

Rose Valley Borough Environmental Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Date: 02/23/2021

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 Finn

EAC Associate Members:

Mario Bacchia

Cynthia (Cindy) McPherson

Rose Valley Borough

Bill Hale, Rose Valley Borough Council, chair

Rose Valley Folk Board (Long Range Planning)

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

Rose Valley Planning Commission, chair

Bob Healy, Rose Valley Folk Board (Property)

Susan Ploeg

Sue Keilbaugh

Cindy Holsten
Peter Howell
John Nielson
Kathleen Siwicki
Charlie Huemmler

Notes:

1. **Call to order/minutes** Leonard called the meeting to order at 7:30PM and the minutes from the January 26th meeting were approved.
2. **Possible Stream Crossing** Ron directed a discussion of the possibility of a stream crossing to connect the Saul Preserve and Chadwick Preserve. Positive comments included improved accessibility and social connections for Longpoint, Rose Valley and eastern Rose Valley residents, activity increase as a deer deterrent, and use of parking area at the Mill. Negative comments included the issue that the proposed connection near the Mill is private property and that parking is committed at various times to events at the Mill and the adjacent meadow. Current flooding issues and the possibility that debris caught in the structure would increase the possibility of flooding was noted. Alternative parking options were to be explored as well as flood mitigation options. Ron made the following motion: Investigate a Feasibility Study to evaluate options for a stream crossing over Ridley Creek to connect the trails in Saul Preserve with Chadwick Preserve to be conducted by a third-party professional consultant with relevant experience. Monica seconded and the motion was passed. Bill Hale suggested that Matt Houtman, Borough Engineer be a part of the evaluation. Leonard said that he would talk to Guy Smith about possible liability issues. A copy of Ron's presentation and his notes from public comments is attached.,
3. **Annual Native Plant Sale** Cindy McPherson requested guidance on at a budget. After discussion, Roger moved that Cindy be authorized for a budget of \$2,000 for plant purchases for the plant sale and an additional \$1,000 for purchases of plants for replanting the understory along parts of the upper trail of the Saul Preserve. Ron seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Traditionally the sale is from 9AM to Noon. The possibility of expansion to a five-hour event was discussed. General environmental education activities to be included would be reducing waste and improving recycling habits, ivy extirpation, and removing invasives and planting natives. Parking options need to be addressed with the Rose Valley Folk regarding additional hours. Various dates for the sale were discussed. Cindy said that she would follow up as regards scheduling. [Note: After the meeting, Cindy was informed by the person at the Folk who manages scheduling, that the EAC could have a full day for the Plant Sale on April 24, with a rain date of April 25. Cindy accepted with thanks those two dates on behalf of the EAC.]
4. **Noise Pollution Concerns** Leonard referenced concerns about noise from the nearby gun club outside of Rose Valley Borough that had been raised by Cindy Holsten at the January EAC meeting. It was discussed at tonight's meeting that there were limited options because the gun club is located in Middletown Township which is outside of Rose Valley Borough.

Deleted: Longwood

[Note: Per a follow up call by Leonard to Paula, Leonard was informed that Paula had previously written to someone working for the Middletown Township government office and that Paula was told by that person that the Township had negotiated for some limitation of hours when shooting would take place, but that the gun club, which has apparently been there before most current residential development, was not prepared to agree to any further limitations.

5. **EAC and Borough Website Integration Project** Leonard reported on behalf of Monica that good progress was being made on this project with details to be provided in the future by Monica.
6. **Rose Valley as a Tree City** Leonard reported that at present, he understood that the plan on this idea would be to devote more attention to caring for trees, but without undertaking to comply with the requirements of the Arbor Day Foundation.
7. **Preserve maintenance program** Discussion on this topic was deferred until the next EAC meeting.
8. **Adjournment** The meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Bourke

**ROSE VALLEY STREAM CROSSING
EAC MEETING NOTES
February 23, 2021**

BENEFITS

- Increased accessibility
- Connect isolated Longpoint neighborhood – physical
- Ability for Longpoint residents to visit points of interest in RV on foot, including pool, etc.
- Improve walkability of community
- Parking
- Social capital – meeting people, relationships
- Addresses nature deficit disorder
- Saul trails are short, double the walk (around and around in Saul alone)
- Variety, sick of same old trail
- Youth in community – meeting place for children
- Safe meeting place for children, bridging neighborhoods
- Increase dog walkers – benefit for forest recovery (deer deterrent)
- Geological interest
- Connect physically to the rest of RV

ISSUES

- Parking for weddings
- Meadow used for weddings
- Uptick in visitors this year
- Assumption that it is Borough property
- Property used to sell the venue when not used for weddings
- Flooding (Hurricane Floyd water rose to level of dumpster)
- Bridge catching trees and other debris
- Debris collecting and damming up of creek
- Preserving the character of the woods
- Delaware County Hazard Assessment for Rose Valley (2016 update) – flood is greatest hazard

QUESTIONS

- Alternative parking available on Borough property nearby?
- Can hydro improvement as part of the project (to address flooding, needs to be addressed anyway)