

SAUCON VALLEY PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Date: Wednesday, May 12, 2010
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: Lower Saucon Township

A. **Call to Order:** The Saucon Valley Partnership meeting was called to order by John Bate on May 12, 2010 at 7:02 PM at Lower Saucon Township.

B. **Roll Call: Present:** John Bate, Priscilla deLeon, Ed Inghrim, Mayor Fluck, Jack Cahalan, Charlie Luthar, and Tom Harp from the County.

C. **Council of Governments**

1. **Minutes of the April 2010 meeting** – Motion by Ed, second by Mayor Fluck for approval of the April 14, 2010 minutes. All in favor.

2. **Treasurer's Report** – Jack said the checking account balance as of April 30, 2010 is \$3,872.42. There were no receipts or expenses paid out of that account during the month of April. The Treasurer's account balance as of April 30, 2010 is \$11,520.26 and there were no receipts into that account and no payments out of the account. Motion by Ed, second by Mayor Fluck. All in favor.

3. **Approval to pay bills (if any)** – Jack said there were no bills.

D. **Saucon Valley Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan**

1. **DCED LUPTAP Grant Application** – Update – Charlie said we are going to get notice that we are going to get turned down. There were only two grants awarded. There's just no money in the DCED budget. Joe Hoffman will try some of the other grants.

E. **Brief Reports and Discussion Items**

1. **Casino Impacts Funding/County Gaming Authority** – Update – Priscilla said they meet on the 4th Monday at 5:30 PM at the County Courthouse. They are working on a draft grant application form. The draft was presented at their last meeting and they are meeting again in May. Everyone is supposed to look at it. If you have any comments or concerns or questions, please let her know prior to the meeting. They tried to duplicate what DCED did for their grant application for the state figuring that that would be generic enough and everyone is used to those applications and whatever the criteria requirements are. That's what they put together. She spoke with Cathy Gorman today and there will be a deadline when all the grants are supposed to be in. She doesn't have the date with her, but will let Jack know the date. She requested that they include in the packet information on what the casino revenue was. We should be provided with that on a monthly basis because we had quite a discussion over quarterly deposits. The County gets paid quarterly, so when the quarterly payment was received in 2010 for the last quarter of 2009, it was put in the uncommitted fund. She told them every year we have to have four deposits that are for the contiguous municipalities. Everyone just kind of looked at her. She said a quarterly deposit is a quarterly deposit. If they are going to take the first quarterly payment and call it uncommitted funds, it's not really uncommitted funds. That would be the first payment one of 2010, and then the second, third and fourth payments would follow, as somehow there has to be four. Jack said its four payments that come in and they get split. Priscilla said we have to decide how much of that is going to be the uncommitted funds and we won't know what's uncommitted until we get all the requests for funding which will happen by the fall once we approve this application. She wants to see four deposits in there. We were talking about the other Authorities that the County has and they said

