

## COUNCIL MEETING

August 9, 2023

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

Councilpersons Shawn Stancill and Matt Sullivan were absent.

Residents attending the meeting were Brian Barnett, John Caldwell and Katie Rubin and guests were Daniel Lippard, Esq. and Larry Leso.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the July 12, 2023 Council Meeting were reviewed. Mr. Busby noted that the donation mentioned under EAC & Environment came from the Ronald and Audrey Winklevoss Charitable Foundation. With this clarification, the Minutes of the July 12, 2023 Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Daniel Lippard introduced himself as the attorney representing Alexandra Greene and Brian Barnett and reported they had submitted a Plan of Consolidation for two properties, their house lot at 16 Hilltop Road and an undeveloped lot they purchased from Emily Dodge at 19 Rabbit Run. Mr. Lippard also introduced surveyor Larry Leso, who prepared the plan. Mr. Lippard noted the Delaware County Planning Commission reviewed the consolidation plan at their June 15, 2023 meeting and recommended the plan proceed. Both lots are in a Zone "A" Residential District with minimum 1-acre zoning. Discussion followed as outlined below under Planning.

### PLANNING

Mrs. Prown reported that the Rose Valley Planning Commission met on August 3, 2023 to consider the proposed Plan of Consolidation and unanimously voted to recommend that Borough Council approve the plan. Mr. Hale commented that he lived next door at 20 Hilltop Road and noted that his name should be changed from "Halc" to "Hale" on the plan. He also said that the plan should show the "easement of Phil Hall" mentioned in the legal description in the Deed to the 16 Hilltop Road property. Phil and Hortensia Hall previously lived in the house at 23 Rabbit Run and were granted a sewer easement in the 1960's by Anthony Kennedy so they could run a gravity sewer line across the southern side of the 16 Hilltop Road property to tie into the gravity sewer line on Hilltop Road. Mr. Kennedy owned both the then-vacant 16 Hilltop and 19 Rabbit Run lots in addition to his house lot at 15 Rabbit Run. Mr. Hale noted he was in favor of the consolidation because it would prevent a house from being built on the 23 Rabbit Run lot unless it was recreated through a future subdivision process. After further discussion, Mrs. Prown made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission to approve the Plan of

Consolidation for the 16 Hilltop Road and 19 Rabbit Run lots which was duly seconded and unanimously passed.

Mrs. Prown said the Borough is waiting to see if it receives the \$250,000 grant it applied for from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) to design and construct a pedestrian trail along Rose Valley Road between Woodward Road and Buttonwood Way. Delaware County Council approved the change of scope for the \$75,980 Connect Grant at its July 19 meeting and DCED was notified that this grant would provide the 15% matching funds for the \$250,000 grant if it is awarded. Solicitor Smith will contact the Delaware County Planning Department to discuss the preparation of the Grant Agreement contractual documents, including Declarations of Public Trust which need to be recorded, for the \$75,980 Connect Grant. Katie Rubin later asked that the pedestrian trail surface be pervious and that appropriate vegetation be provided next to the trail to absorb as much stormwater as possible.

Mr. Hale reported that G.D. Houtman & Son provided a plan with four distinct sections for the crushed stone trail to the right of their Seider's driveway to be done as an Eagle Scout project. The first section requires small pavers for the initial 10 feet from the driveway due to the steep slope in this area and to prevent the stone chips on the trail from washing down or being kicked onto the driveway. Large un-mortared stones about 6" high x 6" wide will be set next to trail on the road side partially buried in the ground along this section with the above-ground portion increasing from 1" near the driveway to 6". The next three sections will have 1-1/2 inches of 3/8 stone chips to provide a pervious walking surface, usually with landscape edging on both sides to contain the chips. The second section will have large un-mortared stones about 6" high x 6" wide set next to the road-side edging; the third and highest section will have a mortared stone wall about 12" high x 12" wide built next to the road side of the trail with no landscape edging required; the fourth section will have a stable 2:1 slope next to the road-side edging. Mr. Hale indicated the large stones and mortared stone wall would be set or built by McCusker Landscaping while the Eagle Scout Project would consist of installing the landscape edging, stone chips and additional plantings.

