

Rose Valley Borough Environmental Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Date: 01/26/2021

Time: 7:30-9:53

Location: Zoom Meeting

Attendees (Members):

Leonard Busby (acting chair)

Roger Latham

Ron Ploeg

Jim Audley

Chris Bourke

Katie Rubin

Borough Council EAC Liaison:

Dave Firn

Associate Members:

Mario Bacchia

Cynthia McPherson

Byron Sherwood?

Rose Valley Borough

Debra DeMasi, Rose Valley Borough Council

Vippy Yee (Zoom Host and Rose Valley Borough Council)

Judy Voet, Rose Valley Borough Council

Carl

Danielle

Cindy Holsten

Marya ?

Dave Crawford?

Notes:

1. **Call to order/minutes** Leonard called the meeting to order at 7:30PM and the minutes from the November 24th meeting were approved.
2. **Borough Recycling Contract** Dave Firn announced that the borough received two bids for recycling with once a week and once every two weeks proposals. For both bidders the once every two week schedule was 19% lower. Mascaro was the winning bidder for a one year contract for every two weeks. Leonard was hoping to develop a multi municipality bidding process with a commencement schedule around mid year for a following year award. Recycling costs are currently \$366 per ton in Rose Valley versus \$100 per ton in Nether Providence and \$105 per ton in Swarthmore. A new collection and recycling program being developed by Remarkglass.com which could reduce a large portion of borough recycling weight and ensure that it is recycled. Jim Audley is encouraging the EAC to develop a recycling collection program for plastic bags and an education program to reduce contamination of the recycling stream.
3. **Saul Preserve Kiosk** (absent for this but seemed a rehash of earlier comments)
4. **Bridge Proposal** Jim Audley discussed his research into the location and possible cost of a bridge to connect the Rose Valley Folk property with the Chadwick Preserve. Rough estimates were \$228,000 for an 85 foot long 5 foot wide steel span from a location in the parking area of the Mill to the preserve. Working with the Rose Valley Folk would be necessary. Carl ? suggested we investigate alternative structures. The broader issues of deer management as a result of higher foot traffic, connection of areas of Rose Valley, parking at the Mill as a benefit to use, insurance and the proposed walking path were discussed.
5. **Tree City Proposal** Leonard outlined his concern that the establishment of a tree commission as one of the requirements of the designation would be a delegation of authority from Borough Council to an unelected commission. The designation criteria require a tree commission be established to provide advice on tree issues, an annual per capita expenditure of \$2 per capita (which the borough currently meets), an ordinance regarding trees, and an arbor day observance. Ron Ploeg suggested that two individuals were willing to direct the board. Marya Bidley? is a former resident of Rose Valley and Dave Crawford is a resident of Nether Providence adjoining Rose Valley. The discussion provided strong support for defending and maintaining trees on public and private property, dealing with utility company maintenance, education on the value of trees and concern over invasives. Plant Sale could dovetail with Arbor day celebration.
6. **Borough Website Progress** Leonard indicated that good progress was being made on the website.
7. **Deer Management** Roger informed the council that we made a major step forward by limiting hunting day and by using an accomplished hunter who was able to take 10 deer.
8. **Adjournment** Meeting was adjourned at 9:53.

Respectfully submitted, Chris Bourke