towards the end of the year, they pretty much know, January through October, how much money is coming in, but yet that fourth quarter, they won't really know what it is. They said the municipalities are going to be finalizing their budgets. This is all going to happen in September, October, and November. It would be nice to know that the applications you submitted are going to be funded for 2011 so you can have more of a real budget. They said well, we don't know how much money we're getting as we won't know that until December 31st. If you go on this website, you can kind of see what the November revenue was. You might not get that money yet, but at least you have a better idea of what is going to be there. Charlie said they should cut it off on September 30th instead of waiting. They should change their fiscal quarter. Priscilla said they talked about that also, but the County has their fiscal year ending December 31st. Tom said yes, it's a calendar year, January to December. Priscilla said we supposedly have control over that and we could say that the quarterly payment is October to September. Priscilla said right. Jack said are they leaning towards following what the other Authorities in the state are doing and wait for the whole year's collection and then disburse it at the beginning of next year? Priscilla said this discussion came about because Bob Pfenning was at the meeting, so he asked the questions. We never really thought about that. She didn't realize that the first payment we received in 2010 was put into the uncommitted funds and she said no, that should not be uncommitted as there was no distribution for 2009. To say it was uncommitted isn't real. Jack said are they leaning towards an application window that's going to open sometime this summer? Priscilla said when we approve this grant application, then whatever it is, the applications can start coming in. Jack said will it close at some point like run for two months, and say if you don't have it in by July 31st, you will miss out? Aren't you looking for oral presentations in the fall? Priscilla said whoever is applying for a grant will have to make a presentation which will probably be in September. Jack said then you have to deliberate and make some decisions. Priscilla said right. Jack said do your decisions have to go to the County Council to be finalized? Priscilla said no. Jack said in preparation for that, they've been trying to gather all of the pieces that they are going to put together in our application. The Borough is going to do theirs and the Township is going to do theirs. It's going to have the emergency EMS, Fire, Police, road projects and it will be separated out. On two of them, there will be joint projects with Hellertown which are the EMS and the traffic signal at 412 and Polk Valley. Those will be joint projects and we will have to do a joint presentation. Priscilla said the good thing is you are adjacent municipalities because for a non-adjacent, it would have to be okayed by the adjacent to hook up with the county or city of Bethlehem. Jack said in order to finalize some information on the traffic counts, the Borough and Township Council approved Hanover Engineering to go out and do traffic counts at the intersections in the Borough and Township, and also Freemansburg wanted them done. They will be done by the end of May and that data will be submitted with their application. Bethlehem and Hanover Township declined to do a traffic count in May. They said they wanted to wait until the table games came in to do the traffic counts, which is a good point, but what we were concerned about was the window for the application. If that opens up in June and closes in July, we were afraid that if we waited until then to count the table game traffic, we might not have it. John said he doesn't know how we are going to show the impact right now on the traffic. Priscilla said going back to a conversation she had with Lisa Boscola in March, this isn't how Lisa envisioned the process to go through. It should have been a lot easier. Jack said he and Charlie were saying next year if they do the traffic counts, they will then include the table games. By that time, hopefully the hotel will be built and people will be streaming into Bethlehem. Priscilla said still, how do you know who is going to be at the table games? Jack said the casino seems to know.

2. **Joint COG Projects (Rail-to-Trail; Joint Recreation Study Committee) – Update**

Saucon Rail Trail – Jack said we are still limping along with the Saucon Rail Trail Advisory Committee, which is still unofficial and still being held back because Upper Saucon has some issues with the inter-governmental agreement and we don't know what those issues are. We don't know what needs to be resolved. We still have a group of people who are showing up for meetings. They are trying to contribute, but it's really come down to each municipality being on its

own and that's really become an issue since we will not be able to get DCNR funding because of the 99 year lease issue and the right of reversion. It's in the lease that SEPTA can take it back whenever they want to. DCNR said that's a deal killer. Based on that, there's no funding from the county or the state and we are basically operating on our own municipal budgets, and at least Lower Saucon and Hellertown Borough, are trying to see what is feasible, what is doable for 2010. He will be bringing to Township Council next week the recommendations from the Planner and Engineer, what they are recommending for the various crossings, and we have pulled together several recommendations for the railing system, either chain link or wood. We have several options for the surface material for the trail and also for the safety equipment needed for the crossing. He will pull that together, present it to Council on Wednesday, then he'll have that for the Rail Trail meeting the following Monday to go over it with them. As far as the Township is concerned, it really comes down to the budget at this time. If all of these recommendations are too expensive, we're not going to be able to do all of it this year and will be focusing on a smaller portion of the trail. We hope to be able to do that with Hellertown, but Hellertown has some issues. Priscilla said when you read the gaming law, it says tourism, and to her, this is the perfect. If you can't get funding through the state, this may be a way.

