

Saucon Valley Partnership Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, February 8, 2012

- A. Call to Order – Leslie Huhn – 7:00 p.m.
- B. Present – Glenn Kern, Tom Rieger, Ed Inghrim, Richard Fluck, Tom Harp, Cathy Kichline, Lanita Lum, and Leslie Huhn. Priscilla deLeon arrived at 7:02 p.m.
- C. Council of Governments
1. Adoption of Council of Governments Minutes  
  
Motion made by Glenn Kern seconded by Leslie Huhn, to approve the January 11, 2012, meeting minutes as written. Motion unanimously carried.
  2. Treasurer’s Report  
  
Ms. Huhn – The checking account balance as of January 31, 2012 is \$3,869.98. The bank fees have been returned, however, we may need to combine the accounts in the future to keep from incurring the fees. The fund balance as of January 31, 2012, is \$16,357.31. We received the dues check of \$1,000.00 from Lower Saucon Township.  
  
Ms. Kichline – Hellertown Borough’s due check was on the list for this week’s payables.  
  
Motion made by Glenn Kern, seconded by Ed Inghrim, to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Motion carried 5-0.
  3. Approval to Pay Bills  
  
Motion made by Priscilla deLeon, seconded by Glenn Kern, to approve payment of the bill. Motion carried unanimously.  
  
Ms. Huhn – The only bill was for \$204.00 for payment of the Survey Monkey.
- D. Brief Reports and Discussion Items
1. Casino Impacts Funding/County Gaming Authority- Update  
  
Ms. Kichline – The new round of committed fund grant applications are due on March 2, 2012. The manager of Bethlehem Township has asked to meet with the managers of the five contiguous municipalities to get an idea of what each municipality will be applying for.  
  
Hellertown Borough did receive an extension to use the \$14,000.00 of unused Casino Grant funding.  
  
Ms. Lum – Who are the two new representatives to the Gaming Authority?  
  
Ms. Kichline – John Blair will be representing Lower Saucon Township and David Heintzelman will be representing the Hellertown Borough.  
  
Ms. Lum questioned the residency of Mr. Heintzelman.

Mr. Rieger and Ms. Kichline reiterated that his physical address according to the IRS and PennDOT is 326 Main Street. He was approved by both the Hellertown Borough Council and the Northampton County representatives.

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

Ms. Huhn- Two memorial benches have been placed in Lower Saucon Township's portion of the trail.

Ms. Kichline- Hellertown has three benches installed so there are a total of five benches placed. Eternal Products has also noted that they have matching trash receptacles available.

Mr. Rieger – The Peer Recreation Committee met last week. We are going to begin the study again and should have the survey completed by the end of March. The Saucon Valley Partnership Agreement will be forwarded to Councils soon.

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

There was nothing to report.

Mr. Reiger inquired as to whether the Water Street Bridge is a County Bridge or PennDOT bridge?

Ms. deLeon confirmed that it is a PennDOT bridge.

Mr. Rieger – The sides of the bridge are really worn and I am worried that they will have to close the bridge in the future if there are not repairs done.

Ms. Kichline – Stated she emailed Jim McGee, bridge engineer, but have not received a response to date.

Motion made by Thomas Rieger, seconded by Priscilla deLeon, to have each municipality and the COG send a letter to PennDOT to make the bridge repair a priority. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Saucon Valley Compost Center – Update

Ms. Kichline – The total sign-ins for 2011 were 6,748; 4,354 were from Hellertown Borough which represents 65 percent and 2,394 were Lower Saucon Township residents which represents 35 percent. The numbers are about the same as 2010.

Mr. Reiger – This doesn't include the few weeks that we left the Compost Center open for drop-offs after the storms.

Ms. Kichline – Tom and Roger will be working on calculating the tonnage for the year.

5. Fire Services – Update

There was nothing to report

6. Library Task Force – Update

Ms. deLeon inquired as to when the deadline is for the survey.

Mr. Rieger – The Committee did not give me a deadline but I would figure it would be the end of February. So far, we have 70 completed responses.

