

MINUTES OF
ROSE VALLEY EAC
MEETING OF MARCH 22, 2022

Attendance:

Note: All persons listed attended in person.

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

EAC Associate Members: Peter Howell; Byron Sherwood

Other Attendees: Bill Hale (Mayor); Dave Firm (Borough Council President); Maggie Dee; David Dee; Cindy Holston

Call to Order:

Leonard called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Approval of Minutes for Meetings of November 23, 2021, January 25, 2022, and February 22, 2022:

Roger moved that all noted minutes be approved. Cindy seconded. Approved unanimously.

Meeting Time-Management:

Leonard reported that as the result of EAC member requests, other requests, and his own experience over the past two years as Chair and Acting Chair, he was requesting that all EAC member presenters make their initial presentations in five minutes or less, with discussion then to follow. Leonard said that this approach would necessarily have exceptions based on special circumstances. No one objected to this arrangement; some expressed support.

Acting Secretary:

Leonard said that he planned to serve as Acting Secretary for the time being. There were no objections.

Update regarding Annual Native Plant Sale and Environmental Workshop:

Cindy confirmed the sale date of May 14; she said that she planned plant purchases in the range of \$3,500-\$4,000. At Leonard's request Cindy said that she would send him a proposed ceiling number for plant and other purchases.

Cindy explained that she was collecting literature and other information for distribution at the plant sale, including about rain gardens, composting, and the Water Steward program available from the Penn State regional campus.

Cindy described plans for raffle items, and other steps to promote and publicize the sale.

Roger noted what a marvelous job Cindy had done at last year's plant sale; there was then a consensus expression of appreciation.

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

Leonard reported that no date had yet been set for an initial site inspection with the Borough engineer (Matt Houtman), and a person who had previously done excavator work for the Borough along Ridley Creek (Todd McKinney). Leonard said that he planned to have this site visit take place during the week of April 4, depending on the availability of participants. Leonard promised to circulate notice of any scheduled site visit to EAC members and others (including Karen Wilwol, Watershed Specialist for the Delaware County Conservation District).

Update regarding Japanese Knotweed control/management in Long Point:

Leonard reported that arrangements were in place with David Hilbert to apply Triclopyr in late March or early April on newly emerging knotweed plants in Long Point. Katie agreed to help with posting notice of the scheduled dates of application as soon as those dates have been determined based on the weather and emergence of the knotweed. Discussion included the fact that there would be further research and discussion before any application of glyphosate during the summer. Also, we want to see the results of the Triclopyr application before making any decisions about using glyphosate.

Discussion regarding Preserve Information Plan, Preserve Map, and Trail Class Designations:

Leonard began discussion about the Preserve Information Plan by observing his understanding that there was some disagreement about aspects of the proposed plan, that disagreement was a positive part of decision making, and that we would all continue working together regardless of outcome.

Leonard further observed that the Preserve Information Plan had been unanimously approved in 2021 by the EAC, and had thereafter been approved by Borough Council subject to resolving matters as regards the design and location of kiosks proposed for the Saul and Chadwick Preserves. Appreciation for the work of Jim Audley, John Curtis and other volunteers was expressed by EAC members as regards the now mostly completed Saul Kiosk.

Notwithstanding last year's approval of aspects of the Preserve Information Plan by both the EAC and Borough Council, Leonard noted that nothing lasts forever and that, in his view, the EAC could now vote to recommend to Borough Council that aspects of the approved plan be modified before implementation.

On the foregoing basis discussion ensued.

Concerns were expressed by Cindy, Katie, and others (including some residents in attendance) about the use of QR Codes in the preserves. There was unanimous support and appreciation for providing Borough residents and visitors with more information about the six "points of interest" on the map of the Saul Preserve and the ten "points of interest" on the map of the Chadwick Preserve, but those expressing concerns favored providing that information in some manner other than using QR Codes inside the preserves. It was acknowledged that the use of such QR Codes inside the preserves had previously been proposed and approved by the EAC and Borough Council.

During discussion two formal motions were made and voted on as follows:

1. Katie moved that any payment to Blue Twig Design for implementation of the current Preserve Information Plan be indefinitely deferred in favor of using such funds for other things that Katie described as having a greater priority. Roger seconded. After discussion this motion did not pass. Leonard, Roger, and Jim opposed; Katie in favor; Ron and Cindy abstained.

2. Katie moved that Jim go forward with the Blue Twig Design proposal for all items proposed that would be used inside any kiosk display cases and for design advice at the posted \$80/hour rate as regards unobtrusive trail sign markings. Roger seconded. After discussion this motion passed unanimously.

During the entire discussion, there were multiple expressions of appreciation for all of the hard work and thoughtfulness devoted to the Preserve Information Plan by Jim, Roger, and others. It was agreed that the existing sub-committee of Jim, Roger and Ron who have been working on this plan would meet to discuss the concerns expressed at tonight's meeting and that they would seek to find consensus amongst themselves for something to recommend at the next EAC meeting. During the discussion, Peter Howell shared with all attendees a handout describing "GPS-Enabled Guides." Roger and others expressed great appreciation for this handout which will be studied by the sub-committee and others.

EAC Voting Member Vacancy:

Leonard thanked Byron Sherwood for expressing interest in becoming an EAC voting member. Leonard said that any others who were interested in this position should get in touch with him.

The logistics of having the existing six EAC voting members meet in Executive Session – which is to say in private session – will be worked out in due course in order for the EAC voting members to discuss privately all of those who have expressed interest in filling this position.

Adjourn:

Upon motion by Cindy to adjourn, seconded by Roger, and passed unanimously, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard Busby,
Acting Secretary