

COUNCIL MEETING

January 8, 2020

The monthly meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on January 9, 2020 in the Borough Office, 9 Old Mill Lane, Rose Valley, Pa. 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.

Guests attending the meeting were: Longpoint Lane residents Julie and David Shaw, Janet and John Baycich, Beth and Tom Henry, and Carl Breithaupt; and Rose Valley Museum and Historical Society members Ryan Berley, Morris Potter, Jim Reed, Sue Keilbaugh, Maggie and David Dee, and Elizabeth Reed.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the January 6, 2020 Reorganization Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

Mr. Hale recognized the Longpoint Lane residents. They said they attended to find out what was going on with the deer management program. Mr. Firn explained that the deer hunt ended on December 14 instead of January 11, 2020 as originally scheduled due to input from residents, and that the Borough was hopeful the Pennsylvania Game Commission will approve a deer cull which would then take place in February. The residents expressed concern that the approved hunters are not required to provide background checks. Mr. Firn said this could be done in the future and encouraged the residents to attend the Environmental Advisory Commission meetings on the last Thursday of every month.

Mr. Hale recognized the representatives from the Rose Valley Museum & Historical Society. They attended the meeting to voice their dismay about Hedgerow Theatre's upcoming auction of its Wharton Esherick furniture. Hedgerow is selling the valuable furniture to raise funds to create an endowment and support building improvements to keep the theatre going. They also do not have space to display the furniture and cannot take proper care of it. The Museum group is looking for help to keep at least some of the furniture in Rose Valley where it has been for almost 100 years. It was given to Hedgerow by Wharton Esherick as payment for his daughters' acting and living expenses while they were at Hedgerow in the 1920's and 1930's. Council discussed the possibility of using on the order of \$40,000 of the Borough's capital reserve fund to purchase some of the furniture which the Borough would retain ownership of while allowing it to be displayed at the Museum. Solicitor Smith noted the furniture would remain a reserve asset of the Borough and that protecting the historical heritage of the Borough would be a reasonable use of Borough funds. Council also discussed obtaining legal guidance from an attorney specializing in non-profits regarding the sale.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mrs. DeMasi reviewed the Police and Fire Reports. The Police Report cited the following incidents: 4 false alarms; 2 patrol checks; 1 theft; 1 burglary; 1 assault in progress; 1 hit and run no injuries; and 1 animal debris on road report. The Fire report noted responses to two fire alarms going off due to cooking; and one fire alarm going off due to a faulty smoke detector. The Fire Marshal provided a flier about winter fires to be distributed to the residents.

Mrs. DeMasi distributed data from the traffic speed devices and reviewed the reports.

The Town Watch Program is proceeding as usual. More volunteers are needed for patrols.

ENVIRONMENT & EAC

Mr. Firn reported that the Borough should be getting a reimbursement check soon for approximately \$6,700 spent on the stream bank restoration project last year. This represents the remaining moneys from the Growing Greener grant.

LIBRARY

Mrs. Voet reported that the Library is in the process of looking for a replacement for Library Director Jen Stock who left Helen Kate Furness Library for a new job with Upper Darby Library. The Library also needs to fill the assistant Librarian position.

An International Cookbook Club will begin meeting on January 20 with a potluck lunch at noon in the Helen Kate Furness Library. The first cookbook will be ZAHAV: A World of Israeli Cooking by Michael Solomonov and Steven Cook. The cookbook is on display at the Library for anyone to browse through and choose a recipe to prepare and bring to the lunch. Anyone interested in this should contact Mrs. Voet.

FINANCES

Mr. Hare reviewed the Status of Funds for December. Mr. Siwicki went over the Income report for December 2019. Mr. Neilson reviewed the January 2020 Bills for Approval and answered questions. The Bills for Approval in the amount of \$16,383.27 were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

Mr. Hare and Mr. Siwicki also reviewed the Status of Funds for the beginning of year transfers and loan. At the beginning of 2020, all the monies in the General Fund Checking and Savings accounts are transferred to Capital Reserve. These transfers include payback, to the extent possible, of the \$70,000 loan made at the beginning of 2019. At the end of 2019, there was a total of \$68,483.95 in the Checking and Savings accounts indicating a net loss of \$1,516.05 for the year on a cash basis without any allocation from Capital Reserve. A loan of \$70,000 is then made from Capital Reserve to the General Fund Checking and Savings accounts, with \$30,000 going into Checking and \$40,000 going into Savings. On a motion made, seconded and

unanimously passed, Council approved a net transfer from Capital Reserve to Checking of \$15,031.67 and a net transfer from Savings to Capital Reserve of \$13,515.62.

