

COUNCIL MEETING

May 13, 2020

The monthly meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on May 13, 2020 via Zoom due to the coronavirus pandemic. President of Council Bill Hale called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Other Council members present were: Councilpersons Deb DeMasi, Dave Firn, Stephanie Middleton, Bob Siwicki, Judy Voet and Vippy Yee; Mayor Tim Plummer; Treasurer Joe Hare; Controller John Neilson; Solicitor G. Guy Smith; and Secretary Paula Healy.

Members of the community joining the meeting via Zoom were: Bob Caulfield, Bill Cavanaugh, Diane Corbett, Scott Corbett, Jim Kauffman, Lynn Kelley, Pete Prown and Stephen Zderic.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the April 8, 2020 Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Scott and Diane Corbett recently expressed their frustration in a letter dated May 11, 2020, that the Borough has still not required their next-door neighbors, the Jones, to move a shed that appears to be within 20' of the property boundary line, although this is not clear without knowing the exact location of the nearby corner survey pin. The Corbett's originally complained in February about excessive noise coming from the Jones' property and a wooden halfpipe for skateboarding and a trampoline that are within 20 feet of the Ewing's property line. The Ewings do not have a problem with this equipment since it is extremely far from their house. In addition, the Zoning Code requirement for a 20-foot setback in Zone A only applies to accessory buildings defined as a "structure with a roof which is built for the shelter or enclosure of persons or property." The Jones's have said they have not used the half-pipe since last fall. The Corbett's complained that Bill Hale and Paula and Bob Healy recently walked along the Borough Trail Easement on the Ewing property, which runs adjacent to the Jones and Corbett properties, to look at the locations of the wooden half-pipe and shed discussed in the letter. They also complained that Mr. Hale looked for the corner survey pin from the Trail Easement, and claimed he removed it. The pin is apparently covered over by many decades of accumulated soil. Mr. Hale said he would ask Borough Engineer Houtmann to come over and find the iron survey pin with a metal detector so the shed issue can finally be settled. He will ask Houtmann to call the Corbett's to let them know when he plans to come over. Scott also claimed the Jones's have more than 20% impervious coverage on their property. Mr. Hale said he would also ask Mr. Houtmann for his opinion on this matter.

ENVIRONMENT & EAC

Mr. Firn reported that not much is going on due to the pandemic. Group gatherings are prohibited so the Spring EAC Plant Sale and Saul Wildlife invasives removal event have been cancelled. Individual residents have been pulling invasives on their own, particularly the garlic mustard, and their work is much appreciated.

HIGHWAYS

Mr. Houtmann will conduct the 2020 Borough road inspection by himself due to the pandemic.

LIBRARY

The HKF library board met on May 12th via zoom. Beth Karn is the newest member of the Board. Jane McNearney will be resigning from the board after many years of service as a Nether Providence representative and will be greatly missed. The library has received a Federal Payroll Protection Plan loan of \$37,000 to be used mostly for payroll, but also for utilities, etc. The library will not be a polling place for the June 2nd Primary Election. The library website has links to many online services (<https://www.hkflibrary.org/digital-library/>), but the library's Facebook page is where to look for what's happening (<https://www.facebook.com/hkflibrary/>). Story time has continued virtually with 1,324 views in April, and eBook borrowing is up 40%. All summer programs will be virtual. The library is not taking book donations until further notice.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mrs. DeMasi reviewed the Police and Fire Reports. The Police report cited the following incidents: 4 false alarms; 17 domestic security checks/welfare check/patrol checks; 1 lost animal; 1 domestic dispute; 2 road debris; and 1 car accident.

The Fire Company responded to 2 fire alarm activations; 3 incidents of electrical wires being downed by a storm; 1 elevator rescue; 1 residential electrical fire; and 1 motor vehicle accident.

Data from the speed calming instruments on Rose Valley Road was distributed and discussed.

Town Watch is proceeding with Covid-19 guidelines for not passing the supply box or signs.

Mrs. DeMasi reported that Delaware County has been hard hit by the coronavirus. Luckily, at the present time, Rose Valley has no reported cases. She said it is probably going to take quite a while for Delaware County to fully open up businesses and resume regular activities. Everyone should wear face masks and maintain social distance in public.

