

## **Rose Valley EAC meeting 22 June 2021**

### voting members attending

Leonard Busby — presiding  
Jim Audley  
Monica Gagliardi  
Roger Latham — recording  
Ron Ploeg

### voting members absent

Chris Bourke  
Katie Rubin

### other attendees

Vippy Yee — Borough Council  
Dave Firn — Borough Council EAC liaison  
Debra De Masi — Borough Council  
Ed Bendinsky  
John Caldwell

meeting called to order 7:42pm

### **Re: approval of April minutes**

Leonard — ~~minutes~~ make reference to attachment on kiosk & information plan, which is missing;  
attachment will be added

Jim — ~~how much~~ money does EAC have left to spend? not clear from April minutes

Leonard — email 24 May makes it clear, can be appended to April minutes; amount is \$2,883.77

Roger moved to approve, Monica 2nd, passed unanimously

EAC budget report — unchanged since 24 May email & 25 May meeting

### **Re: update on chemical treatment of certain plants in nature preserves**

\*Katie will contact Weeds Inc in the next few days to schedule treatment of poison-ivy & will take care of signage & notices

we will address plan for late-summer treatment of Japanese knotweed at July meeting

last year Chris arranged to treat ailanthus & corktree trap trees in the Saul for spotted lanternflies

Jim — injection is preferable to spraying; applicator is Thomas McNulty

\*Leonard will follow up as soon as possible on treating spotted lanternfly trap trees

### **Re: leave of absence for Chris**

Dave — with 6 voting members there will be less flexibility; our quorum will still be 4

Monica — leave of absence is a good accommodation; we don't want to lose Chris

### **Re: upcoming EAC voting member vacancy, Monica needs to step down to associate member status**

Leonard reached out to Cindy McPherson; she prefers to remain an associate member

Jim — put a recruitment notice out using an email blast to the community

Vippy — we can put a notice on the website

Monica — use EAC brochure in recruitment

\*Leonard will draft new member recruitment blurb for website & email blast for review by all

\*Vippy will post final version of new member recruitment blurb on website

\*to-do items



Jim — who will be chair assuming Leonard is elected to Council?

Leonard — can fulfill both roles; with Monica stepping down, a new chair is needed; whether Leonard becomes chair will depend on results of election & EAC members' wishes; willing to do both

**Re: report on Council meeting consideration of kiosk plan**

Council suggested a smaller kiosk in Saul than the plan EAC submitted & not an arch; slightly smaller kiosk for Chadwick

Council approved information plan as a whole

Jim — Bill Hale described his vision: ~5' long, 2 bulletin boards, small roof (no archway); both sides to have reading material; Chadwick sign to be similar, but with only one side having reading material

Dave — where located?

Jim — deferred; could be either on Folk or Borough property; Council prefers Folk property, nearer the parking lot

Council discussed sign to be in middle of the trail, aligned with the trail, so people can walk on both sides

Deb — design can be revisited in future; signs are much wanted & needed; will inform about the preserves but also will serve a public safety purpose

Jim — Jim assured Council that EAC will present detailed plan for signage for Council approval before any implementation

Jim met with designer/fabricator John Curtis; John is working on a design based on Council preferences & best design principles & an implementation estimate for both kiosks

\*Jim will present update on kiosks at July EAC meeting

**Re: EAC priorities going forward & future projects**

Leonard — Monica put together a comprehensive list of all the ideas that have been proposed by the EAC over the years

\*Leonard will ask members to submit thoughts & ideas before July meeting

Dave — deer management & next year's contract for recycling are near-term high priorities

Leonard — last year sent email proposing a different form for the invitation for bid for recycling, based on conversations with many inside & outside the borough

Dave — default option for next year's recycling contract is to do what we're doing this year; if we're going to consider doing anything different, the conversation should be started ASAP

Vippy — is there any advantage in partnering with one or more other municipalities to the benefit of both to get a better deal for recycling services?

much discussion — efficiencies & economies of scale *should* be provided at the county or state level, but that's not going to happen; Pennsylvania is highly balkanized, to the economic advantage of the commercial municipal services providers & to the disadvantage of customers

Jim — what will we do with our \$2,883.77? suggests fall stewardship day(s): equipment & materials for trail maintenance, & plantings on the switchback

Leonard — the \$500 estimated cost of plantings on the switchback is already in hand, in addition to the \$2,883.77

Ron — we need to discuss if we want to cut down tuliptree saplings so switchback area remains sunny

Roger — it's a south-facing slope so we could cut down just the saplings on the lower half of the slope & it would still remain sunny even if we let the tuliptrees on the upper half grow large



Leonard — what happened to the Friends of the Preserves concept? to provide labor so EAC isn't overcommitted by being responsible for trail maintenance along with everything else

Jim — requires a leader who's willing & able to spend a lot of time & effort

Dave — the Borough needs to realize trail maintenance comes at a cost

Ron — maintenance that depends on a volunteer labor force isn't sustainable

Leonard — understanding is that this fall's stewardship day is a stopgap until we can professionalize trail maintenance

Vippy — better than a twice-yearly workday(s) may be to recruit a corps of volunteers & establish a regular day every month, with proper supervision to tell volunteers what to do when they show up

Jim — need a core group of 3-4 people who always show up & can take charge of volunteers

Jim — get software phone app on a trial basis: WildNotes enables people go out in woods & make notations, take photos, & communicate stewardship needs to other people

Roger — \$29/month when paid for entire year, \$35/month for less than a year

\*Jim proposes to get WildNotes for 4 months & try it out

moved by Ron, 2nd by Jim

Ron — we need to continue working toward developing a comprehensive long-term management plan for the preserves

Jim — to Roger, can we get a sample plan to use as a template?

Roger — sent link to Crum Woods Conservation & Stewardship Plan to all EAC members & Council members attending this meeting

[https://www.swarthmore.edu/sites/default/files/assets/documents/crum-woods-stewardship-committee/Conservation and Stewardship Plan 2003.pdf](https://www.swarthmore.edu/sites/default/files/assets/documents/crum-woods-stewardship-committee/Conservation%20and%20Stewardship%20Plan%202003.pdf)

\*Roger will contact Natural Lands about the possibility of Natural Lands doing the planning & obtaining the funding, possibly from the federal stimulus money, for a nature preserves long-term stewardship plan

Roger moved to adjourn, Jim 2nd, adjourned ~9:35

will reconvene at 7:30pm on 27 July

#### Summary of to-do items:

Jim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• get WildNotes app for 4 months &amp; try it out</li><li>• present update on kiosks at July EAC meeting</li></ul>
Katie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• contact Weeds Inc in the next few days to schedule treatment of poison-ivy</li><li>• take care of signage &amp; notices</li></ul>
Leonard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ask members to submit thoughts &amp; ideas before July meeting on EAC priorities going forward &amp; future projects</li><li>• draft new member recruitment blurb for website &amp; email blast for review by all</li><li>• follow up as soon as possible on treating spotted lanternfly trap trees</li></ul>
Roger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• contact Natural Lands about the possibility of Natural Lands doing the planning &amp; obtaining the funding, possibly from the federal stimulus money, for a nature preserves long-term stewardship plan</li></ul>
Vippy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• post final version of new member recruitment blurb on website</li></ul>