

COUNCIL MEETING

July 12, 2023

The monthly meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on July 12, 2023 in the main room of the Old Mill, 9 Old Mill Lane, Rose Valley, Pa. President of Council Dave Firn called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Other Council members present were Leonard Busby, Joe Hare and Shannon Prown; Controller John Neilson; Treasurer Mario Bacchia; Solicitor G. Guy Smith and Secretary Paula Healy.

Councilpersons Kathryn Mehan, Shawn Stancill and Matt Sullivan, and Mayor Bill Hale were absent.

Residents attending the meeting were Rachel Holbert and Bill Thomas.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the June 14, 2023 meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Neilson complimented the Gardeners of Rose Valley and the Traymore Homeowners Association on how beautifully they maintain Pew Park and grounds on either side of the entrance to Traymore Lane. He expressed dismay about the unkept appearance of the grounds along the side of Rose Valley Road on the Thunderbird Lodge property.

Rachel Holbert asked about the status of the Rabbit Run sewer project. Mr. Firn said that Mr. Sullivan is talking to Nether Providence about this but that the Township recently lost their Public Works Director which is slowing things down. Rachel also asked about the replacement of the Rabbit Run wrought-iron road marker. Mrs. Healy said she is trying to find someone to do this work.

EAC & ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Busby reported on the Japanese Knotweed removal plan and the Spotted Lantern Fly treatment plan.

Resident Stu Ockman is investigating the restoration of the pond near the Traymore Bridge. Council authorized Mr. Ockman to investigate the feasibility of this restoration on behalf of the Borough provided that there was no commitment of funds or other action by the Borough. Mr. Neilson wondered if this work might help satisfy the Borough's MS4 obligations. Mr. Firn said he will look into this.

The Ronald and Audrey Winklevoss Charitable Foundation made a \$500 donation to the Borough to further the EAC's efforts in the Borough-owned parks. Mr. Busby made a motion

that this donation be used to reimburse the EAC's budget for the items purchased for children who attended the rededication of the Saul Wildlife Preserve on June 17. This motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

Mr. Busby read the following report from Katie Rubin: On Sunday, July 9th at 2:00 p.m., the Rose Valley EAC and the Next 100 Committee held a nature photography lesson and preserve walk in the Saul Wildlife Sanctuary as part of our Summer in the Preserves Event Series. This Event Series is designed to offer new and diverse programming for the public in Rose Valley's preserves to 1) engage a wider audience with our public spaces, 2) offer variety to regular preserve patrons, 3) offer new educational opportunities for residents, and 4) better engage families and children. We had 23 people in attendance from Rose Valley, Wallingford and Media (via SRV) including 7 kids. Many were new to our events. Chris Sembrot led a lesson on advanced photography settings on your phone and the free app Lightroom for photo editing, as well as the importance of sometimes changing one's perspective to achieve the best results. We then applied our new skills together in the Saul Preserve.

The next event in the series is a watershed education event on July 29th. We are incredibly fortunate to have Stroud Water Research Center leading the event. It's family oriented but adults will find the program engaging and informational as well. As always, we thank the Rose Valley Folk for the use of the Old Mill parking lot for these events.

HIGHWAYS & INSURANCE

Mr. Firm noted Mr. Sullivan was unable to attend the meeting but had said there was nothing new to report on the Rabbit Run sewer line extension because Nether Providence Township has not yet responded as to whether some of their residents are interested in participating in the project. He also said Mr. Houtmann is still working on finding a contractor to repave the end of Todmorden Drive where the culvert work was done.

PLANNING

Mrs. Prown reported that Matt Houtmann is working on the final designs for the \$75,980 Connect Grant on the Thomas & Pew Park properties and the Eagle Scout Project for the Seider property. Matt is still catching up from being out for a month for surgery. Delaware County Council is set to approve the change of scope for the \$75,980 Connect Grant at its July 19 meeting. This approval will clarify that the Borough is getting its 15% matching funds for the potential \$250,000 DCED grant from the Delco Connect Grant.

Carney Tree will be taking down a dead white pine tree with the top gone on the Seider property right next to where the trail will be. Shannon said that while Carney has his crane on site, the Borough should take down the tall, skinny white pine closest to the corner of Pew Park on the other side of Rose Valley Road. This will allow trucks to make the left turn more easily and keep them away from the trail to improve public safety. A sign saying large trucks must turn right can also be put up but drivers may ignore it. It will cost \$1,500 to take down the Pew Park tree.

There will be a Planning Commission Meeting on August 3 to consider the reverse subdivision request of Brian Barnette and Alexandra Green of 16 Hilltop Road. They purchased the undeveloped lot at 19 Rabbit Run from Emily Dodge and would like to consolidate that lot into their house lot at 16 Hilltop Road. The Delaware County Planning Commission favorably reviewed this consolidation.

FINANCES

Treasurer Bacchia reported he had reconciled the PNC Bank accounts and QuickBooks. He also reviewed that Status of Funds noting the Coronavirus Recovery Fund had been closed. Mr. Hare reviewed the Income Reports for June. Mr. Neilson went over the July Bills for Approval noting they included the budgeted \$26,000 donation to the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation. The Bills for Approval in the amount of \$45,847.96 were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mrs. Healy reported that the Fourth of July Parade and the Picnic at Rose Valley Swimming Pool were a big success.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Smith's report included the following: the Commonwealth Court has provided complicated guidance to help determine whether posts on social media by public officials are public or private; the Supreme Court of the United States has weakened the protection of wetlands; councilpersons should so indicate when emails to the Borough solicitor fall under the attorney-client privilege; and the difficulty of trying to limit the posting of political signs.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Paula W. Healy, Secretary