

Rose Valley Borough Environmental Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Date: 09/22/2020

Time: 7:30-10:15

Location: Zoom Meeting

Attendees (Members):

Leonard Busby (acting chair)

Monica Gagliardi

Roger Latham

Ron Ploeg

Jim Audley

Chris Bourke

Katie Rubin

Borough Council EAC Liason:

Dave Firn

Associate Members:

Mario Bacchia

Cynthia McPherson

Byron Sherwood

Rose Valley Borough

Debra DeMasi, Borough Council

Judy Voet, Borough Council

Vippy Yee (Zoom Host and Rose Valley Borough Council)

David Shaw

Janet Baysich

John and AnnMarie Smith

Cindy Holston

Joyce Malamut

Cheryl ?

Edward Bandinsky

Marya Thomson Bradley

Notes:

1. Leonard called the meeting to order and the minutes from the 07/28/2020 meeting were approved.
2. Jim Audley introduced new proposed associate member Cynthia McPherson. Upon a motion made and seconded, the EAC Board unanimously approved her membership.
3. Cynthia discussed her role as manager of the annual Native Plant Sale. Dave has files from Margery Howe that may include information from previous plant sales and information on previous vendors to the sale. Dave and Roger to develop timeline over the next two weeks. Linda Doyle and Margery have reportedly offered to assist with the sale.
4. The board held a lengthy discussion of the progress on the proposed Rose Valley Borough Road Path. The Borough Planning Commission and the Borough Council discussed the issue in their most recent meetings. Dave and Ron presented the marketing summary and it was well received. Some discussion expressed disappointment that the borough was authorizing a scope for the feasibility study that included only the section from Possum Hollow Road to the Moylan Rose Valley Septa station, and that no bike path was being considered at this time. Bill Hale, Council President and Stephanie Middleton, Planning Commission Chairperson will direct the effort. The recommendation to establish a steering committee comprised of residents and EAC members was not furthered. A full feasibility study focusing on a multi-use path from Brookhaven Road to the Moylan Rose Valley station had been estimated to cost \$50,000. For the approved reduced scope, the consultant will work on a time and material basis with an initial borough council approved amount of \$10,000. Dave will remind Borough Council that Monica, Roger, Jim and Ron desire to be part of the steering committee for this project.
5. A discussion on addressing Japanese Knotweed was tabled and will be addressed at a later time. However, the question arose regarding whether Borough Council would approve use of public funds to eradicate knotweed on private property.
6. The subcommittee on trails presented information on proposed signage, bulletin boards at Chadwick and Saul Preserves and a kiosk at Saul. Blue Twig Design (Holly Harper) proposal was estimated at \$9,000 for design but not construction. Blue Twig has designed the more recent signage erected in the borough parks and has designed the signage used in Natural Lands properties. Jim Audley proposed a budget of \$10,000 using John Curtis for construction of a gazebo, Jane Miluski for graphics. Drew Gilchrist of DCNR to evaluate funding of grants. Dave will submit the \$10,000 estimate for inclusion in the borough's 2021 budget.

7. Jim Audley presented the fall work plan for October 24, 25 and October 31 and November the 1st from noon to 4 PM at Chadwick Preserve. Borough Council previously approved a budget for equipment rental and supplies of \$2500. Saul Preserve was anticipated to be addressed on November 7,8 and November 14,15 with an emphasis on the upper loop trail.
8. Deer Management program was addressed. Justin Frank, who has been by far the most successful hunter in years past was considered as a possible sole hunter this winter for a hunt that would be of limited duration. In conversations with Roger, Justin expressed willingness to hunt Todmorden Woods the first two weeks of November and the four weeks after Christmas. There was discussion regarding the use of the park by families during the week between Christmas and New Year's and so that week should be avoided. The EAC agreed that prior to recommending any plan to Borough Council for approval we would need to schedule a special meeting of the EAC and invite any interested borough residents to discuss the plan, possible dates and to meet with Justin. This likely means that Borough Council could not act on any EAC recommendation until its November 11 meeting. It was also clarified that the sewer treatment plant is not a part of the Chadwick Preserve and that while it is borough property it would require separate approval by the Borough for proposed hunts.
9. Budget for council was proposed to include \$3,000 for general EAC purposed plus \$10,000 for proposed Saul and Chadwick signage/kiosk project. Dave Firn indicated that borough also typically funds approximately \$20,000 for park maintenance. Dave will review the borough's records to determine the types of expenses that are typically incurred.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Bourke