

Saucon Valley Partnership Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 11, 2012

- A. Call to Order – Leslie Huhn – 7:03 p.m.
- B. Present – Glenn Kern, Ed Inghrim, Priscilla deLeon, Tom Rieger, Richard Fluck, Cathy Kichline, Tom Harp, Leslie Huhn, and Camille Bartlett.
- C. Council of Governments
1. Adoption of Council of Governments Minutes

Motion made by Glenn Kern seconded by Thomas Rieger, to approve the March 14, 2012, meeting minutes as written. Motion unanimously carried.
 2. Treasurer’s Report

Ms. Huhn – The fund balance as of March 31, 2012, is \$16,952.40. There were no receipts or payments. The checking account balance as of March 31, 2012 is \$3,870.81. The account is still open. Cathy Gorman wants to leave the account open until both the Councils can approve the closure.

Motion made by Priscilla deLeon, seconded by Glenn Kern, to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Motion unanimously carried.
 3. Approval to Pay Bills

There were no bills to be paid.
- D. Brief Reports and Discussion Items
1. Casino Impacts Funding/County Gaming Authority – Update

Ms. Kichline – Hellertown Borough will be making a presentation for one grant application on Monday, April 23, 2012. The grant application was for the continuation of two police officers for one year.
 2. Joint COG Projects (Saucon Rail Trail; Peer Recreation Study Committee) – Update
 - a. Rails to Trails

Ms. Huhn – Lower Saucon Township has all their benches ordered.

Ms. Kichline – Hellertown has three benches that will be picked up on Friday. The Committee has created a Saucon Valley Rail Trail Special Event Form and is working out the logistics of getting the form to Councils prior to the events.

Ms. deLeon – We had issues with the process. We appointed a committee to oversee this type of event but feel that it should also come to Council. We did approve a set of rules for the Committee to follow.

Mr. Rieger – We use Water Street Park for other events so the Committee cannot have final say if there are other events happening.

b. Peer Recreation

Mr. Inghram – The School District approved the changes to the Partnership Agreement.

Mr. Rieger – Hellertown approved the same. Michael McKenna and Gail Nolf will be our representatives. I will still be helping with the survey. I hope to have a draft out in the next week or so.

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

Ms. Huhn – PennDOT finished the tabulation for the shopping center right-of-way acquisition and the papers for the pedestrian accommodations and a few simple deeds. They will forward the right-of-way agreements and plans to the solicitors.

Mr. Rieger – We received an acknowledgement from PennDOT on the Water Street Bridge. They agreed to move up the inspection to April.

Ms. Kichline – I wanted to give a brief update on the 412 Widening Project. The project will last about 3 years. The limits of construction will be Cherry Lane to Daly Avenue. It will include stormwater management, utility relocation, handicap ramps, and widening. In Hellertown Borough, there will be shifting traffic patterns. Saucon Valley School District will be moving some school bus stops. We will be getting a 3-week work schedule.

Mr. Rieger – We also created a 412 Update webpage. We will be posting all the updates on there and Facebook. A map of the project is available at Borough Hall.

Ms. deLeon requested the 412 Widening Project be placed as an agenda item.

4. Saucon Valley Compost Center- Update

Ms. Huhn – The Compost Center will be opening this weekend. We will have our receptionist and a council member there assisting the Public Works Departments with the ID cards.

5. Fire Services – Update

Mr. Kern – Dave Willard and myself met with Mr. Cahalan. We will be meeting with the Fire Chiefs in May at their meeting.

6. Library Task Force – Update

Ms. Huhn – The public meeting has been moved to the Saucon Valley High School Cafeteria.

7. Regional Police Study – Update

Ms. Huhn – A meeting has been scheduled for May 23, 2012, at Lower Saucon Township to discuss the study findings. They will not release the study until that day.

8. Other Issues

1. Emergency Management – There was nothing to report.

2. Allentown NIZ

Mr. Inghrim – There is a meeting scheduled for tomorrow at Bethlehem Township. I will not be able to attend. I don't feel that any decisions have been made. Lower Saucon Township has joined the lawsuit.

Mr. Rieger – Hellertown Borough will be filing the papers to join by the end of the week.

Mr. Inghrim – The Saucon Valley School District decided against joining the lawsuit. We do not feel there is a lot of money going to be lost and we do not want to spend the money to sue.

E. County Report

1. County Update

Mr. Harp introduced Camille Bartlett who is the new Deputy Administrative Director for Northampton County.

Ms. Bartlett – My background is in higher education. I worked for Kutztown University for 22 years. I was in administrative services including safety, risk management, fleet management, and daycares.

Mr. Harp – A Joint COG Meeting was held on March 13, 2012.

Ms. Kichline – It was a helpful meeting. We discussed The Center for Animal Welfare and what municipalities are going through with the contract and increased costs. Hellertown Borough has built kennels and have provisions for the animals.

Mr. Harp – One of Ms. Bartlett's first projects will be setting up a committee to look at the animal control as a whole in the County.

Council approved the purchase of a building in Forks Township to serve as the archive building. Currently, they are stored over in Allentown at a cost of \$110,000.00 per year.

The last archive building was torn down for the prison expansion. The building will be climate controlled.

The West Easton Treatment Center is about three-quarters of the way complete. About 100 inmates will be moving in there. These would be people with minor offenses and shorter sentences. The County will make an announcement when the facility is going to open.

We are looking to consolidate our Human Services Departments. They are currently in the Bechdolt's Building in Bethlehem and the Governor Wolf building in Easton. The County would then sell the buildings.

Gracedale now has natural gas and new boilers. It is being done under the GIZA Program. The asbestos remediation was completed.

The next Joint COG Meeting will be held at Hellertown Borough on June 12, 2012, from 9:00-11:00 a.m.

2. County Bridge #15 (Meadows Road Bridge)

There was nothing to report on the Meadows Road Bridge. The County is looking into Bonds to complete repairs about 5 bridges.

F. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Ms. Huhn handed out COG updates for the website and asked for any updates.

G. Calendar of Events

Ms. deLeon – The 5th Annual History Day will be held April 28, 2012, at the Heller Homestead, Gristmill, and Lutz Franklin School. Boy Scout 319 will be camping out. There will be a guided tour, artist reception, flower sale, and a craft sale.

The Hellertown-Lower Saucon Chamber will be holding Pathway to Progress on April 28, 2012, at Water Street Park.

The Chamber will be holding a banquet honoring Csencsits Auto. It will be at The Meadows and the cost is \$50.00

On April 20, 2012, the Saucon Valley Foundation for Educational Innovation will be holding the project launch of the Saucon Valley School District's Environmental Education Center at 11:00 a.m.

A Barn Photo Workshop will be held on June 9, 2012, from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Registration is due by June 6, 2012, and the cost is \$20.00. Frank Smith will be running the workshop.

The 6th Annual Barn Tour will be held September 15, 2012.

H. New Business

Mr. Inghrim – Hellertown and Lower Saucon used to be the tax collector for the School District. Dave Bonenberger would like to know if you would consider collecting again if the School District paid the municipalities?

Ms. deLeon – The reason we probably stopped collecting the taxes was the extra work on the employees.

Mr. Kern – We will have the administration look into it.

Mr. Rieger – I would agree with Ms. deLeon. Mr. Bonenberger should schedule a meeting with Cathy, Tina, Jack, and Cathy Gorman and talk to Councils.

Mr. Inghrim – We are currently spending between \$30,000.00-\$40,000.00 to Berkheimer.

I. Adjournment

Motion made by Glenn Kern, seconded by Priscilla deLeon, to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m.
Motion unanimously approved.