Charlie said he has a drawing that Barry Isett put together based on the latest comments they got back from PennDOT for Water Street. They thought this was going to be relatively straightforward except for the crossing as it's a state highway. They have a shared use agreement with PennDOT for the crossing. They thought they had a layout on how this was going to go. PennDOT introduced a new element and it's hard to read, but the line of sight for this crossing is very good. You can see all the way past Heller Homestead to the top of the hill. It's 1,000 feet to the west and it's 722 feet to the east, which is Main Street. The required distance is 490 feet sight distance, so we're well in advance of that. That signal was put in for Society Hill for pedestrians to cross the street. Because there was that pedestrian crossing, they are requiring us to move the flashing light going westbound to the east of this crossing. It's 120 feet from the crossing to where that signal has to go, so it would have to move from the entrance of Water Street Park further, maybe 50 yards to the east and then maybe another 120 feet. We would also need to introduce - where the other two yellow marks are - something that could trigger that light before crossing the road. John said you'd think they could do the crossing at the bridge and that would cover the park and the Homestead. Priscilla said the reason we had the crossing there was there are only sidewalks on one side of the bridge so we had to get the people across the street. If it was on the other side, we wouldn't have needed it. Charlie said this is very bad news because of the cost. In talking to the fellow from Signal Service, who took over the company that maintained the light, he's telling us that this is going to be expensive because we would have to take the connections for this light all the way back to this other light. He doesn't understand that, as you should be able to interrupt the circuit and do that without having to do what he is saying. They are going to meet at 8:00 AM on Wednesday morning. If Jack and Roger are available, Charlie would like them to be at this meeting as the guy from Signal Service will be here to look at this. He remembers the signal and the maintenance problems that you had with the signal. Jack said Signal Service was out there about a month ago. Charlie said apparently it's out of date. The mechanism is no longer manufactured and they replaced some sort of a timer mechanism that you had to get fixed last time. John said his concern is real simple. You have this thing 200 feet away from people who are going to cross. You are going to see the light flashing. You are going to slow down for maybe 50 feet. Then you are going to take off again. There's no way we can get them to get them closer? This is the only thing PennDOT is going to allow us to do? This isn't going to work. Charlie said that's PennDOT's requirement. Jack said part of this is in the Township also. Charlie said Ryan Kern from Barry Isett called and tried to plead with the fellow that did the survey from Joe Rauscher's office, but it was a Richard Krause. John said it's not going to do that crosswalk any good. Charlie said the line of sight is the answer here, unlike Meadows Road where there definitely is an issue. The fact that the light was there, they latched on to that. Priscilla said PennDOT approved that when Society Hill was constructed. They had to get that permit. Charlie said they have the authority along this road regardless as it is their road and they tell us what to do. John said can't

we go back to them and say this isn't going to work? Charlie said we can ask again. John said he'd really like you to do that as he doesn't see this working and it will not do any good for the crosswalk. Priscilla said when you are up at Society Hill, the sign says "Pedestrian Crosswalk", so you're coming down over the hill and it's like where is the crosswalk? Then you go down the hill, and you forgot you saw the sign. John said we can fold this into two things. One with the Farmer's Market and with the Heller Homestead and the Rails to Trail all in one shot. Charlie said are you talking about moving the crossing closer? John said to closer to the park. Charlie said this one is pinned, and you couldn't move this one. Are you talking about moving the one up at Society Hill down further? John said he'd like to see them both moved. Charlie said it has to be a certain distance from the crossing. Jack said the problem is you have the bridge and that could be a problem too. John said if you were to go on the Hellertown side of that bridge and then by Creek Road, that would serve the entire spot there. Charlie said the overall permit, he doesn't know about as it was installed with whatever happened at Society Hill. This distance was calculated by the Borough Engineer based on PennDOT's rules. That signal is at Front Street.

Priscilla said let her give you the history of Society Hill. That was 660 some homes approved. It was a UR district, and it was a new district. In order to have that density, you had to be close to a Borough, post office, etc., and you had to walk there. In order to walk there, you had to get them safely down Friedensville Road. That was impossible. Now there is a sidewalk with Stever Mills, but that wasn't there in the late 80's. They came up with this macadam pathway that left Society Hill and meanders through the Heller Homestead Park. Where the driveway used to come into the Homestead, the path walk is by the bridge. That's where they put the signal. That might be part of this approval for that subdivision. She doesn't know if PennDOT can now say that a condition of approval can be changed. In order to get that approved, they had to do this. They gave the Township \$60,000.00 to install this light. She asked if Jack had a chance to check the subdivision records? Jack said he didn't. Priscilla said she had just got on Council then and it was a very big concern to her for the people crossing Friedensville Road. Charlie said he doesn't mind sending a letter, but it probably should be a joint letter. John said it should be narrowed down to what our real needs are.

