

COUNCIL MEETING

March 10, 2021

The regular meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held via Zoom on March 10, 2021. 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; Controller John Neilson; Treasurer Joe Hare; Solicitor G. Guy Smith and Secretary Paula Healy.

Members of the public attending the meeting were: Christina DiChiara, Rachel Holbert, Marybeth Kelly Decrescenzo, Ron Ploeg, Owen Redgrave, Dave Shaw and Matt Sullivan.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the February 10, 2021 Council Meeting were approved, with the clarification that the Library's 3-day quarantine is for books, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Hale asked if there was any public comment; there was none.

ENVIRONMENT & EAC

Mr. Firn reported that the EAC Plant Sale and Invasives Workshop is scheduled for Saturday, April 24 with a rain date of Sunday, April 25. John Neilson suggested lowering the price of the plants. Dave replied that the EAC traditionally sells about half the plants and plants the other half so pricing the plants at twice the wholesale costs works out well.

Mr. Firn also noted the EAC is exploring the possibility of connecting the Saul Wildlife Sanctuary to the Chadwick Wildlife Sanctuary by constructing a bridge across Ridley Creek. Some members of the EAC and Bill Hale recently met with Borough Engineer Matt Houtmann to discuss possible locations for a bridge. The next EAC meeting will be on March 23 at 7:30.

HIGHWAYS & TECHNOLOGY

Ms. Yee reported that a bid in the amount of \$9,975 was received from McCusker Landscaping to cut back the embankment and plant groundcover at the corner of Longpoint Lane and Knowlton Road. Engineer Matt Houtmann recommended acceptance of the bid as it is a good price. Discussion followed regarding the pachysandra and lirioppe specified in the bid to restore the hillside. EAC members, Ron Ploeg and Dave Firn asked if native plants could be used instead. McCusker Landscaping will be asked to utilize native plants if possible. With the understanding that this would increase the cost of the work, McCusker Landscaping's bid to cutback the hillside at the corner of Longpoint Lane and Knowlton Road was accepted on a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved.

Ms. Yee reported that the stone bridge on Old Mill Lane needs to be repointed. Bids are being requested for this work. Bids are also being requested for relocating the stonewall and embankment at the intersection of Price's Lane and Rose Valley Road to improve the left-hand sightline for motorists pulling out of Price's Lane.

Mr. Neilson asked if the Borough's decision to cover the cost of removing the trees blocking the right-hand sightline at the intersection of School Lane and Rose Valley Road sets a precedent that the Borough will bear the cost of improving sightlines for all private lanes. It was noted School Lane was a special case because, although technically a private road with only 5 houses, it also has a public character in that it is one of the busiest lanes in the Borough since over 100 students getting dropped off and picked up from the School in Rose Valley every day. After much discussion, it was concluded that who will cover the cost of private-lane sightline improvements will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Ms. Yee reported that her daughter and Penn State Brandywine intern, Shane Houseman, are making progress on the new website for the Borough, which will also incorporate the EAC website.

LIBRARY

Mrs. Voet reported the following: Public services librarian & volunteer coordinator Laura will be joining the HKF Library full-time starting March 22nd. The elevator stopped working mid-February and a mechanic from Metro came out the same day. It was determined the selector switch needs to be replaced due to water damage. This part has been ordered but it will take about 4 weeks for it to come in. Insurance will cover the cost of the elevator repair less the deductible. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the Great Renovate Raffle. The drawing will be held April 5th. The library is having a "First Dibs Book Sale" each contactless pickup time which occur three times a week.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mrs. DeMasi reported that there were no incidents in February on the Police and Fire Reports and that Fire Marshall Matt Poissant has provided a flier on outdoor burning for residents. She also reviewed the data from the speed devices on Rose Valley Road noting that average speeds are somewhat higher for people coming down the hill from Brookhaven Road than from Media.

Mrs. DeMasi reported that the administration of Covid-19 vaccine shots in Delaware County is slow due to the limited amount of vaccine being distributed to the County. She encouraged everyone to wear a mask and practice social distancing in public and get vaccinated as soon as possible. To date there have been 25 reported cases in Rose Valley and one death.

PLANNING

Ms. Middleton reported that there was no Planning Commission meeting in March. Consultant Bob Thomas is working on a preferred preliminary layout for the proposed Rose Valley Road

sidepath. When this layout is developed, property owners along Rose Valley Road will be contacted to discuss the project.

Lynn Kelley submitted her resignation from the Planning Commission effective March 10 because she and Jim are moving to Riddle Village. Council accepted her resignation with deep regret. Lynn devoted countless hours to the Borough serving as Chairman of the Planning Commission and on Borough Council as Controller, Public Safety Chair, Finance Chair, Vice President and President. She will be greatly missed. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, Council accepted the resignation of Lynn Kelley.

Mr. Hale reported the personnel committee recommends that Matthew Sullivan of White Pine Lane be appointed to the Planning Commission to fill the unexpired term of Lynn Kelley. Resolution 2-2021 appointing Matt Sullivan to the Planning Commission to serve out the term of Lynn Kelly to 12/31/21 was subsequently passed on a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved.

FINANCES

Mr. Hare reviewed the Status of Funds for February. Mr. Siwicki went over the Income Report for February noting that real estate taxes are now coming in, and Mr. Neilson reviewed the Bills for Approval for March and answered questions. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Bills in the amount of \$40,542.33 were approved. Mr. Hare commented on the cost of salt the Borough is being charged by the snowplower, which is significantly higher than what the Traymore Homeowners Association is paying. Ms. Yee pointed out that there was only one responder to the Borough's snowplowing bid request last fall.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mrs. Healy led a moment of silence in honor of Chip Essick who passed away on February 16, 2021. Chip moved to Rose Valley in 1949 and served the Borough in many capacities from 1976 until 2016. After coming onto Borough Council as Controller, he later became a Councilman and also served on the boards of Rose Valley Swimming Pool, Hedgerow Theatre and the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Plummer discussed progress being made at Thunderbird Lodge by the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation. The Foundation recently applied for another \$100,000 grant to be used for building repairs and restoration, mainly to the south-facing wall of the museum and its two porches. The application included letters of support from State Representative Leanne Krueger and State Senator John Kane. A decision on the grant is expected in June. He thanked RVCF member Nick Slagis for all his hard work in preparing the grant application.

The roadside historical marker for William Lightfoot Price will be installed on the north side of the entrance to Price's Lane and dedicated on November 6, 2021.

Mayor Plummer also reminded everyone that 2023 will be the 100th Anniversary of the creation of Rose Valley Borough. He is forming a committee to plan a celebration along with Paula Healy and Morris Potter.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Paula W. Healy, Secretary