shupp would like to do. He has part-timers and now has a full force. There is a requirement and a costly thing to call policemen out just like the suggestion of putting a policeman at the McDonalds. You can't afford to do that. It's not smart. The sting is going to be easier to do now as he has the two extra officers. Priscilla said people have to be educated on how to enter a crosswalk. If you're just standing there, you have to be aggressive. You can't stop in time. Depending on your car, if your car is low and there's a big car in front of you and there's a person on the sidewalk, you can't see them. You're the driver and are supposed to have your car in control, but if you can't see them, you can't see them. Charlie said the two Chiefs are going to work together on this. Priscilla said you have to start at the school district and start with the kids.

- Lanita said does the Township still put out a newsletter? Jack said yes? Lanita said how often? Jack said three times a year. Lanita said do we have an electronic recycling program? Jack said our EAC had sponsored one for several years, but they cancelled the one this past fall. The County is doing them more frequently with Tom Dittmar, the Recycling Coordinator. The EAC looking for a recycler that takes the material. There were some issues with the one that the Township had been using. They weren't certified properly. They went to a couple of meetings and the vendor said they are going to get a certification. They are going to have to look at something in the spring around the middle of April. They will try to work with Tom Dittmar to coordinate it. Lanita said have you ever thought of making the newsletter electronic and having the residents say here's my email, I'd rather have it emailed electronically? Jack said they did do that, but there were a lot of people who came to Council and said they still want it mailed. The compromise was that two issues are still mailed and one is electronic. It is posted on the website. Lanita said can she go on the website and asked to be added to their email list? Jack said yes. There's a part on the website that says "Join our Email List". Lanita said when is the last time you had an article out about that being available? Jack said they just put something on the website within the last six months. Lanita said on the newsletter itself? Jack said what we were trying to do was to go all electronic, but it's a slow process to get everyone's email.
- Priscilla said the EAC has recycling information on their website and so does the County. Glenn said the EAC was doing it twice a year.

F. County Report – Tom Harp

- Tom said he appreciates the discussion about the pedestrian safety as they have an issue at the County also. It's at Washington Street. If you ever parked at the lower lots and tried to get across there, they have one of the reflective signs in the middle and you have to still be very alert. They asked the City of Easton to do more patrols and are looking at different options. It's complicated. The bottom line is people have to be more alert.
- Tom said the parking deck project behind the Courthouse is pretty much finished. It was sizably over budget because of a structural defect. You may have read something about it in the paper. However, now that the work is pretty much done, it should last for another ten to fifteen years. That nuisance as far as parking restrictions is pretty much over. Now the work is intensifying on the old Courthouse window project. That's from a Department of Energy grant and very complicated as you are dealing with a historical structure dating back to 1863. The windows have to be done a certain way and they want to make it more energy efficient. They are starting to work on that and when they are finished, it will be real nice. Any of the insulating panes will be on the inside and it will be like a Lucite type thing. When you look from the outside, it will look the same. The paint scheme is going to go back to one of the original colors like a grayish color. These windows are chipped and pealed.
- Tom said they have a new County Council President, John Cusick from Williams Township and Peg Ferraro is Vice President on January 4, 2011. The next Council meeting is next week, January 20th. It is live video screened. In 2010, over 9,000 people viewed the Council meetings on line. They did statistics on it. People are watching it. It's being done live, not edited. The only thing is it takes three days to post it. It's a good thing and provides people the opportunity to see what's going on.
- Tom said the priorities for this year for John Stoffa are a DUI center that the County is looking to develop and it would house about 100 DUI offenders. It provides some treatment and many are work release. It would help alleviate some of the crowding situation. In many cases, they are folks that don't need to be in there with violent people.
- Tom said they are trying to find a solution for the County archives. They had an archive building years ago that was razed when the annex of the prison was put up. Unfortunately, since then, their records are stored at Iron Mountain in Allentown. It's very inconvenient and too costly. They are looking for something closer in the Easton area so the Courts and the people can get it faster.