Charlie said he thinks we are still stuck with the location being moved onto the other side according to PennDOT unless we can tell them to go back to the drawing board. There's no reason to do this as the calculated line of sight requirement is 476 feet and we're well over that. The position from Barry Isett's calculation, it has to be 120 feet from the crossing. We would end up having to move the other one down and there would be double cost. Right now we have one cost plus these two and we'd actually increase it by one location which we wouldn't have to do. John said Society Hill is going to be a big one as you have to go so far. Charlie said what this guy is telling us is we may have to end up doing that anyway assuming we even get approval with the Township to do that because we'll have to trench all the way to get up to it, unless he can use radio, and that's a lot of money if it can be done. These are old signals. We'll know Wednesday. Mayor Fluck said he probably uses the park for Tuesday meetings and Sunday for the market. He asked if you ever saw the speed coming down on Friedensville Road. Priscilla said the lights are flashing when its Market day. Jack said he doesn't know if it slows anyone down. Charlie said they will meet with the Signal Service guy and can write a joint letter asking if they really have to do this. Priscilla said they put orange cones out whenever they have an event at the Heller Homestead.

Jack said on the Township's end for the Rail Trail, the Meadows Road is our crossing issue and we have to come up with some safe way to get people across as the line of sight is terrible. John said he's heard some things about what you are going to use for fill. He would suggest you look in to other surfaces other than crushed crete. When it's wet, it gets slimy and really messy. When it dries, it gets extremely dusty. It's hard, but not like a true modified, which is clean. It's cheaper, but if you go down and walk in the yard, you'll know exactly what he means, and that's what you are going to put on your trail. Jack said is there a modified crushed crete? They used the crushed crete at the Compost Center and got a lot of complaints. John said it's the modified crushed crete

and it's going to be the same thing, the dusty condition and the slime. Jack said he thought it was a different composition. John said you need to look at a quarry process material. It brings all the chemicals up and the slime up from the cement. It's cheap, and a quick way to fix it, but you really have to top it with something. If you want to put asphalt down on top of it, this stuff is great. To leave it as the top, you are going to have a lot of complaints. Jack said the other option was the slag and we are still waiting for the chemical analysis. Charlie said there is some question about the slag at Thomas Iron. There was an interest in moving the material to the coke work plant, but now there is someone else interested and the problem is transportation cost to move it out of there. They were concerned about the chemicals.

Joint Recreation Study Committee - update – Jack said they had a skeleton crew and had a good discussion. They talked about various regional recreation issues like the indoor facility. They talked about what came out of the Borough Council and the community pool and joint opportunities with that in the future. Joe Hoffman is coming to the next meeting with the grant they are going to submit to hopefully get some money from DCNR to get a peer consultant who can come in and work with the group and move us further ahead. We still haven't gotten all the sports organization representatives to attend. Bob Zerfass from the Royals has been attending regularly.

John said Borough Council last Monday approved the lights for the soccer down on Water Street Park. They are planning on moving forward and doing some lights down there. The people who are on Council are very involved with these kids and want to keep them busy. Jack said Bob Frey wasn't there, so he's not sure when he wants Jack and Charlie to come to one of their meetings to talk about what this group is doing for joint recreation opportunities. Ed said he keeps encouraging Bob Frey to look at the fields across the street as there are some people on the board who want to add more fields to the high school's property. His own personal opinion is he'd rather have them use the fields across the street than pay taxpayer's money. Taxpayers already paid for those fields across the street. Jack said that's what they are talking about as there's a lot of other people that want to use those fields. That's one of the biggest issues: scheduling. How can we get everyone on those fields? Ed said he thinks there are enough fields between Hellertown and Lower Saucon. Jack said the one thing they heard from Bob which would be an issue; first of all those fields during the day are not used at all. They are used mostly for practice at night and on the weekends. When they said to Bob, they're there; he said when they say they want to use a field, they basically mean for a season which it sounds like they move in and take over the field. They will be able to work something out. John said there are some avenues for the school district to use some of these parks, but we need to work together, and that's what this committee is for. Ed said there's no reason the community can't use the school fields if they are not being used. John said they are going to have a problem when they start doing the upper fields at the high school where the football team practices. Once you move that dirt, that's two years of grass growing, etc. Ed said he doesn't think they have enough to pull that off. He does not want to spend any taxpayer's money at all right now. We have some money left over in the capital budget and it's like it's burning a hole in some people's pockets. We don't know what the future holds in terms of the economy, and if we have a problem at the school where we need capital money, he doesn't want to spend our capital funds down to nothing, particularly for athletic fields, when we have lots of fields across the street.