GENERAL

Resolution 1 – 2020 appointing Robert M. Healy to the Vacancy Board was approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved.

It was also noted that many of the landline numbers in the Borough's resident data base no longer function because people have switched to only using their cell phone number. It is very difficult to contact these residents in an emergency unless they have provided their cell phone number to the Borough.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Smith informed Council that the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania has finally ruled on the proliferation of short-term, web based rental services from companies like Airbnb and VRBO, in the case of Slice of Life, LLC v. Hamilton Township Zoning Hearing Board. The ability of local zoning officials to prohibit such uses is now confirmed by the court. The decision was unanimous. A single housekeeping unit is a commonly used term in zoning ordinances that clearly means a single-family continuously occupying the property in the sense of a traditional residence. The "single family housekeeping unit" definition in the Borough zoning code prevents Airbnb's from being allowed to operate in the Borough.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor's Annual State of the Borough Address below was entered into the minutes.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Paula W. Healy, Secretary

Mayor's State of the Borough Address
Submitted to Borough Council, January 8, 2020
by Mayor Tim Plummer

As we begin our 97th year as a Borough, only three short years away from our Centennial Year, we should pause to reflect on our many gifts and our many accomplishments. Our goal as the elected and appointed officials of Rose Valley Borough and as members of key volunteer organizations has always been, and will always be, the improvement of our community now and in the future. We have made remarkable progress toward achieving the goals we set for ourselves at the beginning of 2019. Highlights of the outstanding work of Borough Council are outlined below. In addition, the remarkable achievements of the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation, the Rose Valley Museum and Historical Society and the Rose Valley Gardeners are also

summarized. On behalf of all my predecessors and myself, as Mayor of this wonderful Borough, I am honored to present to you my Annual State of the Borough Address.

Rose Valley Borough Council

Bill Hale (President), Dave Firm (Vice President), Bob Siwicki (Finance), Debra DeMasi (Public Safety), Stephanie Middleton (Planning), Vippy Yee (Highways, Insurance, Cable Vision and Technology), Judy Voet (Library), John Neilson (Controller), Joe Hare (Treasurer), Tim Plummer (Mayor), Paula Healy (Borough Manager) and G. Guy Smith (Solicitor).

Website: www.rosevalleyborough.org Email: rosevalleyborough@comcast.net

Environment and Environmental Advisory Council (Dave Firm, Chair)

EAC Members: Monica Gagliardi (Chair), Roger Latham (Vice Chair), Chris Bourke (Secretary), Leonard Busby, Mary Beth Decrescenzo, Margery Howe and Ron Ploeg.

2019 Accomplishments:

Deer Control: The Borough continued to implement its long-range plan to reduce and stabilize the burgeoning deer population in the Borough's parklands in order to restore ecological balance. On September 25, 2019 Todmorden Woods and Long Point were opened to limited bow hunting by experienced volunteer hunters. Upon resident input, the hunt ended on December 14, instead of continuing into January, and various improvements are being made to the deer management program. The Borough applied to the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) for permission to conduct a cull in February 2020. Dr. Latham prepared an extensive analysis of the deer enclosure and companion plot, which report will serve as the justification for the cull. The Borough is hopeful the cull will be approved by the Game Commission and reduce the need for future hunting.

Invasive Nonnative Species: Volunteers under the supervision of the EAC continued to remove numerous invasive plants from our parklands and replace them with native species purchased with funds raised from previous plant sales and from grants applied for and obtained by the EAC. The spring workshop included a native plant sale in conjunction with the Gardeners of Rose Valley. Herbicide was applied to combat various invasive species in the parks, as well as to keep poison-ivy away from the paths in the Saul preserve. In addition, the EAC continued to post "Weed Watch" postings.

Spotted Lanternfly: A male ailanthus tree and a cork tree were found in the Saul preserve. Both trees have attracted spotted lanternflies and are now being utilized as trap trees to kill spotted lanternflies that feed on their sap.

Growing Greener Streambank Grant: The Borough received a \$39,000 grant to stabilize 165 feet of streambank in the Saul Wildlife Sanctuary and to restore the riparian buffer in the Long Point Wildlife Sanctuary. The streambank stabilization portion was completed in 2018 but unused funds were utilized in 2019 to expand the riparian buffer restoration at Long Point. 32 additional large native trees and shrubs were planted in October to reclaim an additional half-acre in Long Point. Mr. Audley fashioned a bench out of a Norway maple that had been removed from the planting area to allow native understory species to grow.

