

SAUCON VALLEY PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Date: Wednesday, September 9, 2009
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: Lower Saucon Township

- A. **Call to Order:** The Saucon Valley Partnership meeting was called to order by Jack Cahalan on September 9, 2009 at 7:02 PM at Lower Saucon Township.
- B. **Roll Call: Present:** Priscilla deLeon from LST, Jane Balum from Hellertown, Susan Baxter and Ed Inghrim, SVSD; Jack Cahalan, Manager Lower Saucon Township; and Charlie Luthar, Borough Manager.
Guests: Tom Harp from the County.
- C. **Council of Governments**
1. **Minutes of the May, June and August 2009 Meeting** – Jack said we have copies of the minutes. We had the public meeting in June, so we didn't have a chance to approve the May minutes. We didn't have a July meeting, so we didn't get to approve the May and June minutes. We also have the August minutes. Susan moved for approval of the May, June and August 2009 minutes, second by Priscilla. All in favor.
 2. **Treasurer's Report** – Jack said he has the Treasurer's report for June, July and August. For the August report, the checking account the balance as of 08/31/2009 is \$7,374.89. In the Treasurer's report, the balance as of 08/31/2009 is \$9,924.26. There were no receipts for payments made out of either of those accounts during the month of August. The last payment was made was in June and that was the cost for the public meeting that was held at the school district on June 10. The motion would be for approval of the Treasurer's Report for June, July and August 2009. Priscilla said how are we doing with payments to them? Jack said we're all paid up except for one bill. We did have some extra money in the account, that luckily, we did not have to send back to DCED. We got some funding for the multi municipal plan which was over and above what was needed for the consultant, so that's in the kitty if we have to use it going forward. Priscilla said the \$1,000 that all three put into the account is building up. There was a motion for approval of the Treasurer's Report for August, and a second. All in favor.
 3. **Approval to pay bills (if any)** – Jack said there's a bill from EPD dated August 14, 2009 for services July 1 through July 31 in the amount of \$1,048.69. It was to provide us with some additional information that was needed to put the letter together to the LVPC with amendments being made to the LV County Comprehensive Plan. Motion by Priscilla, second by Susan to pay the bill. All in favor.
 4. **Request from Northampton County for Associate/Non-Voting Status** – Jack said we received a formal request from Tom and the County for them to become a member of the SVP, our COG organization. Tom said he guesses they are just looking for some uniformity in a sense that they are dues paying members already with the other three COGs. Most of them are in the \$250 range. It would have to be an associate level range, but at least it would show their commitment to being part of the SVP, even though it might be non-voting. It gives them an opportunity to participate with the COG at a different level and with Nazareth, it's \$250 there and \$250 for Two Rivers. We are paying a lot more for one of the other COGs, but we've decided if we just budget a set amount, we can share it with all four of the COGs. This could open it up for other organizations to join in the SVP. Jack said right now the charter we have, under membership, we didn't really plan for any membership other than the three of us. Priscilla said it could be amended. Jack said there are two things we'd have to do to amend this and the first would be amend the agreement to allow for an associate non-voting type of membership and we'd all have to approve that. Then if you had Tom or the County as a member, there's a whole process of what we have in the existing membership with new municipalities. If there's any new municipality or school district with Northampton or Lehigh Counties, they maybe become a member if approved by all member municipalities and school districts by resolution of their respective