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

Polk Valley Road/412 Intersection HOP Application – Jack said there is nothing new. Priscilla said Jack sent them an email on the truck that overturned on Route 412. Where exactly was that? John said it was right by the Turkey Hill. John said that's the second one in six months that did that with asbestos on it. Jack said it was 29,000 lbs. overweight. Priscilla said every month they go to their Landfill meetings and one of the big issues is the overweight trucks. When they get to the landfill, there is a program that if they are caught two times, they get banned from the landfill for a month and there are penalties. They will send trucks away without getting a tipping fee.

There are no incentives for these truck drivers to care about if they are overweight. Once they get to the landfill, they can't turn them away. They dump and then they get a warning and after so many warnings in that month, they are banned from dumping at the Bethlehem Landfill. John said he doesn't see that truly happening. He'd be surprised that they would turn anyone in considering what they are getting for tipping fees.

4. **Joint Enterprise Zone with City of Bethlehem** – Update – Charlie said he should have brought along an email he got from Becca at the City of Bethlehem, which says they are in suspended animation right now, but they are still working on it. He will send the email to Jack. Priscilla said keep in mind when they met with the City, they talked about a funding requirement for this thing. Charlie said they are still researching it.
5. **Saucon Valley Compost Center** – Update – Charlie we are doing real well. The first couple of weeks of the season, the amount of visits are up 10.3%. He thinks there is a noticeable increase in Lower Saucon's participation, which was really good. It's about 21% Lower Saucon participation which has improved considerably. Tom Dittmar would like to come down to check it out. It's really positive. John asked how many people were getting mulch loaded onto their vehicles? Charlie said we do get checks that are made to Lower Saucon. Jack said he'll get a report on it. Charlie said it's not a lot, he thinks a lot of people are just shoveling in what they need in small amounts. They did have an incident with someone who wanted topsoil from there, and they straightened that out.

Jack said regarding the County Solid Waste Committee, he went to the last meeting. Tom Dittmar had been at one of our meetings and was looking for a COG representative to be on this committee. Tom Maxfield was interested in being on the committee, but he can't go to the meetings during the day. The second meeting was scheduled last week and Jack attended it. He got some material and distributed it to our Landfill Committee. There is a consultant working with the County who is putting an update of the Solid Waste Plan, which hasn't been updated for ten years. They are collecting that data and putting it out in draft form. He distributed that and Tom wants comments on it. He would like you to get back to him within two weeks. The goal is to get that plan finished and before the County Council for them to look at and approve and then it goes on to DEP. Hopefully by the end of the year, it will get DEP approval. The County has a plan to guarantee the capacity agreement, which is something he handed out. The third one is a proposed \$1 tipping fee and he's not real clear if that's something that is mandated or has to be negotiated. At Tom's meeting, it did not seem to be real popular with the landfill representatives. The one landfill said show us what you are going to use this money for, so there was a lot of discussion about the E-recycling and household hazardous waste events, which the money would be used to fund. This COG needs to have a representative on this committee. He and Charlie can cover temporarily, but they really could use someone to go to these meetings. Priscilla said is there a way we can get Jim Birdsall to go to that meeting? Jack said we'd have to pay him and get Council to approve it. Priscilla said they do have a landfill in our Township. Way back in 1988, when Act 101 was passed that created this dollar per ton thing, then Tom Dittmar told her it wasn't legal for them to collect it, and that's why they stopped paying. At one point, the County did collect that dollar for awhile. Jack said they actually had an account which Tom used leftover money from to pay for the household hazardous waste event they held. Priscilla said prior to 1988, the City of Bethlehem owned the landfill and they were doing Phase I or II, but the Township and the City sued each other and that's when they had their first landfill agreement. That was going on and on to settle this consent order and it was a big mess from what she hears. Then the state decided to pass Act 101 creating the dollar per ton, but the Township at that time was getting 3% of the gross revenue. We had to take the City's number they gave us as gross revenue. The City was dumping everything in the world in the landfill and not getting paid for it, so they never really got our tonnage and it didn't even out. We weren't getting DEP letters, and we were unaware about the pollution at the landfill. This Act 101 was the greatest thing in the world for anyone who cared about the environment around the landfill. Now they are copied on everything and it makes it a lot