Lower Saucon Township will be sending a group email to their list of people who asked to receive the Council agendas to try and get more response.

7. Regional Police Study – Update

Ms. Kichline – We did not receive an update. We were supposed to have a report to the Councils in February.

E. Other Issues

1. Emergency Management

Ms. deLeon – Sandra Fellin declined to come to the meeting. She feels that each entity needs to maintain their own database. The school will help to spread the word when needed in case of an emergency.

Mr. Inghrim – That is what we were planning to do anyway.

Ms. Lum – Do we have someone as a coordinator?

Mr. Rieger – Bill Cszaszar is Lower Saucon’s EMA coordinator and Chris Scherer is the EMA coordinator for the Borough.

Ms. deLeon – I don’t feel that the COG should be paying the bills for the phone calls. I believe municipality should pay for the call directly.

The coordinators should get together and decide who will be responsible for which aspects.

Mr. Rieger – I looked into the Nixle Program. It is free for email and text alerts. Phone calls will incur a fee.

2. Allentown NIZ

Mr. Inghrim – I am the delegate from the Saucon Valley School District, Borough of Hellertown, and Lower Saucon Township to the Act 32 Tax Commission. In 2009, Senator Brown modified legislation to establish Neighborhood Improvement Zone. It established an authority whereby a complex could be constructed and can borrow from local government through Earned Income Tax. It made the Department of Revenue collect all the EIT from people working in the complex and people working in the surrounding areas which can be up to 160 acres. It was modified in 2011 to say that if there is extra money within 30 days of the end of the year, the money must be returned to the municipality. There will be a meeting in Hanover Township to discuss this. Keystone will be able to tell the municipality how much money they will be losing.

Ms. Kichline – There is discussion about new businesses moving into the zone but it doesn't define "new business". Is an existing business that moved into the NIZ considered a "new business"?

Mr. Rieger – It is a one-time thing for the City of Allentown.

Ms. Kichline – My concern is that Easton is looking to do the same thing.

Mr. Inghrim – Keystone will be attending this meeting.

3. Animal Control

Ms. deLeon inquired if there have been any issues from the Center For Animal Health & Welfare.

Ms. Huhn – There was an instance where we were turned away but were able to drop off they animal later that day.

F. County Report

1. County Update

Mr. Harp – The West Easton treatment center has been approved to house up to 100 inmates. They would be mostly non-violent offenders. This will help with overcrowding.

The swaption is currently at \$25.5 million to buy-out.

Gracedale is currently undergoing asbestos removal. It will cost approximately \$140,000.00. It hasn't been airborne and had no effect on the residents or staff. Gracedale has begun using natural gas, which will save a lot of money on heating costs.

Tom Ditmar will be coming to the next meeting and will have brochures for the recycling events. May 19, 2012, is the first E-Cycling event and will be held at Easton Area High School.

The next meeting of the Northampton County COG will be March 13, 2012, at East Allen Township from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. The main topic will be the animal control issue.

Ms. deLeon suggested that the NIZ should be made a topic as well.

Mr. Harp was promoted to the Director of Administration. The County is in the process of filling his old position. The information is available on the County's website.

2. County Bridge #15 (Meadows Road Bridge)

Mr. Harp – I have not heard anything from Limeworks and have nothing to report.

G. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items – None

H. Calendar of Events

Ms. deLeon – The Passport to History books can be used at the Sigal Museum on March 11, 2012.

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The Hellertown – Lower Saucon Chamber will be hosting a joint mixer at Pacifico. You need to reply by February 24, 2012.

February 15, 2012, IESI will be making a presentation on the landfill. The meeting will be held in the Saucon Valley School District Cafeteria.

March 5, 2012, James Heller will have a new exhibit open at the Heller Homestead.

April 28, 2012, will be the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual History Day at the three historic sites from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

I. Adjournment

Motion made by Glenn Kern, seconded by Lanita Lum, to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. Motion unanimously approved.