

MINUTES OF  
ROSE VALLEY EAC  
MEETING OF FEBRUARY 22, 2022

**Note:** Five voting members of the EAC attended this meeting – three in person and two remotely. Per the guidance of Rose Valley Borough Solicitor Guy Smith, four voting members must be physically present in order to have a quorum. Accordingly, no quorum was present. The meeting therefore proceeded as a discussion without any formal business being conducted.

**Attendance:**

EAC Voting Members present in person: Leonard Busby; Kate Rubin; Cindy McPherson

EAC Voting Members participating remotely: Roger Latham; Jim Audley

EAC Associate Member present in person: Peter Howell

Other Attendees: (all present in person): David Shaw

**Call to Order:**

A call to order of the meeting was not required because there was no formal meeting; discussion of topics began at approximately 7:45 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes for Meeting of November 23, 2021:**

Deferred.

**Update regarding annual Native Plant Sale (and Environmental Workshop):**

Cindy reported that she had made arrangements with The Folk for use of the Old Mill parking area for Saturday, May 14, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Leonard said that he had confirmed with Paula that there were no Borough events already scheduled for this date and time.

Cindy circulated in advance of the meeting a proposed list of plants for the sale for a total approximate purchase price of \$3,000. Cindy's recommended plants were enthusiastically supported by Roger and others. Cindy may recommend the purchase of some additional plants.

We discussed having informational fliers available for distribution on May 14 – including fliers about rain gardens, the Master Watershed program, and controlling English ivy.

**Update on status of plans to reduce erosion risk to the Saul Preserve trail from future Ridley Creek flooding:**

Leonard reported that he had spoken about this issue with Paula and the Borough’s engineer, Matt Houtman. Per Leonard’s report, Paula was not aware of any plan for future action; Matt said that there had been an initial site visit in the Fall of 2021, but that there were no present plans for further action.

Leonard said that he would work to arrange an additional site visit with Matt and Todd McKinney (who has previously provided backhoe services to the Borough). Dave Shaw and others asked to be invited and Leonard promised to do so.

Katie said that Karen Wilwol, Watershed Specialist for the Delaware County Conservation District, should also be invited and Leonard agreed to invite her.

**Discussion about Preserve maintenance activities that have been previously performed or suggested:**

- **Spotted lantern fly treatment of trap trees:**

Leonard reported that plans were in place for the Davey Tree Expert Company again to treat the same two “trap trees” in the Saul Preserve. There was discussion as to timing and duration of treatment so as to try – to the extent possible – to minimize effects on natural pollinators.

- **Poison ivy treatment:**

We discussed last year’s action of treating a few feet on the side of trails using triclopyr for targeted spraying of poison ivy only. Katie said that she would assist. Jim said that he would work with Andy Saul to remove poison ivy manually from a 100 yard test area of one trail.

- **Scheduled weed whacking of certain trails in the Preserves to maintain a clear right of way:**

Jim suggested scheduling any such weed whacking for a time about 30 days after poison ivy had been treated in order to avoid bits of living poison ivy being scattered around.

**Japanese Knotweed control proposal from David Hilbert for Chadwick Preserve:**

There was extensive discussion about perceived risks from the use of glyphosate (a/k/a “Roundup”) for treating knotweed leaves in August. This issue will be revisited. After

discussion, no one attending the meeting objected to the use of targeted and carefully applied triclopyr to newly emerging knotweed in the Spring. People suggested that spraying not be done when rain was in the near forecast.

The discussion involving possible use of chemical herbicides on Borough property expanded into commentary about educating our community about this and other topics through the EAC Facebook page and the EAC portion of the Borough website. How the EAC can best use the internet for environmental education will be revisited in future meetings.

Discussion regarding management of invasive vines and stilt grass from newly planted trees and shrubs in the Chadwick and Saul Preserves, garlic mustard, and English ivy was deferred because of time constraints.

**Update regarding Preserve Information Plan, Preserve Map, and trail class designations:**

Jim expressed concern that he did not have sufficient time to present his recommendations on this topic. Leonard acknowledged that there was little time remaining before the targeted meeting end time of 9:00 p.m. Leonard also pointed out that because there was no quorum no decision on how to proceed could be made in any event. During the time available there was debate over the extent to which new markers and signs, including for QR Codes, should be added inside the Preserves. Leonard volunteered to meet with Jim to discuss things further in advance of the next EAC meeting.

**Adjourn:**

Discussion ended at about 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard Busby,  
Acting Secretary