

SAUCON VALLEY PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Date: Wednesday, August 10, 2011
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: Lower Saucon Township

- A. **Meeting Called To Order** – The meeting was called to order by Priscilla deLeon. Priscilla announced there was not a quorum of voting members present; therefore, no official business will be transacted. The meeting is being held to share information among the attendees.
- B. **Roll Call** – Priscilla deLeon, Cathy Kichline, Leslie Huhn, Ed Inghrim, Tom Harp.
Guest: Stephanie Brown
- C. **Council of Governments**
1. **Minutes of the June Meeting** – Lacking a quorum of voting members, the June meeting minutes will be approved at the September meeting.
 2. **Treasurer’s Report** – Lacking a quorum of voting members, the Treasurer’s report was not read. The Treasurer’s report will be presented at the September meeting.
 3. **Approval to pay bills (if any)** – There were no bills to be paid.
- D. **Saucon Valley Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan**
1. **EPA Sustainable Communities Building Blocks Program Grant for Zoning Audits – update** – Cathy reported the work session was very well attended. The EPA and AECOM consultants facilitated the discussion on key community issues, constraints and interest and design for sustainable development of three sites within the Borough. All three sites were underperforming commercial, infill redevelopment or Brownfield. Using the concepts identified in Smart Growth, such as allowing mixed use zones, using urban dimensions in urban places, foster walkable places and using green infrastructure to manage stormwater, amongst other tools, the groups created a site development that will expand economic opportunity, protect the environment and improve the overall quality of life. These site specific design concepts are available for public view at Hellertown Borough Hall.
- E. **Brief Reports and Discussion Items**
1. **Casino Impacts Funding/County Gaming Authority – update** – Priscilla reported twenty-six applications were received by the August 1st deadline. The Gaming Authority has approximately \$1.7 million to award. Presentations by Hellertown and Lower Saucon Township will be held August 22nd.
 2. **Joint COG Projects**
 - a. **Saucon Rail Trail** – Cathy reported the color coded mile markers are being installed this week. Street name signs will be placed within the next couple of weeks. A map indicating the mile marker number system will be placed along the map to help trail users. The committee thanked Advanced Optics and Saucon Valley Bikes for their generous contribution toward the purchase of the mile markers. Priscilla still has concerns about the people speeding along Water Street and not slowing or stopping for trail users.
 - b. **Peer Recreation Study Committee** – The committee reconvened on July 11th. It was determined the primary goal of this meeting is to focus on the sports field issues and the use of the remaining facilities by different organizations would be the topic of later meetings. The committee discussed the immediate need of field maintenance and that this

issue is even more of a priority than scheduling. Samantha has scheduled a meeting with the Public Works people for August 22 at 11:00 am. The next meeting of the Peer-Recreation group is September 12th at 7:00 pm at the SVSD.

3. **Roads & Traffic**

- a. **Polk Valley Road/412 Intersection HOP Application** – No additional information was available.

4. **Joint Enterprise Zone with City of Bethlehem – update** – No additional information was available.

5. **Saucon Valley Compost Center – update** – Cathy said its open and running very well. We addressed some of the issues and he hasn't heard of any problems from any of the customers. Cathy said we have gotten 2300 loads since January. About 68% from Hellertown and 32% from Lower Saucon Township. There was some discussion of applying for a grant. Cathy said they will come back with information on that.

6. **Act 32 EIT Tax Collection Districts – update** – Keystone Collections is currently holding employer informational and training sessions throughout the County. Cathy said all the required agreements and ordinances have been approved by Hellertown. Hellertown will also sign an agreement to have Keystone collect the Local Service Tax.

7. **Fire Services – update** – The draft of the consolidation plan has been distributed to all Fire Companies. No further information was available.

8. **Library Task Force – update** – The Library Committee is meeting tomorrow (Thursday, August 11th).

9. **Leithsville Act 537 Plan – update** – No additional information was available.

10. **Other Issues**

- Priscilla inquired as to the status of the Meadows Road Bridge. Ed Inghrim said he saw people working on it last week. Tom was unaware of any work being done on the bridge. Tom hadn't heard anything from his bridge unit regarding the information that was sent to them about proper maintenance techniques for historic stone-arch bridges. He will follow up and have a report at the next meeting. Priscilla suggested deGruchy Masonry be invited to speak at an upcoming SVP meeting.
- Cathy reported on the status of the Stipulated Agreement with regard to the High Street Bridge. The future maintenance of the bridge structure is outlined at 40% City of Bethlehem, 40% Borough of Hellertown and 20% County of Northampton. Under the proposed settlement, the High Street bridge structure would be totally removed and reconstructed. Norfolk Southern would fund the costs of design and engineering up to a set amount. Any unfunded amounts would be borne by the City. The reconstructed bridge will preserve the corridor for future establishment of a trail along the former rail line. The Stipulation of Settlement will resolve all matters regarding this crossing, with the exception of the costs of future maintenance. Michael Corriere will have additional information at the Hellertown Borough Council meeting on August 15th.

F. **County Report – Tom Harp**

- Voters spoke on May 17th and passed the referendum prohibiting the county from selling Gracedale² for 5 years. An RFP for private management of Gracedale was sent out on May 20th. The County

received four proposals. A committee that was formed to review the proposals met earlier this week and will submit a recommendation to County Council by the end of this week. The matter will be discussed at the County Council's Finance Committee meeting next Wednesday, August 17 and approved at the full council meeting the next day.

- The old courthouse window project is 80% complete. Scaffolding has been erected around much of the old courthouse. Windows will be made more energy efficient, and the entire structure including the cupola will be re-painted in the original 1861 paint scheme.
- Phase I of the Wayne Grube Park, located in Weaversville, is nearly complete. There will be three picnic pavilions, two rest room (s) and two tot lots on the site. A dedication ceremony originally scheduled for May 25th has been postponed until the fall due to the wet spring weather which delayed construction.
- 2011 E-Cycling will be held October 1st at Nazareth Middle School. Household Hazardous Waste will be held October 8th at Northampton Community College.
- The joint meeting of the Northampton County COG's was held on June 14th in Bushkill Township. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 13th at the Chrin Community Center in Palmer Township. The Miracle League will be the keynote speaker.

G. Citizens Commenting on Non-Agenda Items

- Stephanie Brown commented on speeding emergency vehicles at the rail trail crossing. She suggested the use of sirens and horns when the emergency vehicles are in close proximity to the rail trail crossing.
- Stephanie also commented on the handicapped ramps installed in Hellertown Borough. Although there has been some discussion that these ramps are causing stormwater issues, Stephanie appreciates Penndot's initiative to have them installed throughout the state.

H. Events Calendar

<http://sauconvalleycalendar.blogspot.com>

- The committee discussed having a bike friendly/dog friendly guide designed that will show trail users the local establishments that provide these amenities.
- Community Day will be held August 20th at Dimmick Park.
- Saucon Valley Conservancy will hold its Barn Tour on September 10th.

I. Adjournment – The committee adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

J. Next meeting: September 14th – Saucon Valley School District; October 12th – Hellertown Borough