

Rose Valley EAC meeting, September 23, 2025

Voting members present: Roger Latham (acting chair), Cindy McPherson, Olivia Nnadi, Ron Ploeg, Katie Rubin, Kathy Siwicki (recording)

Associate members present: Jim Audley, Geoff Cox, Dave Firn

Residents attending: Bill Hale (Mayor), Cindy Holsten, Lisa Mattei, Chris Weisel

Convened at 7:38 pm.

Everyone introduced themselves.

(Action items are in **red type**, below.)

How to meet MS4 requirements

Stormwater in Pew Park: Who is responsible for the water runoff in Pew Park? Cities and boroughs have different requirements from townships, and PennDOT's requirements are different still. Most of Pew Park is in RV. But RV Road is in Nether Prov between Warbel Lane and Pew Park and is a state highway.

Matt Houtmann has identified 2 spots where we could do streambank stabilization projects (live staking) that would be approved by MS4:

- Along the stream entering Ridley Creek at the Old Mill (on RV Folk property).
- Along Vernon Run near Pool Lane. We discussed "whose land is this?" Roger volunteered to figure out whose land it is. **Cindy Holsten knows who owns the property and will contact them and arrange for her and Roger to visit them to discuss the project.**

Jim Audley described another project that would take multiple years, building a detention basin in Valley Green at the corner of RV Road and Old Mill Lane:

- Rainwater here runs into an intermittently dry creek bed in front of the guest houses = "Dishwater Run." Jim proposes we build a detention basin in Valley Green to catch all the water from Dishwater Run and RV Road and build a butterfly garden around the detention basin. To get the water from the north side of RV Road to Valley Green would involve running an 18" pipe under RV Road from the low end of the row of guest houses.
- Dave Firn and Roger – agree that this is a great idea, but it will take a lot more time than we have to meet the MS4 deadline (Spring 2027). Tabled for later discussion.

Katie pointed out that she has it from a reliable source that "volume control" will be the aim for the next phase of MS4, while "sediment control" is the aim of the present phase. Volume control would be the main benefit of the Dishwater Run/Valley Green project to detain and infiltrate stormwater runoff.

For now, we should request funding for the Houtmann MS4-compliant proposals for one or both of the sediment control projects – est. \$30k

- Do we need to request funds for actually doing the project? Bill Hale – it will come from capital budget, not EAC budget.
- If we get a proposal before November's EAC meeting, we could recommend it to Boro Council.
- Dave Firn and Jim Audley – this could be a relatively straightforward DIY project. Plant stock has to be dormant, so the best time would be March 2026.
- Roger – We really want to have a professional involved. **Roger will contact Land Stewards LLC, who did our most recent streambank stabilization project in an exemplary manner, to get bid specs on this job. Leonard can ask Council in October to approve paying Land Stewards LLC to do the bid specs.**
- **We also need to delineate the exact locations and limits of the sites and talk to the property owners.**

Other budget items

Cindy McPherson's proposal for replacing honeysuckle invasives (mostly Amur honeysuckle, *Lonicera maackii*). A good incentive for property owners to do this would be to provide a free native shrub. Requests \$1,500 for 50 native shrubs at \$30 each. Details to be worked out later.

Katie Rubin's Community Outreach and Education projects. One event with Stroud = \$1,150. Plus 2 events with PRC, possibly webinars = \$??

Weed-whacking trails and stiltgrass. It's only effective to wait for late summer/early fall, just before seed set, to cut stiltgrass growing off the trails. Mowing stiltgrass multiple times earlier in the season does not prevent it from going to seed but pulling it out by the roots earlier in the season is effective in small areas. Stiltgrass is an annual and has small, weak roots that are easy to pull. Northern wood oats/river oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*) is a good alternative grass. It is a perennial with large, deep, strong roots. In any case, trails have to be mowed several times during the season to keep annuals and perennials from obscuring the pathways.

Deer management. Deer hunt has recently been restricted to Todmorden Woods. Long Point neighbors need to be asked to approve of expanding it to Chadwick Preserve's floodplain. There is doubt that this year is a good time to ask, but Katie will think more about it before Borough Council meets. One fact to include in talking with Long Point neighbors is that Justin Franks pays for butchering and donates meat beyond his needs to PA-approved food banks.

Getting a proposal for the Pew Park project. **Katie volunteered to get a quote for the design from Green Weavers**. RV Gardeners are not opposed to looking at a design proposal to capture more water to reduce runoff. Keep \$3,000 in budget to get a quote for the design and possibly for other MS4-related projects.

Meeting adjourned at 9:19 pm.