governing bodies after an application has been before the partnership for not less than 45 days, and it's subsequent to be approved by the governing body of the applying municipality by the passage of an ordinance and adoption of this agreement at the official opening meeting of this body. Each of us would have to take action and then the County would have to do a resolution. He put it on the agenda so we could talk about it. If we would want to proceed, he and Charlie would go back and bring to the next meeting a draft of the proposed amendment that would suggest this associate non-voting membership category be added to the agreement. If that's the case, we'd come to that meeting and then go back to Hellertown Borough, LST, and SVSD to adopt the amendment. Priscilla said should the SVP vote and say we are in agreement and we support this concept and send an invitation to the County to join us. Also, ask Hellertown and the SVSD if they are interested, and then bring back the draft. She would think that \$250 would be okay. Tom said they don't need to be a member at any level. They just happen to be a member of the other COGs. They will be there at the meetings regardless. They reassessed how they budgeted each amount. If it's of no interest or too complicated, he can just continue to come and not give the \$250. Ed said he's just curious what motivated the County to do this. Tom said he did talk to John Stoffa about this and asked him what he thought if we should propose this to Saucon Valley. John said sure, we're doing it with the others, we should be doing it with them. That was the feeling there that if we're supporting the others with membership dues, then maybe we should be doing it here. If you say no, they will discontinue attending. He doesn't want to complicate things here. Other entities might want to become a member like the library, the historical society. That might get you away from what your mission is. Someone asked the other COGs the County participates in, are there other groups within those COGs? Tom said mostly it's school districts and municipalities. For awhile the Nazareth COG, the Nazareth Library was a member. Three Rivers, it's mostly municipalities. Their school districts aren't even part of that. Jack said you could have an authority or a library or government type agencies that would want to participate. There's three, like we are, then there's an associate and a special category. It's again a membership and you pay your dues, and it doesn't mean you are a voting member. Susan said what would benefit an organization to be doing that? Jack said to just participate in the exchange and discussions. Priscilla said when you look at the SVP, and it says a partnership of HB, SVSD and LST, if there's members listed, it shows more of a partnership that the County is in. Jack said you would have a category where you are an associate. If something came up that we wanted to vote on, they would not have a vote. Charlie said trade organizations. You do want to be somewhat restrictive. Hellertown Borough (HB) got \$20,000 from a grant. Is this going to change the relationship with the County if we come and ask for grant money? Tom said he would not think so. That's where you might have a conflict of interest. Charlie said should we take it back to the Council's? Jack said we can. They will put it on their agenda and HB can put it on theirs. Ed said maybe the SVP should vote as to whether or not we endorse it before we take it to the Council's. Priscilla said it looks more in unity then because we have part of the County doing something and then the next level up is partnering with us. Tom said if it's in the best interest of the SVP to open it up to other entities, that's the reason why it should be done, not just to accommodate them. Ed said can a COG cross a county border? Jack said our charter would allow for example, Upper Saucon who is in Lehigh County. Priscilla said the only downside is we're keeping our heads on the local stuff, but once you go and add one or two municipalities, your agenda is a little bit longer. Charlie said we can adjust the language if everyone agrees.

Priscilla moved to recommend the consideration of the County joining the SVP as an associate member of our COG, and to take it back to our respective boards for their approval. Second by Susan. All in favor.

D. Saucon Valley Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan

1. Implementation of Recommendations in Saucon Valley Multi-Municipal Plan

Jack said since our last meeting, the Comp Plan has been adopted. There was a press release put out that HB adopted it on August 17 and it became official. We are the second multi municipal plan in Northampton County. We notified DCED and everyone else about that. Hellertown also endorsed us sending the letter to the LVPC, which the other two entities had previously endorsed. The position we took with the adoption was under the MPC, if two municipalities joined together on a municipal plan,

