

## **Rose Valley EAC meeting 27 July 2021**

Held in-person in the Old Mill's outdoor meeting space

Voting members attending

Leonard Busby — presiding

Jim Audley

Monica Gagliardi (needed to leave at 8:00pm)

Roger Latham — recording

Ron Ploeg

Katie Rubin

Voting members absent

Chris Bourke

Associate members attending

none

Other attendees

Dave Firn — Borough Council EAC liaison

Deb De Masi — Borough Council

David Shaw

Julie Shaw

Meeting called to order 7:34pm

### **Re: approval of May minutes & June minutes**

Jim moved to approve, Monica 2nd, passed unanimously.

### **Re: EAC website — Monica**

Marilyn Bullock volunteered to help with website; she's been working on text from Monica, Roger & intern Shane Houseman:

- spotlight sections & quick links
- news & events
- wildlife sanctuaries & stewardship
- deer management
- recycling & hazardous waste disposal
- grants section (Vippy Yee wants to feature that)
- projects (stewardship days)
- English ivy control
- bios of members & associate members

### **Re: recruitment message for EAC member vacancy — Leonard**

All but one voting member approved Leonard's draft.

### **Re: time management during EAC meetings — Jim**

Can we incentivize meeting efficiency vs. tangential humor or story-telling?

#### **Discussion:**

- Who would decide how long each item will be limited to? The group at the beginning of the meeting.
- In Borough Council meetings, only *public* comment is time-limited per person.
- Few groups do this; hard to predict how long each item is going to take.



- Debating time limits for agenda items at the outset of the meeting could take time that would.
- One approach is to save controversial agenda items for last; take care of quicker, noncontroversial items at beginning. May not work because controversial items rarely get the time at the end of the meeting that they need.
- EAC may try to do too much; what gets the most attention is what people are most verbal about in meetings, but not necessarily those things that are most important; e.g., stormwater management is identified as a top priority but we haven't spent any time on it.
- Some members appreciate the jovial nature of our meetings; wouldn't like to see meetings become so formal it's no fun anymore.

No change decided upon.

**Re: update on use of WildNotes software — Jim**

WildNotes could be a way to gather & share information about problem spots & questions; track over time what we've done & conditions in the preserves; he completed 6 hours of training, learned to create survey form; operator can take pictures & record lat-long coordinates of problem spots; can be translated into PDF or Excel format, saved to the cloud, shared with other team members or contractors; used to track invasives, water bars in need of maintenance, inventory of existing conditions toward baseline inventory in connection with proposed stewardship plan; single-use subscription \$540/year plus initial \$500 setup.

Online presentation by Renee <renee@wildnoteapp.com> (heard by only a few attendees)

**Questions:**

- Are there any municipalities that are subscribers? No.
- Will the data belong to us? Even if we end our subscription? Yes; a popular way for users to retain data is in Excel spreadsheets.

**Discussion:**

- Would contractor (e.g., Weeds, Inc.) need WildNotes to use the output? No, the waypoints could be transmitted in other ways.
- How many users are envisioned? Just one user (Jim), who could share with others.
- Once we have the data, who is qualified to interpret & apply it? Could it be done by us as volunteers? Professionals are needed to develop stewardship plan. Can Borough find money to hire professionals to do the work?
- Need an inventory of existing conditions in the context of conservation planning; prior experience was recounted of hiring a contractor to develop a management plan & it was very productive, specifying 5-year & 1-year priorities.
- Professional planner may not accept inventory data from unqualified volunteers.
- Professional plan is a snapshot in time; other problems are likely to come up after plan is completed; Jim could develop a continually updated spreadsheet of problem spots.
- You can't change things that you don't measure; when we do get a consultant, we'll have some information to offer from Jim's work.

Ron — motion for Council to approve expense to keep WildNotes for 2 years

Dave — \$1,039 for first year

Ron — amend motion for 1-year experiment; motion for Borough Council to approve expense to keep WildNotes for 1 year for \$1,039

Leonard — doesn't matter if there's a hiatus in WildNotes subscription until Council approves

Katie — what are potential competing uses for those funds? Will this interfere with plant sale?

Leonard — no

Jim — 2nd; passed unanimously.

\*to-do items



**Re: poison ivy treatment — Katie**

Weeds, Inc. sprayed 26 July

\*Katie — will pull together research to address valid safety question by a resident about glyphosate.

