

MINUTES OF  
ROSE VALLEY EAC  
MEETING OF APRIL 25, 2023

**Attendance:**

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

EAC Associate Members: Peter Howell

Other Attendees: Bill Hale (Mayor); Dave Firm (Borough Council President); Marion Yaglinski; Debbie Timblin

**Call to Order:**

Leonard called the meeting to order at 7:36 pm.

**Approval of Minutes for meeting of March 28, 2023:**

Deferred.

**Report on Annual Native Plant Sale:**

Cindy shared that approximately 40 people volunteered to help with this year's native plant sale. Cindy thanked all of these volunteers and gave special thanks to Dierdre Gibson who has partnered with Cindy on organizing the plant sale for the past two years; Cindy informed us that Dierdre re-wrote all of this year's native plant descriptions so that they are consistently formatted and uniformly excellent.

Roger again led his nature walk in the Saul Preserve pointing out native and invasive plants and generally informing people about the biological wonders of our Preserves.

All purchased plants were sold. Cindy described the financial arithmetic as follows:

- plant purchases — \$4,221
  - purchase of snacks and water — \$153
  - purchase of mosquito dunks — \$212
- Total expenses: \$4,576

Total revenue from all sales: \$6,347

Excess of revenue over expenses: \$1,771

All revenues are contributed to the Borough as part of the Borough's annual revenue budget. All expenses are paid for by the EAC out of its annual budget allocation by the Borough.

There was a unanimous expression of appreciation for all of the excellent work done by Cindy and everyone else who contributed to this year's native plant sale.

### **Rights of Nature Law:**

Leonard welcomed Marion Yaglinski to our meeting. Leonard explained that Marion is the Chair of the Transition Town Media, Biodiversity Group. Leonard also shared that Marion had provided us with posters regarding how mosquito sprays kill not only mosquitos but also butterflies, fireflies, and all of the insects that birds need to reproduce; how Marion had successfully installed a geothermal system at her own home in Media, how Marion had planted beautiful beds of native plants at her home; and how the Transition Town Media Biodiversity Group was a tremendous resource for ideas on protecting and enhancing our natural environment and that all Rose Valley residents were welcome to attend meetings of this organization by Zoom and to participate and contribute. Marion's comments included the following:

- There are now seven birds at high risk of extinction in Delaware County.
- There is now a global movement to adopt laws protecting the rights of nature.
- One river and one national park, both in New Zealand, have been granted "personhood" under New Zealand law.
- Rights of nature law are intended to protect the natural world that we all depend on.

Marion asked if any people were interested in participating in a local steering committee to look into the idea of pursuing a rights of nature law. Dave, Roger, and Cindy expressed interest.

### **Update on Moravian Tiles for Preserve trail markers:**

Peter reported that all of the tiles have been cut and are now ready for glazing; estimated time of completion is two weeks.

### **CLIO (New Business):**

Peter explained that this is a free software system (at [TheCLIO.com](http://TheCLIO.com)) that permits museums and parks and other community locations to annotate points of interest on a system accessible on the

internet by clicking on a QR code; it is a free software system. Peter wants to have this system in place in our Preserves in time for the scheduled rededication of the Saul and Chadwick Preserves on June 17, 2023. Peter said that we can populate our existing map of the Preserves as we choose using Google Maps and GPS coordinates.

**Discussion regarding “Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System” (also known as “MS4”):**

Katie informed us that the existing MS4 plan for Rose Valley Borough includes the following minimum control measures:

- public education and outreach
- public participation
- detect and report illicit discharges into waterways
- standards for new construction
- pollution prevention

Rose Valley’s current MS4 Permit is good for five years, with 2023 being year one. During the five years of this permit our Borough must submit an annual report in or about September of each year.

Katie proposed: (i) that the Borough website be updated to include a copy of the current MS4 permit; and (ii) that the EAC assist with the educational component of our MS4 permit by informing residents about storm water management that can be done by private homeowners on their own property (for example, rain barrels and rain gardens).

Katie said that The Next 100 will be holding a future community forum on storm water runoff.

**Gift to Borough from Ronald and Audrey Vinkelvoss Charitable Fund:**

Leonard reminded the EAC that we should reflect on what to recommend to Borough Council in order to put to good environmental use the \$500 gift from to the Borough (through the EAC) from this fund.

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

Deferred.

**Treatment of “Trap Trees” in the Saul Preserve for control of Spotted Lantern Flies:**

Dave and Roger volunteered to look into this and to report at our next meeting.

**Upcoming planned volunteer projects for our Preserves:**

Jim said that there will be a volunteer workday scheduled in May; date and details to be determined.

**Update on treatment of invasive knotweed and of poison ivy:**

This was briefly discussed and will be discussed further at our next meeting.

**Update on the Free the Trees (from English ivy) event on April 29-30:**

This has been scheduled to start at 10:00 am on both April 29 and 30. Parking will be available at The Hedgrow Theatre. The goal is to remove ivy from at least 100 trees in celebration of Rose Valley's centennial celebration.

Ten people were recently trained on ivy removal techniques at a workshop held at The School in Rose Valley.

**Old and New Business:**

On May 21 there will be a public garden tour of private homes in Rose Valley, starting at 10:00 am.

**Adjourn:**

The meeting adjourned at 9:21 pm by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard Busby,  
Acting Secretary