and we come up with some recommendations, we can request the County to make changes to their plans rather than what they had been telling us all along for us to make changes. We sent that letter to Mike Kaiser and in response to that, Jack received a call from Olaf at the LVPC, and he said the LVPC will be taking up those requests from us. There is a meeting on September 22 at noon at the LVPC. It's a committee they have called the "Comprehensive Plan Committee" and they are going to look at the request or the amendments we are making and they will move that to the full LVPC on September 24. He and Charlie are going to attend, and if any of you can attend, it would be to show our support for that. If they make those changes, that will remove the differences or the issues we had where it differed from the County plan. That's moving forward. Charlie said tomorrow night we have a joint meeting with the PC's. It's the third one we had. They have an agenda for tomorrow night looking at what possible implementation steps they'd be looking at – things like the Saucon Creek Watershed study, overviews of the two municipalities and what's been going on there, what kind of activities they have been doing in their individual municipalities. The key is to look at potential projects. The enthusiasm has been fantastic. Jack said the important thing with the comprehensive plan was once it's adopted, we don't want it sitting on the shelf without any type of steps being taken towards implementing some of the great recommendations that are in the plan. What we put together here was an explanation of the short term process within the next six months or so, and what he and Charlie are recommending that the Steering Committee consider as the next implementation step for the multi-municipal plan starts off with the plan, the plans vision and how important it is that the plan be implemented in order for it to realize its full potential. In the multi-municipal planning process, there were several steps that were outlined in several of the discussions. We briefly listed them. The SVP and Steering Committee will continue to oversee the implementation of the SV Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan. As Charlie mentioned, there are ongoing joint meetings of the Hellertown Borough and the LST Planning Commission and they will continue to meet at least two times a year. They are going to act as an informal joint planning committee. They will be looking at any changes or issues that would warrant some updates or revisions to the multi-municipal plan and recommend that to the governing bodies to consider making those changes. We have an agreement for the Partnership, but we have to look into this intergovernmental cooperative implementation agreement. We will come back to you with further information on what is required. To fully rule out all of the steps, we need to have some further agreements put together between us. Then the Joint Planning Committee will review this on a regular basis. They had spoken about doing this on an informal basis, but it should be updated every three years. In the comprehensive plan, several implementation steps were outlined. The first one was organizing and facilitating an educational workshop with the DCED. This was done and can be checked off the list. No. 2 is conducting the zoning audit of the Borough and the Township. No. 4 is developing Inter-governmental Cooperative Implementation Agreement text. No. 4 is defining a palette of the new zoning districts and zoning overlays. No. 5 is creating a joint zoning map which is GIS based and compatible with the Comprehensive Plan's map exhibits. No. 6 is preparing Joint Zoning Ordinance components inclusive of the articles and that type of thing which will include all the definitions and uses. No. 7 is formulating standards for zoning overlays as they were applicable and No. 8 is refining zoning ordinance and mapping for public review. Those are what are outlined in the comp plan. We are recommending tonight that we take some baby steps towards those implementation steps. We spoke to AJ and Carolyn about how we could go about that. One of the things under the funding for the multi-municipal plan is we don't have to go out and RFP for a whole other consultant. We can continue working with EPD. That is sedimentive of everybody here. Assuming that, we asked them to give us an estimate of what they felt we should start on first. They are recommending a zoning audit of the Borough and the Township. They are stating the estimate of that cost would be somewhere in the \$10,000 to \$12,000 range. It would take approximately four months to complete that. There would be a series of meetings with the Steering Committee, working with him and Charlie, the PC, and putting together documents to present them to us. Susan said would that cost be from each community? Jack said what we are proposing to do is to submit a grant application for LUPTAP. The one wrinkle in that is that because of the situation at the state with the budget, the LUPTAP funding has been cut drastically. They are hoping if the budget gets settled, that they'll get at least a million dollars. The bright side is because we're a multi-municipal plan, we get to go to the front of the line. Anybody else who is coming and saying they want to do a comp plan, and they are a single municipality, they are going to be behind us in line for this money. We do have a fairly good chance of getting this money. It is a 50% match and the problem we are going to have to work on is coming up with some method for