Bob Siwicki brought up his concern that some people walking along the trolley track trail between Woodward Road and the Pool are not wearing face masks or maintaining social distance near others. Bob suggested that signs like the ones posted at the entrances to the Saul Wildlife and Long Point Preserves be posted at access points to the trolley track trail. After some discussion, it was decided on a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved, that the Borough would ask permission from the Crawford's and Rose Valley Swimming Pool to place such signs at the access points to the trolley track trail.

PLANNING

Ms. Middleton has been in touch with Cory Kegerise, the Community Preservation Coordinator for the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, about preservation efforts in other communities and creating a best practices manual for historic homes in Rose Valley. At the moment, he is working with other municipalities, but he has not forgotten Rose Valley and will be in touch when his schedule permits.

Ms. Voet asked about the progress of the conceptual study of a trail for improving the walkability of Rose Valley Road. Dave Firm indicated that Monica Gagliardi, Chairperson of the EAC, was coordinating the study and that he would ask her about the expected completion date.

Planning Commission member Jim Kauffman asked about the status of the Demolition Ordinance that the Planning Commission had prepared and recommended to Council and was informed that it had been approved by Council in September as Ordinance #349.

FINANCES

Mr. Hare reported he had reconciled the bank statements and the QuickBooks account. Mr. Siwicki went over the Income Report and Status of Funds for April. Mr. Neilson reviewed the Bills for Approval for May and noted they included both the first and second quarter payments to the Helen Kate Furness Library and the Nether Providence Fire Companies. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Bills in the amount of \$47,980.23 were approved.

The Rose Valley Swimming Pool does not yet know if it will be able to open for part of the summer due to the coronavirus pandemic, but if it does, it anticipates substantially increased expenses and lower income. The Pool is therefore asking Council to excuse it from paying the amusement tax in 2020. Council indicated it was amenable to assisting the Pool in this way but preferred to know the Pool's plans for the summer before granting the request.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mrs. Healy reported that large trash pickup on May 4th and 5th went well.

Mitch Henry, a member of Rose Valley Boy Scout Troop 272, is conducting a Food Drive in Rose Valley and Moylan for his Eagle Scout Project. It is taking place every Saturday from April 25 to June 6, with the exception of May 2nd due to Bulk Trash pickup. People are requested to place non-perishable food they would like to donate in bags by their mailboxes before noon on Saturdays for pick up in the early afternoon. The food will be delivered to local food banks. Those who prefer to contribute money are requested to send a check made out to "Media Food Bank" to Mitch Henry, 38 N. Longpoint Lane, Rose Valley, PA 19063, so he can keep track of how much money he raises. Mrs. Healy is sending out this information in an e-mail blast to residents each week to remind them about the food drive.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Plummer thanked Vippy Yee for arranging and hosting the Council Meeting via Zoom.

The Borough will not hold its usual public Memorial Day ceremony this year due to the pandemic. Mayor Plummer and Mr. Hale will raise the flag at 9:00 am at the Veterans' Memorial next to the Gate House ruins along Old Mill Lane near Rose Valley Road. Residents are encouraged to stop by later to individually plant small flags around the memorial. The flags will be in a box by the Gate House ruins.

The 2020 Fourth of July Parade and Picnic at Rose Valley Swimming Pool is cancelled.

The new historical marker approved by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in honor of William Lightfoot Price (1861-1916), famous architect and founder of the Rose Valley Arts and Crafts Community, will be placed along the side of Rose Valley Road on the property of Paul Leonard near Price's Lane.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Smith warned all Council members and residents to be aware of scams which unfortunately in this time of disaster are in full swing. Mr. Smith especially cautioned to never respond to anyone asking for money.

GENERAL

Resolution 5 – 2020, requesting Delaware County Aid for Roads, was approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

Vippy also reminded everyone that Rose Valley residents are encouraged to make noise each evening at 7:00 for a few minutes to show their support for health care workers who bravely treat Covid-19 patients, and noted that people in her neighborhood are doing so.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Paula W. Healy, Secretary