

Saucon Valley Partnership Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, October 12, 2011

- A. Call to Order – Priscilla deLeon- 7:04 p.m.
- B. Those Present - Priscilla deLeon, Glenn Kern, Tom Rieger, Tom Harp, Cathy Kichline, and Leslie Huhn. A quorum was not present.
- C. Council of Governments
  - 1. Adoption of Council of Governments Minutes  
  
Adoption of Meeting Minutes was tabled until the November 9, 2011, meeting.
- D. Saucon Valley Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan- Update  
  
Ms. Kichline - Hellertown is considering Zoning Amendments and Overlays that will attract trail oriented businesses to the Front Street area as well as a Flexible Overlay around the Champion Sparkplug business.  
  
Mr. Kern - Has Mr. LaBrake indicated how his business is performing since the opening of the Rail Trail.  
  
Mr. Rieger - His business is doing very well and he has thought about perhaps doing bike rentals.
- E. Brief Reports and Discussion Items
  - 1. Casino Impact Funding/County Gaming Authority- Update  
  
Ms. deLeon- We had a meeting on September 26, 2011, and we heard from the second round of presentors. Hellertown Borough submitted 9 grants for a total of \$990,360.47, Lower Saucon Township submitted 2 grants that totaled \$146,242.11, Hellertown/Lower Saucon presented 3 joint grants totaling \$161,588.50, the City of Bethlehem presented 3 grants totaling \$558,959.00, Bethlehem Township submitted 4 grants totaling \$991,462.99, Freemansburg Borough submitted 4 grants totaling \$156,510.00, and Hanover Township submitted 1 grant for \$249,145.06. The total amount for all grant requests is \$3,254,268.13. The board has between \$1.3-\$1.5 million to award. The next meeting is October 24, 2011, and the scores will be presented and ranked and motions will be made to award or deny.
  - 2. Joint COG Projects (Saucon Rail Trail; Peer Recreation Study Committee) - Update

Ms. Huhn - All four municipalities have signed the Saucon Rail Trail Agreement. The road markers are currently being installed. Both Hellertown and Lower Saucon Township adopted the Memorial Bench Program.

Ms. deLeon - Has anyone expressed interest?

Ms. Huhn - We have had a couple of requests.

Ms. Kichline - A gentleman left me a voicemail today expressing interest.

Ms. deLeon - We felt that hiring an employee to run programs for a joint recreation committee was not warmly received.

Mr. Kern - It seems premature. We do not even know what that person would be responsible for.

Mr. Rieger - It was a consensus of the group that it is not the direction that we want to go in.

Mr. Rieger - The Community Center is looking to help with their resources. We need a vision and to define tasks.

3. Roads and Traffic (Polk Valley Road/412 Intersection HOP Application; Applebutter Road Closure) - Update

Ms. Huhn - I have heard nothing back from PennDOT in regard to 412/Polk Valley Road.

The Applebutter Road project is progressing. I received one update from PennDOT.

Mr. Rieger - They accelerated Phase I and are working at least 50 hours.

Mr. Kern - Has anyone notice trucks having difficulty turning off of Cherry Lane?

Mr. Rieger - Yes, there is a considerable back up at this location.

Ms. Kichline - According to PennDot any change in the signaling would make it worse than it is currently.

4. Joint Enterprise Zone with City of Bethlehem - Update

Ms. Kichline - There is nothing to report. When I spoke with them, they are interested in expanding their existing enterprise zone. I do not think there will be any news to report for a while.

5. Saucon Valley Compost Center- Update  
Ms. Huhn - They are preparing for 2012.

Ms. Kichline - We are looking to open 2 Saturdays earlier than last year. It will be open at least a day each month. We are looking to staff the Compost Center with volunteers and then we can perhaps stay open longer.

6. Act 32 EIT Tax Collection Districts- Update

Ms. Kichline - Hellertown has passed all of the necessary ordinance and are ready to proceed.

