

COUNCIL MEETING

September 8, 2021

The regular meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on September 8, 2021 at the Old Mill, 9 Old Mill Lane, Rose Valley, PA in the main hall. President of Council Bill Hale called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Other Council members present were Councilpersons Debra 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 public attending the meeting were Aaron Childs, Peter Howell, Joseph Kanter, Rich O’Flynn, Teresa O’Flynn and Ron Ploeg.

MINUTES

Mrs. Voet noted that the August 11, 2021 Council Meeting minutes should be revised under Highways and Technology, in the second paragraph, to change Forestview Road to Tanglewood Circle. With this correction, the Minutes of the August Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded, and unanimously passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Peter Howell, Board member of the Rose Valley Museum, informed Council that the Museum, in collaboration with the Decorative Arts Trust, will hold a two-day conference on Saturday and Sunday, November 6 and 7, entitled “The Arts and Crafts Movement from John Ruskin to William Lightfoot Price”. The conference will be a celebration of the English and American pioneers of the Arts & Crafts Movement and the 1901 Community of Rose Valley. It will begin following the dedication of the William L. Price Historical Marker on November 6.

ENVIRONMENT & EAC

Mr. Firn reported that in regard to the Deer Management Program for 2021 – 2022, the EAC recommends that one select bow hunter be allowed to hunt in the Todmorden Woods only from 11/29/21 to 12/10/21 and from 1/3/22 to 1/28/22. He would only hunt during the week, not on weekends. The cost for this service would be \$800 for the hunter plus \$150 per deer harvested. Mrs. Voet asked that it be required that the meat be donated to a food bank. This proposal including the meat donation requirement was approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

The Recycling Bid Packet for the 2022 calendar year has been prepared and includes requests for bids for weekly pick up and bi-weekly pick up. Mr. Firn expressed his concerns regarding the current recycling market and manpower availability. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, advertising of the 2022 Recycling Bid Packet was approved.

James Traverso, a Boy Scout in RV Troop 272, will do his Eagle Scout project in the Chadwick Wildlife Preserve. He will create a new trail along Ridley Creek in the flood plain around the end of Long Point, remove invasives along the route, and help build the kiosk and point-of-interest markers for public information plan.

Jim Audley led a workday on September 4th in the Chadwick Wildlife Sanctuary weed-wacking stiltgrass and removing invasives from inside the deer protection cages around recent plantings. The EAC would like to hold a Saul Wildlife Sanctuary work weekend sometime this fall.

HIGHWAYS, INSURANCE & TECHNOLOGY

Ms. Yee reported that the Tanglewood Circle stormwater inlet was repaired by Jeff George Masonry at a cost of \$1,650. The first phase of the Prices Lane sightline improvement project, consisting of taking down the existing stone wall, cutting back the embankment and digging the footer for the new wall, was also completed by McCusker Landscaping at a cost of \$11,000. These expenses will be paid out of the Borough's Road Improvement Fund.

Aqua plans to first repair certain collapsed gutter sections and then repave both lanes of the southern half of Todmorden Drive (with the exception of the first 250 feet), Cedar Hollow Drive, Briarcrest Drive, and Tanglewood Circle this fall.

The new website is up and running. Ms. Yee requested that any problems be reported to her for resolution.

LIBRARY

Mrs. Voet reported that the Library's Board meeting is next week, so there is little to report. Unfortunately, the new Library Director had to take a medical leave and won't be back for two months.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mrs. DeMasi reviewed the Police and Fire Reports. The August Police Report showed there was one incident of theft/fraud. The Fire Report cited one response on 8/24 to an automatic fire alarm. Mrs. DeMasi reviewed the data from the Rose Valley Road speed devices. Mrs. DeMasi reminded everyone that we are now in peak hurricane season so everyone should have a home emergency plan.

Mrs. DeMasi noted that COVID numbers are rising and everyone should still be careful, follow CDC guidelines, get fully vaccinated as soon as possible, and get their flu shots. Immune-compromised and senior citizens should get their COVID booster shots when available.

The subject of identity theft was discussed. A council member actually had this happen to them and cautioned about mail solicitation. The State Police were very helpful in advising what they should do.

PLANNING

Ms. Middleton reported that Mr. Ploeg has almost finished his initial meetings with all homeowners on the preferred path along Rose Valley Road between Possum Hollow and Woodward Roads to get their input regarding the possibility of a walking path. The next Planning Commission meeting will be on October 4th.

Stephanie noted that Dave Firn is preparing two grant applications for submission to the Delaware County Open Space and Green Ways Municipal Grant Program which will award \$5 million to County municipalities. The applications are due September 17th, and the grants will be awarded in October, which is unusually quick. One grant application will be in the “Connect” category for construction of a walkway to allow pedestrians to safely walk along the south side of Rose Valley Road from the Possum Hollow Road intersection to Old Mill Lane, across the bridge on the Lane over Vernon Run, over to the Veterans’ Memorial, and then towards RV Rd to connect with the existing Traymore Open Space trails. The other grant application will be in the “Planning” category for the preliminary design of a walkway on the ten privately-owned properties on the preferred path within the Borough between School Lane and Woodward Road to facilitate easement acquisitions.

The grants require municipal resolutions authorizing the applications. Resolution 5 – 2021, authorizing the “Connect” application for the final design and construction of a safe pedestrian trail along portions of Rose Valley Road adjacent to Old Mill Lane on Borough Property and in the PennDOT right-of-way in front of houses near Possum Hollow Road, was approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed. Resolution 6 – 2021, authorizing the “Planning” grant application for planning and design of a safe pedestrian trail along additional portions of Rose Valley Road on private-property toward the Moylan-Rose Valley Train Station, was then approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

FINANCES

Mr. Hare reviewed that Status of Funds for August noting that the PNC Bank accounts and QuickBooks had been reconciled. He then reviewed the Income Reports for August. Mr. Neilson went over the Bills for Approval and answered questions. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Bills in the amounts of \$15,610.36 from the General Fund and \$12,650.00 from the Road Improvement Fund were approved.

Mr. Siwicki reminded everyone that it is time to develop the budget for 2022. Councilpersons are requested to e-mail Bob their input on the budget.

MANAGER’S REPORT

Borough Health Officer Dr. Kevin Morrison resigned his position as of September 1, 2021 because he moved out of Rose Valley. Dr. Samuel Ruby of 3 Rabbit Run has agreed to be the Borough’s Health Officer. Resolution 4 – 2021, appointing Dr. Samuel Ruby as Rose Valley’s Health Officer was approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mr. Plummer reported that the public dedication of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) Historical Marker honoring William Lightfoot Price, visionary founder of Rose Valley in 1901 and nationally known architect in the Arts & Crafts style, will take place at 11:00 am on Saturday, November 6, 2021 at the corner of Rose Valley Road and Price's Lane. The dedication will be followed by the Rose Valley Museum's two-day conference Saturday and Sunday on "The Arts and Crafts Movement from John Ruskin to William Lightfoot Price". Register for the Conference at rosevalleymuseum.org or by calling 484-444-2961. Mr. Plummer thanked Peter Howell for all his continued hard work on these projects.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Smith reported that PA Turnpike tolls will increase 5% in 2022 due to pandemic-reduced traffic, and that House Bill 1702, currently in committee, would establish a Tax-Exempt Property Municipal Assistance Fund to help municipalities with 15% or more of their total assessed property tax values as tax exempt, such as Swarthmore. He will keep us informed.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Paula W. Healy, Secretary