

Saucon Valley Partnership Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, January 13, 2016  
Hellertown Borough

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- A. Call to Order** – Ed Inghrim – 7:00 p.m.
- B. Roll Call** – Richard Fluck, Ed Inghrim, Thomas Rieger, Pricilla deLeon, Donna Lauder, Diane Donaher, Leslie Huhn, Cathy Hartranft.  
Absent: Mark Sivak  
Guests: Earl Hill, Joe Sofka, Kim Medei, Kristie Fach
- C. Election of Officers**
1. Election of Chair – Upon motion by Pricilla, second by Ed, the Partnership appointed Tom Rieger as Chair.
  2. Election of Vice Chair – Upon motion by Pricilla, second by Mayor Fluck, the Partnership appointed Ed Inghrim as Vice Chair
  3. Appointment of Secretary/Treasurer – Upon motion by Pricilla, second by Ed, the Partnership appointed Cathy Hartranft as Secretary and Leslie Huhn as Treasurer
- D. Council of Governments**
1. Minutes – Upon motion by Ed, second by Pricilla, the Partnership approved the November 12, 2015 minutes as written
  2. Treasurer’s Report – Leslie presented the 12/31/15 Treasurer’s Report for the checking account and grants account. Leslie will close out grants account this month and transfer funds to checking account.
  3. Approval to Pay Bills – None. The Partnership members agreed that Lower Saucon Township, Hellertown Borough or the Saucon Valley School District are entitled to use Survey Monkey.
- E. Business Items**
1. Discussion to Waive 2016 Dues - Upon motion by Ed, second by Pricilla, the Partnership waived the dues for 2016.
  2. Future of Community Day – The discussion focused around how to enlist committed volunteers to assist with the organization of Community Day. It was determined that Kim would send out an email blast to all past participants and local organizations within the Saucon Valley to solicit interest. A special meeting will be held on January 26, 2016 at 7:00 pm of those interested in volunteering. This request for volunteers will be posted on social media and web sites of the respective municipalities.  
  
Cathy will speak with Jessica to obtain past years Community Day records, budgets, contact information and personnel time associated with organizing Community Day. Tom will speak with Jessica to inquire whether the Community Day account being held by the Chamber can be transferred to the Borough.
  3. Parks & Rec Survey – Lower Saucon Township shared a Park & Recreation Survey. It was suggested by Lower Saucon Council to bring to Partnership. While all agreed it was a great survey and will provide information, no action was taken by the Partnership.
  4. Kristie Fach, Wildlands Conservancy Request for Support to Remove Water Street Dam – Kristie discussed the benefit of dam removal for environmental, recreation, flooding remediation and public safety purposes. The removal of this dam will improve water quality and have a positive impact on the fish habitat. Kristie further explained the removal of this dam is recommended in

the 2009 Saucon Creek Management Plan. It is recommended to remove the dam, install fish habitat structures and preform stream bank restoration. Lower Saucon EAC has recommended support of this project.

A discussion followed on the larger problem of the Silver Creek flooding . Tom expressed concern that removing the Water Street dam at this point in time will not alleviate the overall problem. Diane informed the group the Northampton County Open Space Plan has recently been updated and approved by County Council. Bryan Cope, Open Space Coordinator will be invited to the March SVP meeting for further discussion on stream quality and restoration. Kristie will present the Wildlands Plan to Hellertown Borough Council on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

5. LVIP VII – Phase 3 – Easton Road – Preliminary subdivision plans have been submitted to Lower Saucon Township. Leslie provided Cathy with a disc for Hellertown review.

**F. Brief Reports and Discussion Items**

1. County Gaming Authority – Cathy and Leslie reported grants applications are due in early March. Cathy informed the group the Gaming Authority has placed dollar limits on police officer salaries as well as equipment.
2. Joint COG Projects – Ed Inghrim expressed appreciation to the SVP for the \$3,000 donation to the environmental center.
3. Roads & Traffic – Construction of the Rt. 412 project is substantially complete in Hellertown. Final paving, signage will be completed in 2016.
4. Saucon Valley Compost Center – Cathy advised the Partnership that the Borough of Hellertown has applied to DEP for a grant in the amount of \$195,505 for a loader with grapple bucket, paving the driveway and educational materials. She also advised the Center is only open 2 more Saturdays in January.
5. Water Street Bridge Replacement – No update provided
6. Northampton County Report – Diane Donaher met with Cathy Hartranft, Jack Cahalan and David Willard to discuss the development and implementation of an economic development commission to focus on economic restructuring and commercial real estate within the Saucon Valley. Members of the partnership agreed to look into the structuring of the Nazareth Economic Development Commission and the Slate Belt Economic Development Commission why both hybrids of the Main Street Initiative are. Diane will meet with Leslie and Cathy to further discuss.

**G. Citizens Commenting on Non-Agenda Items – None**

**H. Events** – Thursday, January 14 a joint mixer at Revolutions of Hellertown Lower Saucon Chamber and the Southern Lehigh Chamber. The next Business Roundtable discussion will be January 20<sup>th</sup> at the Library

**I. Adjournment** – Upon motion by Ed, second by Tom, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

**The next meeting of the Saucon Valley Partnership is Wednesday, March 9, 2016 at Lower Saucon Township.**