better. The County is supposed to be copied on everything from the three landfills on all their issues. Then they renegotiated with the City in about 1991, and came up with the Host Agreement. Act 101 also said you had to have a Host Agreement. We negotiated and that's when we got the percentages. She remembers when Ken Platt was on Council and he was a financial person at Bethlehem Steel. He said you need to put an escalator on that, and it's good they did as each year it goes up and up. That's how they get the different percentages on what they pay us. There's no cap on it and that's ongoing. She can't go to the meetings, but wishes she could. Priscilla said they are very pleased that the County is doing this because for the past ten years they were saying the County needs to do this and they weren't. Jack said if it's okay with this body, they can bring it to a Council meeting and Jim can be designated as the representative. He doesn't think we have anyone else. Priscilla said Jim has the environmental background and history for input.

6. **Act 32 EIT Tax Collection Districts** – Update – Ed said their next meeting is tomorrow where they will hopefully be going over the final draft of the RFP. He hopes they get closure on the draft at tomorrow's meeting and will move forward. Priscilla asked if this draft is like a consensus around the state? Ed said there was a revision of the RFP that was put together. There have been some tweaks. When you are trying to get 40 different groups, there are going to be some tweaks. He doesn't think there are any major changes. The biggest issue that came up is the fact that there were some municipalities that wanted to include the Local Services Tax (LST) in the RFP. There were some municipalities that were vehemently opposed and the latter group won, so there is no mention of the LSTs in the RFP, which means for those municipalities that do collect a LST, they are going to have to negotiate that separately with whoever their tax collector may be.
7. **Fire Services** - Update – Jack said the next meeting is May 26th. They sent out information. Priscilla deLeon and Glenn Kern are the Council representatives for the Township. Jack will also be attending. The joint discussions will be resumed and they will move forward.
8. **Library Services** – Update – Jack said there was a meeting, but we haven't gotten back with them yet. We probably have to have another meeting. They were going to do some homework and so were we, and then we're going to get back together with them and talk and see where we are with this idea of can we merge at some point, when, what's the pros and cons of that? If it looks like it's doable, we really need to get down and start solving issues. He needs to make a report to his Council at budget time so they have some information they can act on as they are under the gun every year to renew the contract with the City of Bethlehem library. He doesn't think something is going to happen right away, but we need to talk if it's going to happen in the future.
9. **Leithsville Act 537 Plan** – Update – Charlie said the easement has been signed and it's in Gar Davidson's hand. He assumes the attorney has filed it. They are getting quotes for the test borings. John said we are going to be mindful of the soccer that is being played when they go through the park? Jack said yes.
10. **Other Issues**
 - Jack said Tom Harp had passed on information to us about Millennium Strategies, a group that does grants. He hasn't had a contact from Catherine Lynch yet. The school district is familiar with this group. He wanted to bring this up in case she contacts them. Charlie said Ed or Lanita could report on the comings and goings, and he doesn't think we need a presentation. Jack said he thought he would get an email from her asking if she could come to the meeting, and he was going to tell her their position was they didn't think that was necessary. Ed said Saucon Valley is the first entity in PA that hired that firm. It's a New Jersey based firm and wants to move into PA. They had quite a bit of success in New Jersey getting grant money. He personally had a problem with using taxpayer's money. It was a 5-4 vote and they charge \$2,500.00 a month and that was one of the reasons he voted against it. They can cancel the contract at any time. Tom said they were not endorsing it,

just passing the information on as a courtesy. One of the partners is TJ Rooney. He covers the government piece of it.

- John said the cancer walk we have, Carol Schneider was at their Council meeting and she told them she'd like to see more Council members attend. There is a balloon launch. The dates are May 22nd and 23rd. Jack said they will have it on the Council meeting next week as an agenda item with a resolution. The Council President, Glenn Kern, is a cancer survivor, and makes it a point to be there. John said Carol said it would be great if there was more participation from both groups.
- Priscilla said she wanted to let Tom know the Township is meeting with the County on the Meadows Road Bridge.