that match. We would like to get something into LUPTAP sometime in October. Assuming the budget gets resolved within the next four to six weeks, they have indicated that they would look at that and we could have an answer back before the end of the year. Charlie said the funding that is remaining in that account is the other part of the puzzle as that is there. If we get the grant, that covers the difference. Susan said she doesn't think the school district should get into paying for zoning audits. That is not under their jurisdiction. Jack said this is the Township and the Borough zoning ordinances. Charlie said the two treasurer's report, one is the \$1,000 one and that is the one that is built up. It's the operations one. The other one is \$9,000 and that's the remainder of the LUPTAP grant. Priscilla said maybe our financial reports should be split that there should be two funds because the \$3,000 that we all pay should be joint including the school district, and then the multi thing should be a separate line item. They should be separated so we know what we are spending. Jack said we have the two accounts. The payments to EPD have been all coming out of the LUPTAP account. Ed said looking at what we've spent in the last month, it should be pretty easy to look at each line item and identify which part of the budget it comes out of. Charlie said regarding the LUPTAP grant, the way we went around that initially was we had \$20,000 from the County and \$5,000 from two banks and the two municipalities contributed \$16,000 and \$9,000 into it. The school district provided the facilities. Ed said Susan is right. We have to make sure someone doesn't come in and say we are spending school tax payer money. Jack said that's basically what we are recommending to move this whole process further along. Ed said we talked about this earlier, we had a discussion at the school board meeting last night about the use of recreational facilities. We really have a need to get access to Polk Valley Park facilities as well as Hellertown Borough. We were thinking about, and it was part of the plan, creating this recreational group or committee. He would suggest we add that as one of the initial steps of the plan. Priscilla said that also brings her to the recreation plan we have with Upper Saucon. How does that interplay in all of this? Jack said the other steps we had for implementing that was to form a Joint Recreation Authority for Saucon. Priscilla said that's a shame as there was a lot of effort in that and now it's sitting on a shelf collecting dust. Jack said there wasn't any sediment on either council. One of the things they were recommending was we form the thing and hire a joint employee that would work on programming between Lower Saucon and Upper Saucon. The recreation folks said we are not doing anything with you. If you had similar programs, but Hellertown and LST are different stories. We are interrelated and share the same fields, same teams, same kids. Priscilla said in all fairness when we started that joint plan with Upper Saucon, Layne was still here the old Manager from Hellertown Borough, and there was no interest in doing a joint plan. We wanted to do a plan, so we went to Upper Saucon. Jack said that was finished about three years ago. We are similar, but didn't have anything ongoing that we were doing together. This group has things that go on year round. Ed said there's a tremendous amount of synergy going on here in terms of recreational facilities. Priscilla said since Rails to Trail was part of Upper Saucon and we are working with Upper Saucon, that could be something the kids know about and it's part of the program at some point. We need to promote it. Ed said his recommendation is we initiate the process and put this group together. We have a full time athletic director that could probably spend some of his time working with the Borough on a community effort. Jack said if that's what we're hearing, we'll add that to this document. Jack said he will tell the Parks and Recreation board about this on Monday evening. He will let Dave Spirk know about the Joint Planning Commission meeting. Jack said he and Charlie will work on putting together a LUPTAP grant application and will come back and it would have to be approved by both municipalities before submitting it. We are probably looking at the October SVP meeting.

E. Brief Reports and Discussion Items

- 1. Casino Impacts Funding – update** – Jack said there is nothing going on with the County. We did receive the traffic studies completed by HEA and they were sent out. That was to get some baseline data on traffic counts on all the key intersections in the five contiguous municipalities. This is something we are working together with all five municipalities. We agreed to pinpoint those intersections and the data has been collected and distributed. We haven't heard anything else. Priscilla said they really can't set the meeting until they hear from the State. Tom said they have to approve the members of the committee. Priscilla said the board can't meet until they are official members. Tom said they haven't heard anything either. The County has established two funds. There was one quarterly allotment that came in. Jack said the Department of Revenue is going to send it each quarter.

Priscilla said somehow the County is going to have to come up with some administrative procedure and to meet the needs to his committee. Someone will have to take care of phone calls and mail. What do the other authorities do? Tom said the others have staff and they have funds for solicitors. Priscilla said would it be similar. Tom said it's from the DCED. They are paid by the County, but there must be some funding coming down from the State. Priscilla said she can't see this authority going anywhere with nine volunteers. Tom said his understanding was that some portion of the revenue can be utilized for administrative purposes. He's no expert on it, it's just what he heard.

2. **Joint COG Projects (Joint Skate Park Facility)** – Charlie said the skate park has been talked about. Jack said the LST Recreation board supported it. There have been discussions between Dave Spirk and Gail Nolf about the concept. Nothing has materialized. Charlie said at the next Council meeting, Tom Henshaw has to provide an estimate to review the paving of the Water Street Park area. The recommendation was 100 x 100 foot area. The other thing we have to supply is an estimate for paving the parking along Tobias by the basketball court. More people seem in favor of the Water Street Park. We should have a cost estimate and this is going to be something someone has to pull together. Joe Hoffman, our grant writer, is looking at what kinds of grants are out there and what's available. We might learn something from Bethlehem as well as they are getting a skate park. Jack said Bethlehem is talking about a \$1.2 million skate facility. Jane said Quakertown has one and those kids that skateboard don't like it. It's too boring. Jack said probably because it's well supervised and it's safe. They want apparatus that's probably something a municipality would not want. Jane said you go by there and there's never anybody there. You do in a lot by where she works, and there are kids there every day. Tom said the kids would rather free style. They like jumping off the steps or off a railing. Charlie said what Joe has been saying, and what he has been hearing from people, a plaza concept is used now where you really don't have the standards jumps. You have a city street or sidewalk and melt it together. Jack said they like where they can move the pipes and some of the pieces. Tom said Catasauqua has one, and there are kids in there, but they are also all over town doing it on the sidewalks. Jack said you have to watch the kids with the bicycles who like to do the jumps. Susan said is insurance costly on this? Charlie said the insurance, if you follow a manufacturer's recommendation and it's not built out of cardboard boxes in the back yard. The insurance company is not happy with it, but they will put up with it under certain guidelines. We haven't crossed that hurdle yet.