Trail Improvements: Three significant projects were accomplished. In June, working with Eagle Scout candidate Gabe Ma from Boy Scout Troop 272, a new upland trail was created in the Saul Preserve. This 1,600-foot, all-weather loop trail provides an elevated view of the floodplain and the little-known Old Mill quarry. The upland trail can also be accessed from a new switchback trail installed on the steep slope behind the Old Mill. In July, Associate Member

Jim Audley led major trail upgrades in the Saul Wildlife Sanctuary. Utilizing volunteers, 850 feet of muddy trails were resurfaced, and 384 feet of new trails were constructed to replace sections that had become impassable. In October during the EAC's fall work day, 25 Penn State students and a student from Strath Haven High School volunteered to plant native evergreens, providing additional screening along the new upland trail.

Rose Valley Road Multi-Use Trail Study: A preliminary study was commissioned to evaluate the possibility of improvements for pedestrian use and safety along Rose Valley Road between SEPTA's 118 bus stop at Brookhaven Road and SEPTA's Moylan/Rose Valley Station and to encourage the use of public transportation.

2020 Goals:

- Continue to evaluate the results from twin deer impact monitoring plots, one of which is protected from deer browsing by a fenced enclosure erected in 2013, and with resident feedback continue to implement, or revise as warranted, the Borough's long-range plan for deer management.
- Apply pre-emergent herbicide in the spring to the riparian buffer restoration area at Long Point to protect the native perennials, shrubs and trees planted in 2018-2019 from competition by rampant growth of nonnative invasive annuals, including Japanese stilt grass, Japanese hops, and mile-a-minute weed.
- Investigate live-staking of native plants to stabilize eroding portions of the Ridley Creek streambank.
- Monitor for the presence of spotted lanternflies in the Borough. Treat affected Borough-owned trees and educate residents about threats posed by this nonnative invasive insect.
- Apply for Tree City USA recognition for the Borough of Rose Valley.
- Continue to sponsor invasive plants/native planting workshops and the annual native plant sale.
- Continue spot-treatments of invasive Japanese knotweed and Japanese angelica tree in the Saul and Long Point Wildlife Sanctuaries and provide spot-treatments to the stand of invasive running bamboo through the eastern side of the Todmorden Woods, each on an as-needed basis.
- Assess the trail system throughout Rose Valley, including within our three parklands. Develop a plan for improvement and implement trail enhancement strategies, including erosion control. Invite volunteer participation when appropriate and apply for grant funding to support materials costs and new signs.
- Continue to provide input regarding possible pedestrian safety improvements along Rose Valley Road.
- EAC members and other representatives of Rose Valley, Nether Providence, Swarthmore and Rutledge will work together on developing an implementation plan for recommendations outlined in the 2018 Multi-municipal Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Plan. The Rose Valley EAC will continue to work with the 4EAC (a multi-municipal EAC collaboration with representation from Rose Valley, Swarthmore, Rutledge, and Nether Providence) on environmental initiatives that affect our shared community.
- Provide advice to residents on reducing environmental toxins. Propose an ordinance requiring residents to inform neighbors prior to commercial spraying for mosquito or tick control.
- Continue to search for grant opportunities to improve the quality of our parklands, streambanks and floodplains.
- Continue to explore collaborative projects with Swarthmore College to benefit Rose Valley's parklands. In particular, the EAC will work with Professor of Conservation Biology Elizabeth Nichols (once she has returned from her sabbatical) regarding student research projects that

could be done in Rose Valley under her supervision that would be of interest to her and her students and that would also provide the EAC with more insight and understanding into our ongoing efforts to restore and maintain native plants and wildlife.

-Continue to monitor and maintain the streambank stabilization and riparian buffer restoration projects completed in 2018 and 2019.

-Continue to disseminate invasive plant information, such as timely “Weed Watch” postings in the sanctuaries, to aid in the identification of invasive plants through pictures and descriptions with suggested removal and disposal techniques.

-Continue to educate our community about nonnative invasive pests and other environmental issues through the Environmental Alert communications sent through the community email listserv. All residents are encouraged to contact the Borough office to join the listserv if they are not already receiving email alerts from Paula.

The EAC welcomes participation by residents in helping to heal our local environment. EAC monthly meetings are open to the public; most are held on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm at the Borough Office (check with the Borough Office to confirm a specific month’s meeting date).

Planning and Planning Commission (Stephanie Middleton, Chair)

Steve Karlovic, Jim Kauffman, Lynn Kelley, Stephanie Middleton, Ron Ploeg and Hope Thurlow.

