

Rose Valley Borough EAC Meeting 10/26/2021

Held in person on the outdoor covered patio of the Old Mill

Voting Members in attendance:

Leonard Busby - presiding
Ron Ploeg
Cynthia McPherson
Roger Latham
Jim Audley
Katherine Rubin – recording

Voting Member on leave

Chris Bourke

Other Attendees:

Annika Sullivan
Vippy Yee
David Dee
Peter Howell
Bill Hale

Meeting called to order 7:40 pm

Topic: Annika Sullivan, EAC intern

Annika Sullivan, a Strathhaven High School Junior, will be working with Vippy Yee on the EAC website and is willing to help administer the EAC Facebook page.

Topic: August Minutes

Roger Latham moved to approve the minutes of the August meeting. Ron Ploeg seconded. Motion passed. Jim Audley made a narrative summary of the September meeting. There was no quorum at that meeting, so there are no official minutes.

Topic: Budget

Ron Ploeg reminded us that we have been encouraged by Mr. Siwicki from the Borough Council to submit budget requests asap. David Firn and Leonard Busby have been communicating about ideas and targets. Bill Hale confirmed that the numbers are due at the next borough council meeting.

Topic: Fall Stewardship Days in the Saul Preserve, Oct 23 and

24, 2021

Leonard acknowledged Jim Audley for the excellent results from the work weekend from 10/23 and 10/24. The following summary has been provided by Jim Audley:

30 Volunteers worked from 9 to 3 and 9 to 5 on Saturday and Sunday Oct 23 and 24. Using hand tools from the Delaware County Conservation District plus rented skid loader and compactor plus other small power tools and 20 tons of crushed stone, we repaired the washed out trail near the old dam that resulted from hurricane rain fall in 2021. In addition, throughout the rest of the preserve, we resurfaced 250 feet of trail with fabric and crushed stone, cleared downed limbs along the trails, repaired a large water bar and drainage diversion ditch, cleared a large tree root ball from a downed tree, improved side clearance on approximately 400 ft of trail, planted 500 native plant plugs on the switchback, cleared invasive weed growth around 15 tree cages and pulled or flush cut approximately 200 invasive saplings.

Jim Audley is to be reimbursed approximately \$1700 for expenses related to the work days. A video of the event was made; after confirming that all of those shown in the video gave permission to be captured and for the video to be shared with the public, Vippy Yee offered to put the video on the borough website.

Discussion on Water Management in the Preserves

Jim Audley raised the topic of waterflow at the old dam in Saul Preserve and voiced his concern that the force of the water flowing around and over the dam is causing erosion that jeopardizes trees and trails. It was suggested that we seek advice on drainage and water flow improvement ideas. Roger Latham suggests that any proposal for advisory work on this issue that the Borough obtains should include ideas on how the Borough can secure funding for any improvements that the consultant recommends. It was suggested that Matt Hauptman, the Borough engineer, be consulted first.

Cynthia McPherson noted that conservation grants may also be available to help the Borough with this endeavor as an effort to protect the Old Mill as a historic site. Roger Latham suggested that funding may be available specifically for dam removal as part of a state-wide effort to remove old dams.

Motion by Jim Audley: that the EAC recommend to Borough

Council that they hire a hydraulic engineer who specialized in floodplain management to evaluate methods of flood control to preserve the trail and manage water at the choke point of the dam. The motion was seconded.

Cynthia McPherson pointed out that it is very important to address the behaviors of residents adjoining the preserves, and throughout the borough, and that we are missing an opportunity to support the preservation of the borough's natural space. Vippy Yee offered to work on a public education campaign with the EAC. Cynthia and Katherine have offered to help her develop a plan.

Motion passed unanimously.

Topic: Environmental Harm from 2-Cycle Leaf Blowers

David Dee asked the EAC to consider initiating an education campaign about the landscaping use of high power and gasoline-based leaf blowers due to the high emissions and extreme noise pollution created by these machines. Jim Audley suggested that we first investigate the borough-wide scope of the problem and develop solutions from there. Jim offered to work with David on this. Katherine offered to help David speak with the school in Rose Valley about their landscapers. Ron Ploeg, as head of the Traymore landscaping committee, said he will investigate what Traymore can do to curb their emissions and noise pollution.

Topic: EAC expenses

Leonard Busby requested that the EAC reimburse Jim Audley from the EAC's flower sale proceeds for the purchase of a Stihl weed-wacker for approximately \$550. The funds would come from the EAC budget, but the machine would become Borough Property. Roger Latham moved as such. Ron Ploeg seconded. Jim Audley abstained from the vote. Motion passed unanimously.

Topic: Informational Kiosks at the Saul and Chadwick Preserves

Leonard Busby updated the EAC on the proposed kiosks for the Saul and Chadwick preserves. Leonard explained his understanding and from Bill Hale that the kiosk in Chadwick would be built as an Eagle Scout project and that Jim's proposed design for a modest-sized kiosk was ok with Bill. They are still discussing exact size, style, and location of the kiosk.

Ron and Jim questioned the August Council minutes which

called for Saul Preserve kiosk placement on Folk property. Ron felt that this subject had not received proper public review. Borough Council President, Bill Hale agreed that the subject would be revisited at the next Council meeting.

Topic: Plant Sale and EAC Budget

Cynthia McPherson asked for clarification on how much money the EAC receives each year from the budget and asked for an increase of the plant sale budget from \$2000 to \$2,500. Leonard said that we will again be asking for \$4,000, and that requested increase can come from within that amount.

Topic: Open EAC seat

Cynthia McPherson has been approved by the borough council as an official, voting member of the EAC. She is taking the seat vacated by Monica Gagliardi.

Topic: Willow planting in the Saul Preserve

Roger Latham reminded the EAC that a long-standing project of planting willows in the preserve needs to happen in March, which is before the plant sale and, therefore, needs to be its own initiative. Vippy Yee offered to help coordinate that initiative as a Penn State volunteer effort, as they have an environmental justice, environmental racism awareness and volunteer month in March. She will work with Roger Latham on this.

Topic: Penn State Climate Change TedX Talk

Vippy Yee told the EAC that Penn State is hosting a TedX talk on climate change on November 16, 2021. Vippy will be send information to Katherine to publish via the EAC Facebook page.

Topic: EAC Budget

Jim Audley asked that we request \$3,500 from the Borough budget for the annual stewardship weekends. Leonard Busby will ask David Firm to include this in the Parks budget.

Katherine Rubin moved that we adjourn due to time and temperature. This was seconded and then unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:24pm.

The EAC will reconvene at 7:30 pm on November 23rd