3. **Roads & Traffic – (Polk Valley Road/Walnut St. intersections; School Zones; Update on SR 412 Resurfacing Project) –**

Polk Valley Road – Jack said there is still nothing from PennDOT. We are still responding to requests for additional information. The one thing we did get in before the final coat went on 412 was we wanted to put a cable underneath 412 that would be used for the signal and we got that in. We did the cut, and originally, the contractor was going to do it and he said no, he found somebody else. The price was close to \$10,000, so we finally did it ourselves and got another contractor to do it. Once it gets approved, it's all set to go.

Walnut Street - Charlie said Walnut Street is going to move shortly. The one property owner we've had legal problems with the last four years is communicating with our Attorney and asking questions as the handicapped ramps have to be changed at the corners to be compliant with the current standards. The one this person has questions on it. It's in the PennDOT right-of-way. PennDOT will not need a release from him. They will need releases from other property owners. A lot of the other property owners have submitted releases. He hopes within the next two or three weeks, the ramps are installed, then that intersection is completed and we're done with it finally.

School Zones – Jack said we did get approval. Charlie said he has a map that described the school zone. He's never seen so many signs in such a small area in his life. It's a PennDOT requirement. There's thirteen MPH signs that include the school zone and a certain time from 7 AM to 9 AM and from 2 PM to 4 PM at 15 MPH. There are five signs that indicate end of school zone. There are eighteen signs that have to be mounted by the municipality. When we talked to Wally, he mentioned the times from 7 to 9 and 2 to 4. You have all the different grade levels together. The signs were to be purchased by the school district and installed by the Borough and the Township. Susan said aren't we

going overboard with the signage or do we have to go with the recommendations? Jack said PennDOT has to do the study and you have to follow whatever they say. Charlie said he tried to ask Joe Rauscher if there was any way we could get an input on how many signs as we had no idea. Joe said no, they can't. Charlie sent in a partial request and Joe sent it back. You need an inter municipal agreement, and you are going to do what we tell you. Wally wasn't happy with all the signs. Susan said there is no recourse now. We can't say we don't want the signs now. Jack said this was something we were doing for the safety of the children. Susan said there is nothing we can do with the signs? Charlie said we can make an appeal, but he doesn't know how that will go. We had to give them agreement that said we would do it. We gave them an estimate for the signs, and this is more than we had guessed on the cost.

Update on SR 412 Resurfacing – Charlie said he talked to the Field Supervisor about a tree that has to be removed because there is a handicap ramp that's going to go in there. They want to try to salvage the tree. The Field Supervisor indicated they may have to resurface the road and then come back and finish the rest of the handicap ramps. Their schedule requires that they be done by October 15. That would mean that they are done paving everything, then they would have to go back and tear everything up at the curbing so they can put the ramps in.

