

MINUTES OF
ROSE VALLEY EAC
MEETING OF MAY 23, 2023

Attendance:

EAC Voting Members: Leonard Busby (Chair); Jim Audley; Katie Rubin; Byron Sherwood; Ron Ploeg

EAC Associate Members: Peter Howell

Other Attendees: Dave Firm (Borough Council President); Cindy Holston; David Shaw

Call to Order:

Leonard called the meeting to order at 7:42 pm.

Approval of Minutes for meetings of March 28 and April 25, 2023:

Deferred.

Plans for “Preserve Kiosk and Trail Marker Opening” event scheduled for June 17:

Jim reported that he, Katie, and Ron had all been working hard to prepare for and organize this event to thank volunteers for their contributions to our Preserves. Arrangements have been made for this event to be covered by a videographer and by the press. Peter will provide a PA system. Use of the Old Mill parking lot has been cleared with the Folk. The event will start at 10:00 am and end at 1:00 pm. (Note: The end time was later changed to 12:30 pm.)

The event will include the following:

- thanking all individual volunteers and all organizations that have volunteered to improve our Preserves
- improvements to biodiversity within the Preserves
- improved trails
- requests for volunteer support in the future
- ribbon cutting
- walking tours in the Saul Preserve
- scavenger hunt for kids

Unanimous appreciation was expressed for all of the effort that has been devoted to planning for and organizing this event.

Ron moved and Katie seconded a motion: that up to \$250 be expended from the EAC budget for refreshments at this event. Approved unanimously.

Katie shared that “forest bathing” would also be offered as an activity at this event and that a nature photography contest would be announced to take place during this year.

Request for funding of “field bags” at the June 17 event:

Katie shared a list of proposed items to include for field bags for kids to use during the event and then to keep. Items included a handheld magnifying glass and an aquarium fish net.

Katie moved and Ron seconded the following motion: that up to \$500 be used from the EAC budget to purchase items for 25 field bags to the first 25 kids to arrive; any unused field bags would be reserved for kids residing in Rose Valley. Approved unanimously.

Dave suggested that Borough Council designate the \$500 contributed to the EAC and the Borough by the Ronald and Audrey Vinkelvoss Charitable Fund be used for the purchase of items to be included in these field bags. This idea was unanimously supported.

Use of CLIO software to provide information about points of interest identified on the new map of the Preserves:

Peter shared that this software system had been created by a university for free use by non-profit community groups. The system will permit a written narrative to be accessed over the internet after first scanning the QR code on the new map of the Preserves. Peter said that he would circulate a draft of the proposed content for comment. Peter was thanked for all of his efforts to find this no cost option for providing such information to people over the internet, as well as for all of his work to draft the substance of the content.

Proposed water education event in July (on July 9):

Katie said that this water focused event will be kid centered. Katie reported that she had learned about a mobile water lab owned and operated by the nearby Stroud Water Research Center. This lab is in a 14 foot trailer that can be brought to the event. In exchange for a \$1,000 contribution to the Stroud Center, two educators will come to Rose Valley with the mobile water lab and teach kids using things inside the lab. This is planned for the afternoon of Sunday, July 9. Katie explained that everything will be done by the two educators and that all we will need to do is publicize the event and welcome people when they arrive.

Katie moved and Ron seconded: that up to \$1,000 be paid from the EAC budget for this mobile water lab and two educators to come to Rose Valley on the afternoon of July 9. Approved unanimously.

Proposal for a new bench in the Saul Preserve to be made from a fallen walnut tree in the Preserve:

The pros and cons of adding a second bench in the Saul Preserve, and, if so, where, were discussed in considerable detail. No decision was made on what, if anything, to recommend to Borough Council.

Treatment of Trap Trees in the Saul Preserve for control of spotted lantern flies:

After brief discussion, this topic was deferred to the next meeting.

Update and discussion on treatment of invasive Knotweed in the Chadwick Preserve:

After brief discussion, this topic was also deferred to the next meeting. Leonard volunteered to do some further investigation as regards the use of glyphosate to control invasive knotweed.

Poison Ivy Management:

Katie said that she would make arrangements with Weeds, Inc. to treat poison ivy along trails in the Saul and Chadwick Preserves using targeted spraying for a distance of no more than three feet on either side of the trails; the treatment will take place in July.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:15 pm by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard Busby,
Acting Secretary