

MINUTES OF
ROSE VALLEY EAC
MEETING OF OCTOBER 25, 2022

Attendance:

EAC Voting Members: Leonard Busby, Chair; Roger Latham, Vice-Chair; Byron Sherwood; Ron Ploeg; Katie Rubin; Jim Audley; Cindy McPherson

EAC Associate Members: Peter Howell

Other Attendees: Bill Hale (Mayor); Dave Firm (Borough Council President)

Call to Order:

Leonard called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

Approval of Minutes for Meetings of October 25, 2022:

Roger moved to approve these minutes. Ron seconded. Approved unanimously.

Update on EAC and Friends of the Preserves Work Weekend of October 22 and 23:

Jim reported on the successful installation of the new trail posts through the Saul Preserve. All EAC members expressed great appreciation for the new and beautiful posts. Jim explained that the posts were made from a black walnut tree that had fallen in the Saul Preserve. Leonard shared that Jim had cut all of the posts himself using only a chain saw. Leonard further shared that Jim had not only crafted the stunningly beautiful posts, but that he had also cut-in precisely measured squares for the eventual installation of the trail marking tiles that will soon be installed. (Note: The design, crafting, placement, and installation of these new trail posts, in combination with the new kiosks, the new map of the Preserves, and our new and better maintained trail system collectively represents an incredible contribution to our Borough. The greatest of thanks is extended to all of those who volunteered many hundreds of hours of their time and talent to make these improvements possible over the past several years.)

Discussion/Selection of the vendor for Preserve trail markers:

Peter reported on pricing and logistics as regards ordering of ceramic tiles from Moravian Tile Works. Jim shared information about a less expensive alternative for a tile company based in California. After discussion, Katie moved and Byron seconded that the EAC select the somewhat

higher priced tiles from Moravian Tile Works based on a combination of artistic excellence, historical connection to Rose Valley Borough, color matching, and the fact that as part of the quoted price Moravian Tile Works would provide a duplicate file for every specified tile (in case of any future need to replace a tile). Approved unanimously. Peter said that he was continuing to work on the “Story” software system that will be used in combination with GPS technology to provide information about points of interest identified in the new map of the Preserves; both the map and all information will be accessible through the QR code that appears on the new map that is posted in the Saul Preserve kiosk. (Note: This new system is not yet in place.)

Update on EAC website overhaul:

Deferred.

Discussion regarding EAC budget for 2023:

Leonard shared his view that the \$18,200 amount budgeted for the EAC in 2022 was an appropriate amount for 2023. Leonard noted that because of accounting and bookkeeping complications, 2022 revenue of about \$5,000 from the Annual Native Plant Sale had not been credited back to the EAC operating budget in 2022, notwithstanding previous Borough Council approval for all such revenue to be credited to the EAC’s 2022 budget. The revenue of about \$5,000 represents the total proceeds from the sale of all native plants sold at the Annual Native Plant Sale; this revenue pays for the cost of the plants, and also generates a small “profit” for the Borough. As a practical matter, crediting the approximately \$5,000 in total revenue generated by the Annual Native Plant Sale directly back to the Borough represented a reduction in that amount of funds anticipated for expenditure by the EAC in 2022. Leonard further noted that there had been some progress made during 2022 in professionalizing some aspects of Preserve maintenance — which is to say that in 2022 Justin Stopford was paid by the EAC to perform weed whacking of stilt grass in Chadwick Preserve/Long Point, as well as weed whacking to maintain a clear right of way for all trails; Justin was also paid to assist with the cutting and bundling of knotweed in the Chadwick Preserve/Long Point. Jim recommended that in future years specific dollar amounts be proposed in advance of the October EAC meeting for all work and projects planned by the EAC for the following year. Everyone agreed.

Continuation of discussion about recent proliferation of vendor promotion of residential mosquito and tick “control”:

Concerns were expressed by all members of the EAC about the generalized harm to the environment resulting from the chemicals used for mosquito and tick “control.” Roger pointed out that instead of toxic chemical treatments there were alternative simple and benign steps that homeowners could take to protect themselves from mosquitos — during warm weather eliminate all standing water such as in plant saucers and empty pots; use citronella candles and lanterns; use bug spray on exposed skin areas; as for tick control, careful and prompt body inspection after time in the woods is the simplest and best protection. It was noted by others that chemical treatments for mosquitos and ticks had to be done repeatedly, were expensive, and were of little or no benefit when compared to the noted simple precautionary measures. Dave, Byron, and Cindy are going to follow up on opportunities for ways to educate residents on this issue.

Old and New Business:

Katie shared concerns that she had generally about storm water runoff in our Borough. Katie referenced the newly re-paved parking lot at The Old Mill and explained that she had spoken with Karen Wilwol who works with the Delaware County Conservation District about ways to reduce run-off at The Old Mill. Katie expressed her interest in having more teeth and initiatives in the Borough’s MS4 program. (Note: MS4 is an abbreviation for “Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System” — a title that begins with one “M” and is then followed by 4 words each beginning with the letter “S”. In essence, an MS4 program involves a municipality managing natural rainfall in a manner that is independent of the transport and treatment of residential and commercial waste.) Dave said that the upcoming amendments to the Borough’s MS4 program are mandated by state law and represent a new mandatory minimum for municipalities throughout Pennsylvania; Dave said that the Borough can decide to adopt MS4 initiatives that exceed the mandatory minimum. Katie said that she plans in due course to make specific suggestions to the EAC for ways to improve the Borough’s MS4 program.

Adjourn:

At approximately 9:15 pm Katie moved to adjourn and Roger seconded. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard Busby,
Acting Secretary