

BOROUGH OF ROSE VALLEY
Planning Commission Meeting
February 3, 2020

The Rose Valley Planning Commission was convened by Chairperson Stephanie Middleton on November 5, 2020 at 7:36 pm via Zoom. All members were present including Steve Karlovic, Jim Kaufman, Lynn Kelley, Stephanie Middleton, Ron Ploeg and Hope Thurlow.

Additional members of the feasibility study working group attending the meeting were Jim Audley, Dave Firm and Roger Latham.

Council members attending the meeting included Councilpersons Debra DeMasi, Dave Firm, Bill Hale, Stephanie Middleton, Judy Voet and Vippy Yee, Controller John Nielson, Mayor Tim Plummer, Solicitor G. Guy Smith and Manager Paula Healy.

Other residents attending the meeting included Ed Bendinsky, John Caldwell, Kelly Caulfield, David Dee, Cindy Holston, Brian Hurd, Paul Leonard, Sally Jenkins Redgrave, Chris Sembolt, Matt Sullivan, Diane Seider, Richard Taxin and Kelly Walker.

Consultant Robert Thomas of Campbell & Thomas Co. attended as an invited guest.

Minutes

The Minutes of the November 5, 2020 Planning Commission Meeting were reviewed and adopted on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

Feasibility Study

Stephanie asked consultant Robert Thomas of Campbell & Thomas Co. to review his work to date on the feasibility study for a 3' - 4' wide pathway along Rose Valley Road from Possum Hollow Road to the Moylan/Rose Valley Train Station. Bob shared his screen and reviewed the site visit and walkdown along both sides of Rose Valley Road he did with his assistant Doug Maisey on November 10th, accompanied by Ron Ploeg and Bill Hale. During the walkdown, Bob inspected the proposed location for an Eagle Scout project opening a new trail on the Borough property above the Hedgerow curve on the southwest side of Rose Valley Road with a bridge over a small stream and continuing up to Traymore Lane. He recommended proceeding with the project. As requested, he also provided pictures of various trail surfaces including crushed stone, limestone screens, gravel and macadam. The pathway may be on one side of the road in one area and on the other side of the road in another with consideration given to safely crossing the road. We should do our best to meet ADA accessibility requirements, however the terrain may prevent this in some areas.

Bob advised that we have a plan in mind for the pathway before we begin talking to individual landowners. Bob will provide an opinion of probable cost for construction once the route and type of path is selected. He will also provide a list of possible grants and other funding sources.

At some point we may want to consider surveying residents regarding the pathway but not until the concept is better defined.

Meeting participants expressed their concerns and opinions about various aspects of the pathway including having adequate setbacks and separation from the road, drainage and stormwater management considerations, maintenance, snow & ice removal, liability, compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and whether the benefits of the pathway justify the cost of obtaining easements and construction.

Bob is trying to ascertain the width of the right-of-way on either side of the road and will enlist the help of Fran Hanney of PennDOT. The right-of-way is known to be only 16.5 feet from the nominal centerline on the east side but may be 16.5 feet or 20 feet from the centerline, all along or part of the way, on the west side. He also is working on determining how far the as-built centerline of the road is from the centerline of the right-of-way along the road and obtaining geographic information system (GIS) data from Delaware County.

Bob noted that Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) and Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) grants may allow you to match with in-kind services, such as the time volunteers spend working on the project, and with other grants, such as PECO Green Region Grants.

Dave Firn has volunteered to work on investigating and applying for grants. He feels it may not be necessary to hire a grant writer after talking with Nether Providence Township Manager Dave Grady and Swarthmore Borough Manager Jane Billings, who have written their own grant applications.

Bob said it is more important to work on obtaining the right-of-way or easements needed for the pathway than the funding. He felt that once you have the right-of-way or easements, the money to fund the project will be obtainable.

Adjournment

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm. The next Planning Commission Meeting was to be held on Thursday, January 7, 2021 at 7:30 pm via Zoom. However, this meeting was cancelled because PennDOT had not yet provided the needed right-of-way information. The next meeting is now scheduled for Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 7:30 pm via Zoom.