4. **Joint Enterprise Zone with City of Bethlehem – update** – Charlie said they named the Director. Her name is Rebecca Rusnock and she is going to be in touch with us and they have to amend the Enterprise Zone agreement they have with the State. She'll be in touch with us to tell us how that can be done. Priscilla said do we have to amend it? Charlie said originally when they came and talked to us, they said we would be part of the submission, but then they went ahead and submitted anyhow with the idea that they would later come back and amend it. This is part of the plan. They will be coming back.
5. **Saucon Valley Compost Center – update** – Charlie said we're doing real well in terms of participation. As of the half way point in 2009, we've had 3,140 individual sign ups for the compost center. In 2008, at the same point, it was 2,806 and we're clearly on our way of having 500 or 600 more sign ups than we did last year. The Township number was doing very well in the first part of the year, but it slowed down a bit. The Borough is just a consistent number of patrons all the time. Jack said new directional signage went up, hours of operation and the sign for picking up mulch. Charlie said the mulch part is very popular.
6. **Tax Reassessment: Act 32 EIF Tax Collection Districts – update** – Charlie said there was a webinar today. It pretty much explained what you ever wanted to know about Act 32. There was an audience of about 50 people there. The slides are again the best thing to go through. The one interesting piece of information that came out this morning is the fact that there is going to be a need to have some budgetary numbers put aside until the committee forms. Each of the municipalities has to put money away. Until it is actually formed, there is no coverage for solicitors, staff or stenographic services. When he and Tina were there this morning, he said they will have to talk to Council and put some money in there as a precautionary. It is touched on in here on page 26. There are administrative fees that Berkheimer charges us now. He and Tina are now talking about an additional amount. He will probably ask Council for \$3,000 or \$4,000. It's probably more than what will be needed. There will be some transition that will be required. Regarding the weighted vote, Charlie tried to look it up on the internet. When you look at the percentages, they are calculated in the far right hand corner, the weighted vote, what he tried to do was to see how much of a weighted vote we have as a multi municipal and school district loop. It looks like we have 6.3% voting authority between the school district and us. It's 3.9% for the school district, 2.33% of the Township and 2.88% for the Borough. We have that much clout it appears, for however they are going to establish the committee and the voting. They had initially recommended that it originally would go by some weighted average, but that could change. Tom said for the first meeting and the election of the officers, you have to use this voted weight method. After you do the by-laws, they give you the flexibility whether or not you want to use this method or one person, one vote. You have that flexibility. Priscilla asked how many people are on this board? Tom said 38, eight municipalities and 34 school districts. They talked about streamlining it in the future.

7. **Fire Services – update** – Jack said nothing new.
8. **Leithsville Act 537 Plan – update** – Jack said nothing new. They are working on that.
9. **Other Issues (HB No. 1754; PAQ COG Conference September 11 – 13, 2009)** – Jack said the PA COG conference is this weekend in Bethlehem.

10. **Rail to Trails** – Charlie said the solicitors met on September 2 to review the lease agreement. Jack said they had about eight changes, nothing major, to the document. Next week at the Township, it will be on the agenda. Hopefully, the Council and Board of Supervisors agree to it. We have the lease agreement for thirty years and the property will be ours to use for recreational purposes. Hellertown and LST appointed representatives to a Rail Trail Committee, which will eventually become the full fledged for all four municipalities. We had one meeting and our second meeting is September 23. We have good representatives from the Borough and the Township and we are going to bring in some representatives from the Ironton Rails to Trail committee and they are going to help us with some start up issues. We are still waiting for Upper Saucon and Coopersburg to appoint their representative. Upper Saucon is probably waiting until the lease is signed. There is nothing officially with Bethlehem. Bethlehem has indicated in their comp plan they have intended for future linkage. There will be a gap. The High Street bridge replacement is an issue, but DCNR is involved in that, so hopefully they can keep that being filled in, possibly a tunnel. Both bodies will probably be working heavily on this. There's a lot of focus on hooking everything up together. Ed said does it make sense to take some of these items off the SVP agenda? Jack said yes, we can do that. Priscilla said we should put the Rails to Trail on the agenda from now on so we can talk about it. She'd rather have the items on the agenda and just say no report. Ed said sometimes the agenda item does have an end.

