

## Rose Valley Borough Environmental Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Date: 11/24/2020

Time: 7:30-9:45

Location: Zoom Meeting

Attendees (Members):

Leonard Busby (acting chair)

Monica Gagliardi

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)

Ian Rubin

Lyn Gee

Notes:

1. **Borough Website** Prior to the meeting, Vippy requested photographs from the various archives and personal files to add to the site.
2. **Call to order/minutes** Leonard called the meeting to order at 7:30PM and the minutes from the October 27<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved.

3. **Borough Recycling Contract Recommendations** The EAC was asked to develop recommendations for the Borough recycling program which is currently up for bid. The current recycling hauler is B & L Services who collects the Borough's single stream recyclables on a weekly basis and delivers to a recycling processing facility operated by Republic Services. The current contract expense is approximately \$40,000 as compared to the overall budget for the Borough of approximately \$400,000. Rose Valley Borough is not required to recycle due to the size of its population. The value of the recycled goods varies given the type of material (plastics of varying grades, paper/cardboard/ aluminum/clear or green glass etc.), the level of contamination, and market conditions for the product. Recycled product's values have dropped significantly over the last two years for multiple reasons. China has ceased to have a need for or an interest in contaminated recyclables. The global economic slowdown caused by the pandemic has reduced commodity prices. The drop in oil prices has caused the cost of manufacturing virgin plastic products to be much lower than the cost of processing and distributing recycled plastic products. Contamination in single stream recycling often makes the material not salvageable. It is unclear as to what extent the materials from Rose Valley are actually being recycled or are simply being deposited in the Republic landfill. Some reports suggest that glass is being used as a liner in the landfill and not being recycled. Swarthmore is currently paying Mascaro (a fully integrated recycler with hauling, processing, and landfill facilities) \$105 per ton for single stream recycling and \$53 per ton for solid (household) waste disposal. Nether Providence is paying \$70 per ton for recycling paper/cardboard and aluminum. Plastics 1 and 2 have a market. Number 3 and 4 do not. Waste Management and Republic Services are also fully integrated contractors with hauling, processing and landfill capabilities and a regional presence. Leonard and Dave indicated that they would attempt to determine to what extent the Borough recycling material was actually being recycled before requesting the EAC's formal recommendation to Borough Council. If it is determined that an acceptable portion of the material is being recycled, we should expect to recommend that we reduce collection to once every two weeks and require that the hauler and processors confirm that the material is being recycled.
4. **Trails Project** Leonard congratulated Jim on leading the trails project. Jim thanked the team leaders for their work. The full report is attached and made a part of the minutes. Roger and Jim discussed the possible extension of part of the trail at Longpoint along the creek towards the sewer plant.
5. **Saul Preserve Kiosk** The proposed kiosk at Saul is a part of the Borough budget. The Borough is requesting a detailed plan for construction. Roger, Jim and Ron will be working on the plans and the graphics and material for the proposed cell phone application guide and trail signage.
6. **Tree City Proposal** A proposal to have Rose Valley Borough be designated as a Tree City was discussed. The designation criteria require a tree commission be established to provide advice on tree issues and an annual per capita expenditure of \$2 per capita. Dave suggested we currently meet the expenditure requirement. It is understood that the commission

provides advice but not restrictions on tree maintenance. Leonard suggested that if we were to pursue this that it be separate from the EAC.

7. **Borough Website Progress** Vippy indicated that good progress was being made on the website.
8. **EAC Work/Study Grant Sponsorship** Vippy requested that the EAC consider providing internships to Delaware County Community College students in areas that would benefit Rose Valley Borough and the EAC. This would be funded through a federal work study award which would provide much needed internship experience for student's degree advancement and financial support. It would require supervision and direction by EAC members on the various projects. The application was provided subsequent to the meeting. Several areas of potential intern involvement were proposed.
9. **Adjournment** Meeting was adjourned at 9:53. No meeting in December. Next meeting to be January 26<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Bourke