

Rose Valley Borough Environmental Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Date: 03/23/2021

Time: 7:30-10PM

Location: Zoom Meeting

Attendees (EAC Members):

Monica Gagliardi, Chair

Leonard Busby (Acting Chair)

Roger Latham

Ron Ploeg

Jim Audley

Chris Bourke

Katie Rubin

Borough Council EAC Liaison:

Dave Firm

EAC Associate Members:

Mario Bacchia

Cynthia (Cindy) McPherson

Rose Valley Borough

Bill Hale, Rose Valley Borough Council, President

Debra DeMasi, Rose Valley Borough Council

Vippy Yee (Zoom Host and Rose Valley Borough Council)

Judy Voet, Rose Valley Borough Council

Joe Hare, Rose Valley Borough Council, Treasurer

Stephanie Middleton, Rose Valley Borough Council

Paula Healy, Rose Valley Borough Manager

Guy Smith, Rose Valley Borough Solicitor

Margie Firm

Sue Keilbaugh

Cindy Holsten

Peter Howell

John Nielson

John Baycich
Peter Howell
Charlie
Carol
Kelly Walker
Carol Porter
Margie Dee
Tim Plummer
Rick Stubfeld
Marie Hasenich
Ron Sherwood
Marya Bradley
Cheryl Hunt

1. **Call to order/minutes** Leonard called the meeting to order at 7:30PM and the minutes from the February 23rd meeting were approved subject to the revision of replacing Longwood with Longpoint in paragraph 2, line 3.
2. **Native Plant Sale Update** Cindy McPherson noted that the new date is 4/24/21 from 9 AM until 1 PM. Roger's walk is scheduled for 9:30 AM and possibly 11:30 AM. *Invasives will be a focus with some extirpation. Budget for purchase of plants is \$2,000 and, to date, Cindy has committed a total of \$1,700 at Northcreek and Octoraro nurseries. Saul's Roost plantings project will be planting three 5' hemlocks and three 6' hollies with a budget of \$500 and at a cost of \$708 with a donation to match the difference. Jim Audley is directing this project with the timing of planting to be determined at a later date. Traymore residents, Penn State students and other may participate. Switchback planting for the understory is projected for the fall in order to avoid possible erosion on the slope with an estimated budget of \$500. Monica created a flyer to promote the event that has been distributed and posted on Facebook. Roger has created a "Free the Trees" flyer for distribution at the event and Susan Ploeg will provide her homemade laundry detergent recipe for the event.*
3. **Stream Crossing** Ron opened the discussion of the stream crossing proposal. Leonard emphasized that EAC has an exclusively advisory role to borough Council and added that he understood that the EAC would not be taking any vote tonight as regards to any recommendations. Joe Hare, Rose Valley Folk Treasurer, presented his concerns that the proposed crossing would disrupt their wedding business, increase the risk of flooding and increase the Folk liability on their property as outlined in his letter to the EAC. He requested that Houtman confirm that the bridge does not present an increased flood hazard in writing. Ron said that there was already a writing that reflected this confirmation. Discussion included possible negative activity and liability from increased use, strong support for connecting Todmorden, Longpoint, and eastern Rose Valley, and questions

regarding alternative locations for the crossing. Connecting public land to public land would allow the access to avoid the switchback on the Longpoint side.

4. **EAC and Borough Website Integration Project** Roger reported on the Borough website EAC integration project on behalf of EAC team members Katie and Monica. The page being developed will provide links to alerts, sanctuaries, agenda and minutes, educational resources, and projects (including stewardship, wetlands, invasives, deer management, the plant sale, recycling, Eagle Scout projects, and history). He requested support for contributions of photos and other information to be integrated into the site.
5. **Preserve Maintenance Program** Jim proposed developing a preserve maintenance program, possibly titled "Friends of the Preserve", that would coordinate efforts regarding trail maintenance and other projects with the EAC, but would be organized outside of the EAC. The idea was met with great support.
6. **Update Saul and Chadwick Preserve Kiosks** Leonard asked Jim to recirculate his document on the kiosks to EAC for review and comment.
7. **Tree City Initiative** The designation as a Tree City was discussed and it was determined further research was needed regarding the benefits versus the requirements. Advocating for trees and greater awareness of the issues was a plus. Supporting Arbor Day is a plus Having leverage through the Tree Line program to address utility company maintenance issues is a plus
8. **Adjournment** The meeting adjourned at 9:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Bourke