

Saucon Valley Partnership Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 10, 2020
Lower Saucon Township via Zoom

- A. Call to Order** – Priscilla deLeon called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.
- B. In Attendance** – Cathy Hartranft (HB), Phil Weber (HB) joined at 6:23 p.m., Tom Rieger (HB) joined at 6:57 p.m., Leslie Huhn (LST), Priscilla deLeon (LST), Jason Banonis (LST), Shawn Welch (SVSD), Mike Karabin (SVSD), Sandra Miller (SVSD), Mark Hartney (NC), Carolyn Yagle (EPD).
Guests: Stephanie Lynn, Kathryn Kelly.
- C. Council of Governments**
1. Approval of bills – Leslie Huhn presented an invoice from EDP in the amount of \$2,887.98. Upon motion by Priscilla deLeon, second by Shawn Welch, the bill was approved. Approval was readdressed later in the meeting since there was not a quorum when the original voting took place. Upon motion by Priscilla deLeon, seconded by Shawn Welch, the bill was approved.
 2. Minutes – Motion by Shawn Welch, seconded by Jason Banonis to approve the May 13, 2020 minutes with corrections to the attendees grouped together with their respective boards and wording added regarding the Sunshine Law because of additional Lower Saucon Township Council members in attendance. All agreed. Approval was readdressed later in the meeting since there was not a quorum when the original voting took place. Motion by Shawn Welch, seconded by Jason to approve the May 13, 2020 minutes with corrections to the attendees grouped together with their respective boards and wording added regarding the Sunshine Law because of additional Lower Saucon Township Council members in attendance. All agreed.
- D. Business Items**
1. Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan – Carolyn Yagle informed all that she had an opportunity this past week to coordinate on the link for the municipalities with Leslie. She is coordinating on items with Cathy as well. She will be going over specifics with Leslie & Cathy in regards to the public meeting announcements that are going to be drafted. Carolyn asked if she needed to discuss it with the school district as well. Mike Karabin & Shawn Welch agreed that it would be best to discuss that with Craig Butler & Mike Hansen. Leslie & Cathy will contact them. Discussion took place in regards to the proposed 159 homes to be built. That could have an impact on numbers on the school. Carolyn will add in a few sentences about the impacts of additional development. The timeline for the public meeting is August 2020.
 2. Pipeline Updates – Priscilla received an update dated June 1, 2020. Two permits have yet to be granted by PADEP. The Chapter 102 Permit concerns erosion and sediment control. It is required for all earth disturbances equal or greater than one acre. The Chapter 105 Permit concerns water obstruction and stream encroachment. Opponents of the pipeline are contending that the new Phase 1 project has changed in length, in purpose, and in route and therefore should be considered as a new project with the opportunity for additional public comment.
- E. Brief Reports and Discussion Items**
1. **Grants** – Hellertown’s Main Street project with the rabbit flashing signals should start up in July.

2. **Joint COG Projects** – No updates at this time.
 3. **Roads & Traffic** –
 - a. Easton Road/Cherry Lane/Ringhoffer Road – No updates at this time.
 - b. PennDOT Roads – No updates at this time.
 4. **Saucon Valley Compost Center** – It is open with a new schedule. The normal Friday – Saturday schedule has resumed and the Monday – Thursday schedule has been discontinued.
 5. **Meadows Road Bridge** – At the June 2, 2020 PA Historic Preservation meeting, the Meadows Road Bridge was unanimously recommended as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The next step in the process is for the nomination to be forwarded to the National Parks Services in Washington DC who will formally list the bridge in the National Register. Priscilla sent an email to Mike McGuire, PennDOT, to inform him. PennDOT has to review the engineering components.
 6. **Northampton County Report** – Mr. Hartney informed all that there was a grant opportunity that Northampton County released this week called the Grow Norco Program. Municipalities and non-profits will be able to apply for up to \$15,000 for COVID-related improvements. It can be used for PPE or to install protective barriers. Applications are due June 25, 2020. Funding decisions are going to be made early July 2020. No match is required. It will not be the last assistance from the County, as they did receive \$27 million from the state of Pennsylvania through the Cares Act. Tentative plans are to distribute it towards small business assistance and towards non-profits and government. The Rising Tide Community Loan Fund are receiving approximately \$10 million from the state to put out in the form of grants to small businesses. Any business with less than 25 employees will be eligible to apply. Information can be found on the Rising Tide Community’s website.
 7. **Steel Club** – No updates at this time.
 8. **Bucks Run Oil** – Hellertown reported that Bucks Run Oil is looking at a piece of property on Whittaker Street. They have received conditional approval.
 9. **Starbucks** – Hellertown reported that Starbucks is being proposed at the former Bank of America. They are on hold right now.
- F. **Citizens Commenting on Non-Agenda Items** – Priscilla welcomed Kathryn Kelly to the meeting. Kathryn commented that she has been stirred to be more involved on a local level in the community. She asked if/how the SVP are responding to the current situations of racism. Priscilla said they are responsive to any concerns and are supportive of any positive measures that are taken. Sandra Miller asked if Hellertown has a policy on the confederate flag. Cathy said they do not. Shawn explained how the 1/3 of the gray to blue streamers & 2/3 of the blue to gray streamers of the flag are represented. The Secretary of the Army does not want to take away the Confederate streamers of those who served in the Confederate Army. Kathryn thanked him for his perspective and history of the flag. She is interested in diversification of the syllabus in the school district. She would like to see speakers and educators who specialize in anti-racism. Sandra Miller mentioned that the school has added into the curriculum review process & book selection various components that reflect a broader diversity.

Stephanie Brown mentioned her concern for safety of people swimming in the creeks now that the pools are closed. Hellertown and Lower Saucon Township will discuss the concerns with their Chiefs of Police.

G. Events Calendar

1. Hellertown/Lower Saucon Restaurant Week – It is taking place July 19 – 25, 2020.
2. Community Day – It has been canceled.
3. Hellertown Pool – Closed for the summer.
4. Music in the Parks – Summer concerts have been canceled. There are plans for September 13, 2020 and September 26, 2020 as dates for several bands to play.
5. Musikfest – has been canceled.
6. Rail Trail – It has been extended past Coopersburg, almost down to Veteran’s Park in Richland Township.
7. Playgrounds – Lower Saucon Township is keeping the playgrounds closed per the Governor’s orders during the yellow phase. Hellertown opened their playgrounds a few days ago as “use at your use risk”. Restrooms, courts, and pavilions remain as closed.

- I. Adjournment** – Upon motion by Phil Weber, seconded by Shawn Welch the meeting was adjourned at 7:04 pm.