Jim — noticed about 15 spots Drew O'Neill missed; asked him whether getting lat-long coordinates from him would help; answer was no.

**Re: deer management for this coming fall & winter — Roger**

Justin Franks' 2021-2022 deer management proposal: \$500 up front to cover total costs (doe tags, bait corn, carcass transport) + \$100 per deer harvested. He is willing to commit to replacing his part-time supplemental job with this one for the duration of the deer hunting season, therefore devoting much more time & effort than he was able to in 2020-2021.

This year the state will make available unlimited doe tags, i.e., the number issued will be the number requested instead of each county running out early, as has been the case previously. In our Wildlife Management Unit 5D, baiting will be permitted. The calendar of days open for archery deer hunting is attached at the bottom of the minutes.

Justin said, based on his years of observations of deer behavior on both sides of Ridley Creek, that it would be of great benefit to have permission from the Borough to hunt the sewer plant property (two tracts totaling 3.83 acres) & to renew permission from Joyce & Rick Malamut for access across their property.

**Discussion:**

For 10 deer, comes out to \$150/deer, far less than cost of culling (for 20 deer, \$125/deer).

Should we know how many deer we have & how many we need to take out? Census of deer numbers is prohibitively expensive & beside the point in any case; only deer impact can be measured at feasible cost. No point in trying to ascertain how many deer there are in RV, since there's not a one-to-one correspondence between deer numbers & deer impact, depending on many factors that differ from place to place.

All 3 homeowners adjoining sewer plant would need to give permission, not for legal reasons but for respect, consideration & political good will. All of Long Point needs to be involved if sewer plant property is to be hunted, not just the adjoining 3 landowners. Delcora's permission would be needed to hunt the sewer plant. Sewer plant will be a hard sell to the 3 neighbors, especially the Malamuts; David & Julie Shaw agreed. Justin did a great job last year, let's just incrementally make just one change, namely paying Justin; defer sewer plant question until another year.

\*Is it legal to reimburse a hunter? Dave will ask Borough solicitor G. Guy Smith to look into (1) legality of reimbursing a hunter in general & (2) reimbursing a hunter on private land.

Jim suggested that a photo of each killed deer be made and submitted to someone on the EAC, with each photo including the GPS coordinates of the location where the deer was killed. Jim recommended this approach as representing a better system to monitor and manage the work of anyone who would be paid by the Borough as part of any deer management program in the Borough. Others said that such a system was not needed or appropriate under the present circumstances.

Does Justin have a preference on whether to hunt on Saturdays? \*Roger will ask [recorder's note: Justin was asked & said not hunting Borough lands on Saturdays is fine]

David Shaw — raised many objections to deer management plan; said it's not worthy of the name "deer management plan."

Roger & Leonard — plan is based on best science & expert judgment; some of objection is based on semantics.



Discussion ended without a vote on recommendations to Council; will resume discussion at next EAC meeting & aim to submit recommendations before Council's 8 September meeting.

**Re: update on Saul Preserve kiosk — Jim**

Presented drawing: kiosk will be in middle of trail just inside Borough property aligned parallel to trail so people can read both sides; trail will be widened there & surfaced with gravel to avoid becoming a mud hole.

Jim — moved to submit to Borough Council to let them know where we are in the process.

Ron 2nd, passed unanimously.

**Re: treating spotted lantern fly trap trees — Leonard**

Deb — have we missed the effective date?

\*Dave — will ask Penn State & Colin Purrington for advice.

\*Leonard — contractor he's contacted has good rates but will not return calls or emails; will look for alternative contractor.

Roger moved to adjourn, Jim 2nd, adjourned 10:07pm.

EAC will reconvene at 7:30pm on 24 August.

**Summary of to-do items:**

Leonard	• Look for alternative contractor for treating spotted lantern fly trap trees.
Dave	• Ask Penn State & Colin Purrington for advice on timing of treating spotted lantern fly trap trees.
Roger	• Ask Justin Franks if he prefers or could forgo Saturday hunting in Todmorden Woods.
Katie	• Pull together research to address valid safety question by a resident of poison-ivy treatment.

**2021-2022 deer archery season  
Pennsylvania Game Commission  
Wildlife Management Unit 5D**

September 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

October 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

November 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

December 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

January 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					