- Tom said the final priority is the County Nursing Home. The plans are moving ahead to sell Gracedale. It's not a final deal at this point in time. Right now they have five proposals from buyers. They are being reviewed. The consultant who did the study estimated that the County could probably get about \$30 million for the facility; however, there is a petition drive going around in the County and they are saying they have the 19,000 plus signatures they need to put it on the referendum if that's possible. At this point in time, administration is moving ahead to look at the buyers and the proposals and make a recommendation to Council.
- Tom said they are going to have joint COG meetings again this year. The first one will be March 8th from 9 AM to 11:30 AM at a location to be determined. They are looking for a few meetings to be hosted by our municipalities. Priscilla said we can host another one. Jack said sure. Tom said he might make a contact or two to see if we can find someone else. Lower Saucon was great.
- Tom said Tom Dittmar wanted to report that the last Council was approval of the ten year Solid Waste plan. That was long overdue. Its 154 pages long. There was a lot of input from the County Solid Waste Advisory Committee. There are three landfills in the County – IESI which is the old Bethlehem landfill; Waste Management in Pen Argyl; and Chrin in Easton. The County DCED is in the process of trying to look into the tipping fees which they are looking for \$1.00 per ton. It can't be mandated. It has to be voluntary and it is passed on. That will help sustain all the recycling programs in the County and hopefully improve them as well. According to the study, the total waste generated in the County in 2009 was 325,000 tons and about 75,000 tons of recyclable material. The dollar a ton, it could be up to \$250,000.00. It's about a dollar a person. That might affect you too as the fees keep trickling down. Priscilla said that would be reflected in their garbage bill. Tom said so far one of the landfills agreed to it. One of them looks like they are pretty close to an agreement and the third one really didn't get serious with it yet.
- Tom said the first e-cycling event will be May 21st at Easton Area High School and then June 4th at Washington Township up in the Slate Belt; and October 1st at Nazareth Middle School. The highly popular Household Hazardous Waste event will be October 8th, 2011. He will have brochures for the next meeting and they will be posted on line. You'll get a pdf and you can put them on your website. You may have read in the paper how manufacturers now are going to be required to recycle electronic equipment, so in the years ahead, this will gradually diminish over time as maybe the manufacturers will have drop off centers and they will be free. We have to charge a dollar for a keyboard, some nominal fee. Jack said ours was no cost. John said they are not allowed to put TVs out to the curb now. It's a new law. Tom said it's a cost for a TV, as it's expensive to dispose of them legally.
- Priscilla said IESI is planning on expanding. They have been doing boring tests and looking for carbonate geology locations because the area they have left along Applebutter Road is the LI zone which allows landfilling. The state law is you can't put a landfill in a carbonate geology area. They are in the process of doing that now. She doesn't know how many acres it is, but she thinks it's about 90 acres. Their current landfill should go to 2016, so we should be able to get revenue from them up until that point, which is three or four years longer than what was anticipated when Phase IV was originally approved. Most of their trash is coming from NY and NJ. One of their harms benefits analysis, they were supposed to be providing local garbage benefits. It's competitive. Please relay that to Mr. Dittmar.

G. Citizens Commenting on Non-Agenda Items – None

H. Events Calendar

<http://sauconvalleycalendar.blogspot.com>

- Priscilla said Charlie's last day is February 28th. Cathy Kichline, the new Borough Manager, will be at the next SVP meeting, along with Tina Krasnansky.
- Priscilla said the Chamber of Commerce will be holding a dinner to honor a member of our community, and this year it's Charlie. It's April 8th at Se-Wy-Co Banquet Hall.

Saucon Valley Partnership Meeting
January 12, 2011

- Lanita said at the Greater Lehigh Chamber's meeting at Stabler where there are thousands of business people there, there was a shout out from our Chair about Charlie recognizing him. That doesn't happen often.
- Priscilla said on February 7th, the Heller Homestead is going to hold a Meet the Artist Reception for Donna Santiago who is a Leithsville resident. It's from 7 PM to 9 PM.

I. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Lanita, seconded by Ed. All in favor. The time was 8:56 PM.

J. Next Meeting: February 9th @ Lower Saucon Township Hall; March 9th @ Saucon Valley School District; April 13th @ Hellertown Borough