Ms. Huhn - We appointed Keystone Consulting as the collector at our last meeting but we still need to approve the ordinances.

Ms. Kichline - Berkheimer is providing Keystone a list of all the businesses.

Ms. deLeon - I had spoke about getting a list of new businesses to the Chamber. How are we doing with that?

Ms. Huhn - We have the information available and will get it to the Chamber.

Mr. Rieger - When a permit is issued for a new business, I would like myself and Mary Himmelberger to get the information.

7. Fire Services

There was nothing to report.

8. Library Task Force

Ms. Kichline - There is no report. The next meeting is October 13, 2011.

9. Leithsville Act 537 Plan - Update

There was nothing to report.

10. Other Issues -Trick or Treat Night

Ms. deLeon - A Councilmember had expressed concern with having Trick or Treat Night in the dark. The Trick or Treat Night is already scheduled for October 28, 2011, from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Rieger - The issue Hellertown was having it a lot of out of town kids would be coming in since all the other Trick or Treat Nights were on Friday.

Mr. Kern - It is an issue to have it during the night. It is unsafe. Would Council consider going back to Sunday from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Rieger - The Police Chief is doing a Halloween safety course for children and parents. I think the Parade Committee sets the Trick or Treat Night.

The partnership will be discussing this topic with the Halloween Parade Committee.

11. Police Study

Ms. Huhn - The questioners have been filled out and will be forwarded to DCED.

Ms. Kichline - Hellertown has sent in their questioners as well.

F. County Report

1. County Update

Mr. Harp - The 2012 Proposed Budget does have a 1 mil tax increase. Gracedale is also an issue as the County will continue to provide funding. The County is looking to put in a treatment center to help handle some of the lesser offenders. The jail has reached capacity. The budget is available on the County website.

Premier Healthcare Resources has taken over administration of Gracedale on September 26, 2011. It is just an administrator for right now but they are using other staff as consultants.

The window project for the old portion of the Courthouse is about 90 percent complete. We received a grant to cover the \$2.2 million in costs. The week of December 3, 2011, will be the 150 anniversary celebration of the old portion of the Courthouse.

The Wayne Group Park will have a grand opening on October 28, 2011. It is located in Allen Township.

The e-cycling event was held October 1, 2011, in conjunction with the Nazareth COG. 336 cars came and they collected 2 tractor trailer loads of scrap material. The hazardous household waste was held October 8, 2011, at Northampton Community College. 1123 cars came through and they 1500 pounds of batteries alone. They would like to hold an old tire collection next year.

The Passport to History is being started by a committee of local Historical Societies. People can go to society events and get their passport stamped from the different societies.

Ms. Kichline - Have the grants been awarded for the last round of hotel grants.

Mr. Harp - I believe that a decision should be coming soon.

2. County Bridge #15 (Meadows Road Bridge)

Mr. Harp - I really don't think that there is money for an overhaul. Right now, there is only enough for regular maintenance. Perhaps the County and Lower Saucon could join in on a uncommitted gaming grant application to fund an engineering study.

Ms. deLeon - The problem with the maintenance is that the wrong type of mortar is being used.

A meeting will be set up with Andy deGruchy to speak about bridge restoration.

G. Citizen Comments on Non-Agenda Items - None

H. Calendar of Events

October 23, 2011, is the Saucon Valley Halloween Parade beginning at 2:00 p.m.

October 27, 2011, is a presentation on 2012 tax issues. It begins at 5:30 p.m. at Hellertown Borough Hall. This event is sponsored by the Chamber and the fee is \$10.00.

October 28, 2011, is Trick or Treat Night from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

November 8, 2011, is Election Day.

November 25, 2011, is Hellertown Light-Up Night at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Rieger - As a reminder, the parade will be going down Main Street this year.

The Environmental Center from the school district should be an agenda item for future meetings.

April 28, 2012, will be the fifth annual History Day.

I. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.