F. **County Report – Tom Harp** – Tom said less than a month from now, the Joint Meeting with the County COGs is June 8th from 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM at Lower Saucon Township. He would like to thank Jack and Priscilla for hosting it. Last time it was up at Bushkill. He is looking for any topics, issues, or speakers anyone would want. Give it some thought and let him know in the next week or so. Jack said maybe someone from PennDOT could come in and talk about the widening project of 412. It's been a while since we heard anything on that subject.

Tom said 2010 census - he'd like to thank everyone. They tried to be some sort of facilitator in this whole process. All the mail in questionnaires are done. The participation rate is up to 80% for the County. That compares to the national average of 72% and the PA average is 76%. In Lehigh County, it's the same – 80%. In the 2000 census, participation was 82%, so we should be able to do better than that at the very end. Now they have to go out and visit the households who did not respond and finish up on the group living quarter visits they have to do. They still haven't counted people at the County jail. They kind of keyed on the universities first, so they spent a lot of time at Lehigh and Lafayette as they wanted to make sure they didn't have dual counts of households. In taking a look at the interactive maps, he was surprised to the north of us, Monroe County; their return rate was only 55% which is kind of strange. They are lower than Philadelphia as Philadelphia is at 62% and they usually have a pathetic number. They are doing okay in the County and are pretty well counted. He doesn't know what happens if the person refuses to answer, but he thinks there are fines involved. Ed said he and his wife never received a notice that the form was coming. They never received anything. His wife picked up a form and mailed it in. All his neighbors received forms and their houses were built after his. They take the post office mail addresses and just use those addresses.

Tom said recycling events – their first E-cycling event of the year is coming up this Saturday, May 15th at Easton High School at their parking lot. The next one will be in June at Washington Township Elementary School in the Slate Belt. In October, there is the Household Hazardous Waste one. Priscilla asked Tom to send brochures to her so Laura Ray could update the EAC website.

Tom said Gracedale update – the County has hired a consultant from Dresher, PA to complete a study. They are going to be doing the operational assessment of Gracedale Nursing Home. They are going to be doing their site visits next week with a report supposedly coming out in mid-July. That's to take a look at all options with Gracedale. Gracedale is the third largest public nursing home in the State. It's larger than Cedar Brook. This group has been involved with dozens of these studies and they actually manage a number of private nursing homes. We'll see what happens.

Tom said next County Council meeting is next Thursday, May 20th. On the County website, you can get live video feeds of the Council meetings. Priscilla said and soon to be the casino meetings also as Bob Pfenning wanted to have the meetings taped. It's been well received. Tom said that they have to learn when they go into Executive Session to turn off the microphones.

Tom said Lori Sywensky just sent out the information about this year's CDBG application and that the County got a \$1.5 million, 7% increase allocations for eligible projects. The deadline is June 11th.

Tom said they are going to be replacing the windows in the historic courthouse and adding energy efficient windowpanes. They are going through that process. You have to go through a lengthy approval process. They are working with a consultant who really specializes in historic windows. Jack said it's Christine Ussler. Tom said the famous parking garage behind the courthouse; the work should be starting on that next month or so. That's going to be completely restored, which means their parking problem will only be increased even worse.

G. Citizens Commenting on Non-Agenda Items – None

H. Events Calendar

<http://sauconvalleycalendar.blogspot.com>

Priscilla said Saucon Valley Community Center is going to be honoring Bud Prosser on June 4, 2010.

Priscilla said on May 26th from 5 PM to 7 PM, the Lower Saucon Chamber will have a business spotlight at Starter's Pub. The cost is \$10.00.

Priscilla wanted to compliment the school district for working with the Conservancy on the annual artist exhibit. It's amazing the talent of these kids. It's on until the end of the month. 9th, 10th, and 11th graders did the work and it was a good experience and we look forward to doing it again. Sandra Fellin was at their reception. It was a nice thing to do and a neat plus for them.

Priscilla said they had their annual history day on April 24th. The three historical societies had good attendance. There were people everywhere and it's growing every year.

I. Adjournment:

Priscilla made a motion to adjourn with a second by Ed. All in favor. The time was 8:45 PM.

J. Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 9 @ 7:00 PM at SVSD; NO MEETING IN JULY; Wednesday, August 11 @ Lower Saucon Township.