

MINUTES OF  
ROSE VALLEY EAC  
MEETING OF FEBRUARY 28, 2023

**Attendance:**

EAC Voting Members: Leonard Busby (Chair); Katie Rubin; Cindy McPherson; Ron Ploeg

Other attendees: Bill Hale (Mayor); Dave Firn (Borough Council President); Cindy Holston

**Call to Order:**

Leonard called the meeting to order at 7:37 pm.

**Approval of Minutes for Meeting of January 24, 2023:**

Deferred to the next meeting.

**Update on The Next 100:**

Katie reported that residents attending the first community meeting had expressed particular interest in trees, historic preservation, reducing or eliminating herbicides and pesticides, maintenance and preservation of our excellent trail system, and the reduction of light and noise pollution.

Katie reported that the next community meeting being organized by The Next 100 will take place on March 14 at the School in Rose Valley and that the meeting will be a forum on the topic of waste management.

**Update on the proposed Tree Tender initiative and using National Arbor Day to promote English ivy removal:**

Katie shared that Kathy Sewicki had volunteered to lead a new volunteer group known as “Tree Tenders.” Other people who are joining this group include Ron Ploeg and John Shaw; also Roger Freedinger who is already certified as a “tree tender.” Certification can be acquired after successfully completing an 8 hour on-line training program.

One focus of this new group will be on removing English ivy from trees in the Borough.

After discussion the following motions were made and unanimously approved:

- “The EAC recommends to Borough Council that Arbor Day Weekend (April 28-30, 2023) be designated as ‘Rose Valley Free the Trees Weekend.’”(Moved by Ron and seconded by Katie)
- “The EAC recommends to Borough Council that it authorize the Tree Tender Group to cut English ivy on trees on Borough property.” (Moved by Ron and seconded by Byron)

Dave noted that until now Rose Valley was the only nearby local governmental entity without its own Tree Tender organization.

Katie reported that the Tree Tender group plans to reach out to the following Rose Valley organizations: The Hedgerow Theatre; The Folk; The Rose Valley Museum; The Rose Valley Pool; and Traymore.

Arbor Day this year is on April 28. Cindy Holston shared that the Pool clean-up day this year is on April 29.

#### **Update on issues regarding residential homeowner spraying for mosquitos:**

Ron, with help from Byron, agreed to purchase items recommended by Professor Doug Tallamy for the safe and insecticide-free management of mosquitos; these items will then be given away at the upcoming Native Plant Sale. Leonard expressed his view that the expense for the purchase of such items should be reimbursed to Ron from the EAC budget. People attending the plant sale who are given these items will be invited to sign up to assist in this initiative.

Leonard volunteered to look into obtaining signs for people to put in their gardens or lawns to inform others about the dangers and damage resulting from the use of residential mosquito and tick spraying.

Dave and Leonard agreed to draft an email blast about this issue.

#### **Update on Annual Native Plant Sale:**

Cindy said that everything was going smoothly as regards the preparations for this year’s sale that will take place on April 15 at The Old Mill starting at 9:00 am.

#### **Update on status of delivery of Moravian Tiles for trail marking system:**

In Peter’s absence, Leonard shared Peter’s report that Peter had received one of the completed tiles and that it looked excellent. Production of all of the remaining tiles will take a few weeks according to what Peter was told by Moravian Tile Works.

**Update on status of drafting a Social Media and Borough Website Policy for the Borough and the EAC:**

Dave reported that he was making progress on this, including having researched a number of such policies that had been adopted elsewhere.

**Update on scheduled tour of the Total Recycling facility in Birdsboro:**

Leonard reported that he and three other people from Rose Valley, including Dave Firn, were scheduled to take this tour on March 1.

**Update on Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program now available to Boroughs in Pennsylvania:**

Ron reported that he and Leonard had participated earlier on February 28 in a detailed introductory call with Dennis Rowan who works with Jules Community Power — an organization that is currently a CCA administrator for approximately 50 communities in New York State representing about one million people. Ron reported that Rose Valley Borough could enter into a non-binding “Memorandum of Understanding” with Jules Community Power as had already been done by Swarthmore and some other nearby boroughs.

Ron explained that the concept of a CCA is that the administrator can contract on behalf of the Borough for a higher percentage of “green energy” than what is now supplied by PECO; the contracted supply then becomes the default energy supplier for Borough residents, although Borough residents will always retain the right to opt out and select their own preferred supplier which could include PECO along with all other available suppliers.

Ron (and Leonard to some extent) will continue to research this concept and will report further to the EAC in the future.

**Old and New Business:**

None.

**Adjourn:**

Upon motion duly made by Cindy and seconded by Byron the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard Busby,  
Acting Secretary