2019 Accomplishments:

Demolition Ordinance: In September 2019 Borough Council approved a demolition ordinance developed and recommended by the Planning Commission after several public meetings at which the draft ordinance was discussed. The purpose of the ordinance is to require that a property owner must first obtain a demolition permit before performing “substantial demolition” of a main building on a property in the Borough. Substantial demolition is defined as removal of more than 20% of the gross square footage of a main building on a property. The purpose of the permit is to ensure the work is done in a manner which protects the health and safety of the public. The demolition permit application must address a number of issues, including prior notice to neighbors, erosion and sedimentation control, site protective fencing, protection of adjacent structures from damage, application of water to minimize dust, proper removal of wasters, asbestos and underground tanks, abandonment of utilities and capping of sewer laterals, extermination of resident vermin and rodents, filling and grading to prevent accumulation of water, and plant matter seeding. The Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code requires a permit prior to pursuing any level of demolition, and demolition work which is less than substantial demolition will continue to be covered under the application for a building permit.

The ordinance also prescribes a review process to be followed if a building involved in substantial demolition is a contributing historical building within the Rose Valley Historic District. This process involving Borough Council and the Planning Commission is intended to examine the possibility of avoiding demolition and allow time to explore and develop alternative options to preserve or rehabilitate the contributing historical building. Contributing historical buildings are those listed as such within the Rose Valley Historic District as approved July 19, 2010, or subsequently amended, by the United States Department of the Interior and placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service.

2020 Goals:

-Develop a resource such as a Best Practices Guide to inform owners of historic homes in Rose Valley where they can find information, best practices and suitable architects and contractors to assist in the maintenance, upkeep and modification of their homes.

-Consider other ways of protecting and preserving historic buildings and structures within the Borough.

Public Safety: (Debra DeMasi Chair)

2019 Accomplishments:

Police: The Pennsylvania State Police (PSP), Troop K, provide law enforcement for Rose Valley Borough. During 2019, there were an average of 14 calls per month requiring police involvement. The most numerous types of calls were in response to motor vehicle accidents, domestic/security patrol checks, and false alarms. The number of false alarms in the Borough in 2019 increased by almost thirty percent. Also on the rise were traffic stops for vehicles traveling at excessive speeds. Several types of incidents decreased in number from the previous year including disabled motorists, road hazards and reports of theft or fraud. Rose Valley resident participation is vital in protecting the community and residents are encouraged to immediately notify the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) regarding any suspicious activity. The direct line for the PSP is 484-840-1000.

Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services (EMS): Fire protection in Rose Valley is mainly provided by Nether Providence Township through their two fire companies: South Media and Garden City. South Media covers most of the Borough while Garden City handles the Todmorden area. The Middletown Fire Co. provides fire protection for the Longpoint area. EMS services are provided for most of the Borough by Media Ambulance while Parkside Ambulance usually covers the Todmorden area. Rose Valley's Fire Marshall is Matthew Poissant, who performs fire inspections and submits a Fire Report to Borough Council each month with attachments on topics that call attention to seasonal activities promoting good fire safety practices. A recurring reminder is to check all smoke alarms and carbon monoxide monitors for proper operation. Rose Valley residents may review these fire safety topic attachments by going to the Borough website. There were 19 emergency fire calls for Rose Valley in 2018, compared to 28 in 2019. This represents a near thirty percent increase in call volume with most of the increase related to downed electrical wires and smoke from outdoor fires.

Town Watch: The Rose Valley Town Watch continues to be one of the mainstays for protecting the Borough with daily patrols in three areas: Central Rose Valley, Longpoint and Todmorden. Our program is highly regarded by the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP). Town Watch Appreciation Night was held on April 15th at the Old Mill. Our Borough PSP Community Liaison, Trooper Jessica Tobin, discussed the timely safety topic of "Distracted Driving." Another notable event was the July windstorm that caused damage to numerous trees. Town watch members assisted in reporting the location of downed trees and branches, including a large tree blocking Tanglewood Circle. The effectiveness of Town Watch depends on the participation of patrollers. These citizen volunteers drive a route within one of the three patrol areas at a time of their choosing. The random patrol times and the display of Town Watch signs act as visual deterrents to criminal mischief and other undesirable activities. Patrollers leave a message on the Borough Office answering machine after each of their rounds and can also note patrol incident information. Those who see something out of the ordinary may communicate directly with the State Police. Town Watch encourages and welcomes new members to replace those who retire or move away. Participating is a way of giving back to the community from the safety and comfort of your own car. Interested residents please call the Borough Office at 610-566-2040.

