

Saucon Valley Partnership Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 13, 2011
Borough of Hellertown

- I. Call to Order – Priscilla deLeon- 7:00 p.m.
- II. Those Present – Priscilla deLeon, Glenn Kern, Mayor Fluck, Cathy Kichline, Ed Inghrim, Jack Cahalan, Leslie Huhn, Tom Harp

Guests: Tom Kohler, Stephanie Brown, Luciano Iaratola, Jim McIntyre
- III. Adoption of Council of Governments Minutes

Motion made by Glenn Kern, seconded by Ed Inghrim, to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried
- IV. County Bridge Report

Tom Kohler - I am here to discuss the Meadows Road Bridge. The bridge was not built for the volume of traffic. The arches are cracking every other year.

Glen Kern inquired if the cause of the deterioration was trucks?

Mr. Kohler - Yes, but not just the trucks but also the volume. The bridge will eventually have to be closed or replaced. It is obsolete.

Ms. deLeon - This bridge was build with different mortar. Is there a way to fix the old bridges? Has the County ever contacted a specialist?

Mr. Kohler - There are 2 rows of stone on the bridge. It was stuccoed over. There is no mortar left. It disintegrated. There are other arch bridges but the Meadows Road Bridge is the only one we have issues with because of the volume of traffic.

Ms. deLeon - Do the other bridges flood out?

Mr. Kohler - The other bridges do not flood like this one.

Mr. Kern- What is the bottom line?

Mr. Kohler - We will be monitoring the bridge. It is on the Bridge Replacement List but there is no timeline for completion.

Ms. deLeon - We want to preserve the history of the bridge. It would destroy the area to see a new bridge put in.

Mr. Kern - Can we restore the bridge?

Mr. Kohler - It can be restored but never upgraded. There will always be a weight restriction.

Ms. deLeon - There are experts that claim that there are preservation methods that the County could invest in that would be less expensive.

Mr. Kohler - If the cost of restoration is near the replacement cost, they will not let the bridge be restored.

Ms. Kichline - What is the status of the Seidersville Road Bridge?

Mr. Kohler - It is closed. It is on a back road and all the roads around the bridge have restrictions. It is more practical to fix bridges with more traffic.

Mr. Kern - What is the level of cost saving that would have to be shown for preservation to be allowed?

Mr. Kohler - It is up to PennDOT. All the money is State money.

Stephanie Brown - I was reading about a pilot program in Philadelphia and Bucks Counties for fixing bridges.

Mr. Kohler - If it is a pilot program, it may only be available in those areas.

Jack Cahalan - The project is called Project Keystone Bridge Management Program. It is for Delaware, Bucks, Chester, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties. Information is available at www.pastonearch.org.

Mr. Cahalan was asked to pass on that information to Northampton County.

V. Multi-Municipal

Cathy Kichline informed that Hellertown and Lower Saucon have received a technical assistance grant from EPA'S SUSTAINABLE Community Building Block program.

VI. Joint Planning Commission

The fifth meeting of the Joint Planning Commission was held on April 12, 2011. Among the items discussed were the Group Home Ordinance in Hellertown and Phoebe Development in Lower Saucon Township. The next meeting will be held in October.

VII. Casino Grant Update

Presentations for the uncommitted funds will be held on April 25, 2011. The applications up for review for Hellertown and Lower Saucon are tasers, AEDs, dumptruck, life pack, and Rails to Trails. The criteria for points can be found on the County's website.

Mr. Iatarola - Are these projects from the casino?

Ms. deLeon - This is for the uncommitted funds. For the first round, impact had to be shown. That is not the case with this round.

VIII. Rails to Trails Update

Mr. Cahalan - We hope to have the trail opened in the Township and the Borough by May. The surface that was chosen was crushcrete. The fences and gates have been installed in the Township.

Ms. Kichline - We have quotes on the fences and gate and hope to have them installed by the end of April. The signal will also need PennDOT approval. We also want to have a survey done to deal with encroachment issues.

Ms. deLeon - I feel we should have a ribbon cutting on May 7th to coincide with Saucon Valley History Day. Upper Saucon has invited us for a June ceremony. I think we can do both. We need to get the Trail rules approved.

Mr. Cahalan - We revised the park rules for the trail.

Ms. Kichline - The rules will be almost uniform throughout the trail.