F. **County Report – Tom Harp** – Tom said at the last meeting, Tom Dittmar did a good job in announcing the two recycling events that will be held in October. The recycling event is at Nazareth Middle School on October 3 for electronic equipment. Jack said LST has its electronic recycling from 9 AM to noon. We have a great setup. You drive in, and pop the trunk, it's done rain or shine. Tom said October 10 at Northampton Community College will be the household hazardous waste event. It's about \$60,000 to run it. IT's very complex. They have a system set up where they separate all the various substances. Nazareth COG, we have been working with them to promote the ones up there. Regarding Act 32, we have 25 out of 32 municipalities have appointed delegates. He's been in personal contact with the others, and they have been working on it. Seven out of eight school districts have also complied. The deadline is next Tuesday, September 15. By that time, we should have everybody in. Their first meeting of tax collection committee will be October 22 at 6 PM at the Northampton County Meeting room. They may have a registration period of ½ hour before when people arrive, so we know who will be there. They did announce on September 24 there is a pre-planning committee meeting at Williams Township Municipal Center. That will be facilitated by the minor center from Lafayette College. They've invited all the municipalities and districts from Northampton County to meet there to talk and have folks willing to be nominated for officers for the committee and get a better sense of what is going to be happening at the first meeting. That meeting on the 24th will be helpful. Your Partnership, of all the delegates he has, your three taxing authorities are the only ones that have combined and nominated the same delegates. Other ones, each municipality and district, they appointed their own delegate. Everybody has their own. Ed is representing three entities. Ed said the school district and the municipalities occupy a common footprint. Tom said that's true, no doubt. It's initiative in a sense that Ed is the main man and Dave Bonenberger is an alternate. Jack said what happens eventually with these different entities, they all have their own and they name somebody. Do they go forward through this process with all these single representatives? Tom said yes. Behind the scenes, he's sure there are coalitions being formed. He talked to the NE Coordinator for DCED, up in Northeastern PA they are way behind. Luzerne County has 85 municipalities. We're in a little bit better shape. Lehigh County is having their first meeting next week. Monroe County is October 28. Having it later in October is better as it gives a chance for people to plan things. The next joint meeting of the Northampton County COGs is next Tuesday to be hosted by East Allen Township. He has an agenda with him. At the meeting next Tuesday, they will also be talking about East Allen Township's compost center. There will be a couple of representatives from the census as next year is the big census. They are starting to get the word

out and are doing all kinds of promotional activities and want the municipalities to get a complete count. They will be doing a presentation on that. The census will be beginning in April of next year. You need to start thinking about it. The COG website is up and running. You can post things on that. Hopefully it's been a little more user friendly. He's been advised by their GIS division has the software, there is some training done at the courthouse. It is being distributed now. It's beginning this week. They are starting with Freemansburg today; Wilson Borough, LST next week and Williams the following week. Jack said he hasn't heard anything. Priscilla said what is that going to do for us? Jack said the Township will be able to have access. It's accessible on the County website. This one is only a couple of months behind. They do it in the winter as there are no leaves on the trees so you can see through the trees. It'll be great. Emergency Preparedness Expo is on Saturday, September 12. It's at Bethlehem Municipal Ice Rink.

- G. Citizens Commenting on Non-Agenda Items** – Susan said we might want to think about our membership fees and start reducing them next year.

Jane said the last library meeting she went to, the way the state budget looks, they may experience as much as a 40% reduction in their state funding. One of the other alternatives were no reimbursement for Access, for patrons. All the outside patrons the library has, they get a check from the State. If that goes by the wayside, then they are going to rethink how they are going to do business. Jack said the problem is 50% of their patrons come from the Township and they get reimbursed by the Access program. They might be able to offer memberships, but doesn't know if it would be complicated on their end. The Bethlehem library is facing the same reductions. It is going to be tough on libraries. Ed said how much does LST actually pay the Bethlehem Library? Jack said it's \$170,000.00 a year. This year we were looking at another increase and the Library Committee recommended to Council and we wrote a letter to BAPL, to hold the increase down to 3% and they surprised us and they went to the City and the City agreed to pay for some of their utility bills. Once the census comes in, we are all going to recalibrated. Council has been looking at all kinds of different options for library services. One of the suggestions they made was to see if we could, instead of Bethlehem, look into options with the Hellertown, Southern Lehigh and Upper Saucon Libraries. We may be reaching out to Robin to talk about that. He doesn't know how it will work out as there are all these state rules, funding streams, but LST is looking into it. We will be looking into that and be contacting Robin for information.

- H. Events Calendar**
<http://sauconvalleycalendar.blogspot.com>

Priscilla said the barn tour is Saturday, September 12, 2009.

- I. Adjournment** - Motion by Jane, second by Priscilla to adjourn. The time was 8:30 PM.
- J. Next Meeting: October 14th HB; November 11th LST; December 9th SVSD)**