

MINUTES FOR THE ROSE VALLEY EAC MEETING OF NOVEMBER 25, 2025

Attendance:

EAC Voting Members: Leonard Busby, Chair; Roger Latham, Vice Chair; Ron Ploeg; and Katie Rubin

Call to Order:

Leonard called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

Public Comment:

None.

Approval of Minutes for EAC meeting of October 28, 2025:

After expressing thanks to Kathy Siwicki for her prompt and excellent draft of minutes for the October EAC meeting, and after review of minor edits suggested by Leonard, these minutes were unanimously approved with the inclusion of Leonard's suggested edits.

Recommended use of funds donated to the Borough for environmental improvements by the Ronald and Audrey Winkelvoss Charitable Fund:

After discussion, it was unanimously approved to recommend to Borough Council the following use of these donated funds:

- plant three American plum trees on the West side of Vernon Run and near the Old Mill Lane bridge over Vernon Run
- remove the invasive Amur honeysuckle tree in this same area
- purchase composting bins for home composting and offer them to interested Borough residents at a substantial discount

Roger Latham explained how American plum trees have a stunning spring bloom of white flowers and then provide fruits for wildlife; that native plums and cherries are closely related and differ only in the size of their fruits; that they are among the most productive host plants for insects, including pollinators, and butterflies; and that their fruits are used as food by birds and other wildlife.

Roger recommended composting bins that are large, do not rotate, have a top opening for materials to be added, and have a bottom opening to remove finished compost.

If Borough Council approves the noted recommendation for composting bins, the EAC will provide educational materials to Borough residents about the environmental benefits of

composting along with best practices. Decisions about logistics for the compost bin program were deferred pending approval by Borough Council.

The EAC expressed renewed appreciation for the generosity of Roger and Audrey Winkelvoss.

Update and discussion on MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) Project planned for Vernon Run:

In light of issues that have been raised about this project, there was a consensus recognition that the actual construction/installation of this project will have to be done in February of 2027. Issues needing to be resolved, include the following:

- whether and to what extent PaDEP advance review of project plans is appropriate or required
- the nature and extent, if any, of maintenance of the project after its completion
- whether any upstream impervious surfaces need to be addressed in some manner as a part of the project in order for the Borough to receive MS4 credit

Katie Rubin was thanked for all of her excellent work in learning about MS4 matters specifically, and about the environmental benefits generally that can be achieved by reducing and managing our Borough's storm water run-off.

It was noted that some municipalities are considering the use of "stormwater taxes" based on the amount of impervious surface present on a property.

There was discussion about the extent to which grass lawns are less pervious as compared to areas managed with native grasses, perennials, shrubs, and trees. (Note: After the meeting, Katie and Roger did research on this issue which will be shared at the next EAC meeting.)

Update on Deer Management Plan:

Leonard reported that Borough Council had unanimously approved the EAC's recommendation to continue the same deer management plan as has been adopted in recent years — namely, only one authorized bow hunter (Justin Franks), only in Todmorden Woods Preserve, only on weekdays during the two weeks starting on the Monday after Thanksgiving, and during the four weeks starting on the Monday after New Years Day, and only from dawn until 9:00 AM and from 2:00 PM until dusk.

New Business:

Leonard will do some additional follow up about the tree replacement program previously announced by PECO in connection with its current tree removal, pruning, and utility pole replacement work in Rose Valley.

Appreciation was expressed for the many contributions of Katie Rubin and Ron Ploeg during their now-concluding three year terms as EAC Voting Members. Katie and Ron have each expressed a willingness to serve an additional three year term. Unanimous support was expressed for their both being appointed by Borough Council to new three year terms. Leonard noted that all Borough residents are encouraged to become involved in our EAC and that there will inevitably be Voting Member vacancies in the future. Residents are especially encouraged to become EAC Associate Members in order to become familiar with, and to support, the efforts and responsibilities of our EAC, in advance of seeking to become EAC Voting Members. By way of further information, Pennsylvania law permits a maximum of seven EAC Voting Members in any municipality and our EAC has consistently had seven Voting Members.

Adjourn:

By unanimous consent the meeting adjourned at 8:46 PM.

NOTE: There will be no EAC meeting in December; the next EAC meeting will be on the fourth Tuesday of January (January 27, 2026) at 7:30 PM at The Old Mill. Except for the month of December, the EAC meets at 7:30 PM at The Old Mill on the fourth Tuesday of every month; the meeting in August has sometimes been canceled because of summer commitments).

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard Busby, Acting Secretary