Motion made by Priscilla deLeon, seconded by Ed Inghrim, to hold ribbon cutting ceremony on May 7th contingent upon Hellertown's portion being completed and also that we embrace the invite from Upper Saucon Township. Motion carried.

Mr. Cahalan - We need to make a decision on the horse issue. Council wants more information before allowing them to utilize the trail.

Ms. Kichline - I have checked and our Ordinance is silent.

Ms. deLeon - Has there been discussion at a Council meeting.

Ms. Kichline - We do not feel that it is appropriate but it is up for discussion.

IX. Peer Recreation Committee

The Peer Reviewer, Samantha, has sent out a survey to all of Council Members and the results of the survey should be in by the next meeting in May. She has been around to tour all of the park facilities

X. Polk Valley Road Update

Hanover Engineering has proposed moving the stop bar forward to help with the egress from McDonald's and also added five more feet to Mr. Iaratola's corner.

Ms. deLeon - Is there a hard copy of the plan yet and have we heard anything more from PennDOT?

Mr. Cahalan - The plan has to be sent in with these minor changes. PennDOT has everything else that they need. We are waiting to get a permit.

Mr. McIntyre - This is going to cause even more traffic on Meadows Road from people trying to avoid the traffic light.

Mr. Cahalan - The Meadows Road traffic study took into account Meadows Road. The objective the Polk Valley traffic signal is to improve turn movements on 412.

XI. Enterprise Zone

Ms. Kichline - There is no new information.

XII. Compost Center

Mr. Cahalan - We have advertised the opening date of April 29, 2011, and there is a sign at the compost center.

Ms. Kichline - Participation increased by 10 percent. 30 percent participation was from Lower Saucon Residents.

XIII. ACT 32

Mr. Inghrim - There will be a meeting tomorrow to discuss the transition. They want all the municipalities and school districts to be present. The TCC would also like a resolution passed on contact persons.

XIV. Fire Service

The fire departments are continuing to meet on the merger. They are working on a draft consolidation plan. They want to have it completed for a vote in June.

XV. Library Task Force

They have broken into committees: Finance, Technology, Building, and Demographics. The committees will be coming up with recommendations on the feasibility of consolidating the Township's library services with the Hellertown Library.

XVI. ACT 537

The Authority ran into a high water table at the Grist Mill. They concluded that it will not be a suitable route and will be going back to the drawing board.

XVII. Phoebe Development

The plans of Phoebe Development were presented to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission voted not to approve the plans. We have not heard from Phoebe since.

XVIII. Northampton County- Tom Harp

The County has lost its appeal for the sale of Gracedale. It will be on the May primary ballot. We do have a potential buyer. The language is available at Voter's Registration.

County Government Month will be celebrated starting April 1. The theme is Veteran's Services. There will be a mobile vet van on April 29, 2011.

They are working to finish the new windows and painting at the old Courthouse portion. This was made possible by a grant from the Department of Energy.

We will be accepting applications for 2011 Tree Vitalize Program. There is \$56,000.00 available for fall plantings. The deadline is July 1, 2011, and will require a 50 percent match. Volunteer/staff work can count toward match.

There is only about \$15,000.00 left for the Streetscape Project. It is up to \$5,000.00 to improve the business district. Hellertown currently has a project under consideration. This requires a cash match.

Local municipalities are being asked to pass a resolution giving their support for the I-78 median barrier project. It will not be binding but will be a nice gesture.

Ms. Kichline - I went to the meeting the other day. They wish to start construction in Williams Township. They will be making a presentation to emergency services. A

PennDOT concern is that emergency personnel will cut the cable rather than remove the vehicles from the cables.

Mr. Harp - There is an opening on the LANTA Bus Board. They are looking for someone who uses public transportation and preferably has a disability.

Ms. Kichline - There have been discussions on a route change. Will they be providing new schedules?

Mr. Harp - I would think so and there will have to be some sort of public notice.

XIX. Questions/Announcements

Stephanie Brown - Does National County Month happens every year?

Mr. Harp - Yes.

Ms. Brown - Is there any efforts to get the schools involved?

Mr. Harp - We do have school groups coming in. Things haven't quite gotten to involvement yet.

Mr. Inghrim - The Saucon Valley School District has applied to the PDE to award diplomas for veterans who enlisted in World War II prior to getting their diplomas. Some have signed up for the programs and they will be awarding diplomas.

XX. Adjournment

Motion made by Glenn Kern, seconded by Ed Inghrim, to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. Motion carried.