## EAC & ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Busby read the following report from EAC member Katie Rubin. On July 30th, the Rose Valley EAC partnered with the Stroud Water Research Center to offer educational walks along Ridley Creek. This was the last event of the Summer in the Preserves event series. Participants learned about our watersheds and had the chance to conduct hands-on tests of water quality, including oxygen levels, pH, turbidity, and the collection and identification of macroinvertebrates. Around 75 people registered and 50 people from Rose Valley, Media, and Middletown attended, which was a higher than expected. All those who attended received Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission information about native turtles and salamanders. All who registered received an email after the event with links to the Rose Valley Stormwater Runoff webpage: <https://www.rosevalleyborough.org/stormwater-runoff-ms4>), as well as information on managing runoff from their property.

For the event, Rose Valley made a donation of \$912.50 to the Stroud Water Research Center from the EAC's education budget. Information about this event should be provided to the Borough Engineer for use in the Borough's annual MS4 reporting.

Mr. Busby reported that the knotweed has been cut down and will be treated later. The poison ivy has also been sprayed.

Mr. Busby reported that the EAC recommends to Council that the 2023 – 2024 Deer Management Program be the same as last year's and again consist of one select bow hunter, Justin Franks, being allowed to hunt in the Todmorden Woods only from 11/27/23 to 12/08/23 and from 1/03/24 to 1/26/24. He would only hunt during the week, not on weekends, before 9:00 a.m. and after 2:00 p.m. The cost for this service would be \$800 plus \$150 per deer harvested. This recommendation was approved by Council on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

### HIGHWAYS & INSURANCE

Mr. Firn reported Engineer Matt Houtmann is still looking for another contractor to bid on the Todmorden Drive repaving work. Mr. Hale noted that Matt is having difficulty getting large paving companies, other than A.F. Damon who bid \$11,740, to provide a quote for such a small job and is reluctant to use small paving operators because their smaller equipment can lead to quality of work issues. Matt is also getting quotes to replace the sunken concrete gutters on either side of the northern stormwater inlet prior to repaving.

Resolution 8-2023 authorizing Rose Valley Borough to apply for County Aid to be used for road repair was approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

### LIBRARY

Ms. Mehan reported that the Helen Kate Furness Library's Summer Auction brought in \$7,114, which far exceeded the \$4,000 goal. A donor has offered to cover the cost of repairing the water fountain. To date, 395 children and 124 adults have attended the Library's summer programs. Everyone was encouraged to visit the Library's website to see which authors will be participating in the Virtual Author Series.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

In Mr. Stancill's absence, Mr. Firn reported that the July Police Report cited two traffic accidents. The July Fire Report cited responses to an automatic fire alarm activation at The School in Rose Valley on July 2 and a house fire with smoke in the crawl space and electrical wire damage at 6 Tanglewood Circle on July 8 following a lightning strike. Typical data was received from the speed devices on Rose Valley Road and Town Watch is proceeding as usual.

## FINANCES

Mr. Bacchia reported he had reconciled the PNC Bank accounts with QuickBooks. He then reviewed the Status of Funds. Mr. Hare reviewed the Income Reports for July. The Anniversary Fund received \$5,419.15 in income from Pool Party ticket sales. Mr. Neilson went over the August Bills for Approval and answered questions. The Bills for Approval in the amounts of \$39,092.11 from the General Fund and \$6,117.03 from the Anniversary Fund for Pool Party expenses were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

## MANAGER'S REPORT

Mrs. Healy reported that the evening Pool Party with a live band on August 5 in celebration of the Borough's 100th Anniversary was a great success with about 150 people in attendance.

## MAYOR'S REPORT

Mr. Hale reported that there will be a Minquas Trail Walk on Long Point on September 30, 2023 sponsored by the Borough, the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation and the Rose Valley Museum.

## SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Smith's report included the following: mail addressed to elected or appointed officials of the Borough and sent to the Borough Office may be opened by the office staff unless directed otherwise; the cost of fire protection would be far higher if we had paid instead of volunteer fire companies serving our community; and the need to advertise Council committee meetings and make the proposed agenda available to the public 24 hours in advance if a quorum of Council members will be present.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Paula W. Healy, Secretary