

MINUTES OF
ROSE VALLEY EAC
MEETING OF JANUARY 25, 2022

Note: All six voting members of the EAC attended this meeting – three in person and three remotely. Per the guidance of Rose Valley Borough Solicitor Guy Smith, four voting members must be physically present in order to have a quorum. Accordingly, no quorum was present. The meeting therefore proceeded as a discussion without any formal business being conducted.

Attendance:

EAC Voting Members present in person: Leonard Busby; Ron Ploeg; Cindy McPherson

EAC Voting Members participating remotely: Kate Rubin; Roger Latham; Jim Audley

EAC Associate Member present in person: Peter Howell

Other Attendees: (all present in person): Bill Hale (Mayor); Dave Firm (Borough Council President); Debra De Masi

Call to Order:

A call to order of the meeting was not required because there was no formal meeting; discussion of topics began at approximately 7:35 p.m.

Approval of Minutes for Meeting of November 23, 2021:

Deferred.

Update regarding deer management results to date:

Leonard reported that he had been told by Justin Franks that Justin had harvested one buck and four does in Todmorden Woods Preserve. Roger said that he had been informed that two additional does had been harvested by bow and arrow on the private property of a Rose Valley resident. (Note: After the meeting Justin informed Leonard that he, Justin, had harvested one more doe in Todmorden Woods Preserve before his authorized hunting period in Todmorden Woods Preserve expired on January 28, 2022).

EAC voting member vacancy and need for designated Secretary:

Leonard informed everyone about the existence of a voting member vacancy because of the continuing unavailability of Chris Bourke. Leonard encouraged everyone to tell people interested in becoming a voting EAC member, or in becoming Secretary for the EAC, or both, to please get in touch with him. (Note: Leonard can be reached at Lbusby@gmail.com).

Update regarding preserve information plan, preserve map, and trail class designation:

Leonard first thanked Jim and Roger and others for all of their work on assembling a beautiful new proposed map for the three Rose Valley preserves, and for proposing a number of new trails for the Chadwick Preserve.

Jim reported on his ideas for collaborating with Blue Twig Design on an information plan for the preserves. Blue Twig Design is a local firm with extensive experience in designing signs and information plans for preserved open spaces; Blue Twig Design helped to design and create several of the signs now in the Saul Preserve. Jim explained his idea for removing the two metal signs now attached to trees in the Saul Preserve and the one sign attached to a tree in the Chadwick Preserve; these are the metal signs that specify prohibited activities in the Preserves. Jim suggested instead that this information be posted inside the new kiosks. This idea was well received by all participants.

Jim talked about having a plan for seasonally appropriate information being posted in the new Saul Kiosk (and in the Chadwick kiosk when built). This too was well received.

There was considerable discussion about the appropriate nature and extent of marking of trails in the Saul and Chadwick Preserves. Debra De Masi suggested using stone markers made from local stone with the trail names chiseled in those stones at certain trail intersections. Some people expressed a preference for less signage and less use of QR codes in the preserves. Jim will consult further with Blue Twig and will report back at the next meeting.

There was some discussion about interactive maps, including a reference to Dan Snyder in Swarthmore as being knowledgeable about such maps.

Update regarding annual Native Plant Sale and discussions about additional plantings:

Leonard thanked Cindy for the great success of last year's native plant sale. After discussion, it was agreed that Cindy would reach out to the Rose Valley Folk and others and that she would report back to Leonard with a proposed date in April for the sale; Leonard will then share this proposed date with others to see about potential conflicts. Cindy will also have a recommended budget and list of plants to share at our next meeting.

Ron mentioned that he and others were interested in additional plantings for the switchbacks on the trail from the Old Mill parking area to what is sometimes called "Saul's Roost."

Ron and Bill mentioned plans for an Eagle Scout project that would involve planting 12-15 native trees and shrubs in the Saul Preserve. No one expressed any concern about this project; to the contrary, everyone expressed appreciation and support.

Report on EAC budget for calendar year 2022:

Leonard reported that Borough Council had approved a calendar year 2022 budget for the EAC of \$18,200 based on the following estimated expenditures: trail maintenance – \$3,000; poison ivy control – \$700; deer management – \$2,500; knotweed control/management in portions of the Chadwick Preserve – \$5,000; construction of the Saul and Chadwick information kiosks and further implementation of the Preserves Information Plan – \$7,000.

Leonard also reported that the Borough Council had approved a calendar year 2022 budget for “Parks” of \$8,600.

(Note: Of this \$8,600 for “Parks,” \$8,000 represents the estimated cost for lawn mowing and general maintenance of the Valley Green and Pew Park by Justin Stoppford. The remaining \$600 is for the estimated cost of watering Pew Park plus an annual contribution by the Borough to the Rose Valley Gardeners.)

Leonard explained his understanding that the EAC was not obligated to spend the particular amounts noted for purposes of staying within the \$18,200 total.

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

Leonard said that he did not know the status of this insofar as any plans on the part of Borough Council. Leonard said that he would look into this and report back at the next EAC meeting.

Report on ideas shared by EAC voting members for future areas of attention by the EAC:

Leonard said that it had been a great pleasure for him to listen to each of the other EAC voting members to hear their ideas for future areas of attention by the EAC. Because of time constraints, Leonard said that he would report at the next meeting about various of the ideas that had been shared with him.

Leonard did say that multiple EAC voting members had told him about the importance from their perspective that EAC meetings end by 9:00 p.m.

Old and New Business:

Jim raised a question about the status of laying out one part of the proposed Minquas Trail. Bill provided an update that responded to Jim's question.

Adjourn:

Discussion ended at approximately 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard Busby,
Acting Secretary