Traffic Calming & Pedestrian Safety: Speed management is a significant challenge and the Borough is especially concerned with vehicular speeds on Rose Valley Road. To address this issue and promote speed calming, two state-of-the-art traffic speed devices were purchased and installed by the Borough in strategic, permanent locations along Rose Valley Road. The signs provide motorists with their vehicles' mile-per-hour speed, usually resulting in an immediate decrease in speed. During the past year, these traffic devices have been used as follows: 1) to confer & collaborate with agencies such as the State Police for ideas to enhance the safety of our Borough roadways; 2) to accrue traffic and speed data to monitor and log traffic along Rose Valley Road; 3) to accrue data that may be used to support safety and traffic calming improvements to Borough road ways; and 4) to provide traffic data to help explore ways of improving pedestrian safety along Rose Valley Road. During the past year the traffic devices have continuously tracked speeds and volumes for all vehicles traveling on Rose Valley Road. Data summation revealed over two million vehicles drove through the Borough on this road in 2019, with average daily volume of almost six thousand vehicles.

Emergency Preparedness: The writing and approval of an updated Rose Valley Borough (RVB) Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) was a notable public safety undertaking for 2019. The RVB-EOP format was mandated by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), with content contributions from members of the Delaware County Emergency Planning Commission (EPC) and the Rose Valley Borough Emergency Management Coordinator (RVB EMC). In August, Robert Sammel resigned his role as the RVB EMC due to his pending move to another state. The Borough was fortunate to have Mr. Sammel share his time, considerable talents and public-safety skills. One of his final acts was to recommend Brent Hopkins as his replacement, noting that he is an extremely experienced, knowledgeable and well-qualified candidate. Council approved Mr. Hopkins as RVB EMC and in September approved and forwarded the completed RVB EOP to the Delaware County EPC. The Borough encourages Rose Valley residents to develop their own emergency preparedness plans and assemble disaster supply kits. Borough residents may find copies of the Delaware County EPC Guide to Emergency Preparedness in the Borough Office, or by going online to:

<https://www.delcopa.gov/departments/pdfs/19EmergencyPreparednessGuide.pdf>

2020 Goals:

- Continue to encourage resident participation in the Town Watch Program.
- Review and update the Town Watch Guidelines as needed.
- Accrue data provided by the traffic speed devices to explore ways to safely decrease vehicular speeding on Borough roads, particularly Rose Valley Road. Explore the possibility of adding another Traffic device for speed calming.
- Continue to explore ways to improve pedestrian safety on Rose Valley roads, especially Rose Valley Road.
- Encourage the trimming of overgrown vegetation along Borough roads and at intersections to improve visibility and enhance pedestrian safety.
- Continue to collaborate with the State Police, County agencies and first responders who provide emergency services to Rose Valley Borough to safeguard our residents.
- Review and update the RVB-Emergency Operations Plan as needed.

Highways & Technology (Vippy Yee, Chair)

2019 Accomplishments:

Snowplowing: The Borough budgeted \$50,000 in 2019 for snow plowing and spent \$31,626. As

always, the budgeted amount for these services is an estimate and the actual amount spent is based on how often the contractor's services are needed and the costs of the treatment materials. The budgeted amount for 2020 is \$40,000. There is a healthy reserve fund in place to cover any potential overage. The Borough works with a contractor paid on a time and materials basis for the equipment and treatment materials used. How often the contractor plows and salts the roads is based on the weather with input from the Borough Manager. As usual, Paula Healy did an excellent job working with our contractor to keep our streets as clear and safe as possible. Each fall the Borough solicits bids for the plowing and salting of our roads through a public notice in a local newspaper. The bids are opened at a public meeting of Borough Council, examined against the bid specifications, and the winner announced. Since the Borough roads are a mix of surfaces of various widths, including some that are quite narrow, the equipment used to plow the roads is smaller than equipment used by PennDOT and other larger municipalities. This impacts the number of contractors that submit bids for our work. We received one bid for the 2019-2020 snow removal and salting contract, which was awarded to R.C. Marland.

Roadwork: During the spring, an annual survey of Borough-owned roads is completed by the Borough engineer which forms the basis for the Borough's annual paving and patching program. In 2019, the Borough solicited bids for milling and resurfacing Possum Hollow Road and patching areas on Todmorden Drive. With a bid of \$64,925.00, Innovative Construction was awarded the contract. The work was completed in October of 2019. Funds for the project came from State Highway Aid Fund (\$41,000), the Borough-funded Road Improvement Fund (\$22,372), and County Aid (\$1,553).

Technology: The Verizon Franchise Agreement, which authorizes the execution of the Cable Franchise Agreement between the Borough and Verizon Pennsylvania, was approved by Council via Resolution 2 – 2019. This new agreement will be in effect for the next five years.

2020 Goals:

- Perform the spring inspection of the Borough-owned roads as soon in the New Year as weather permits. Based on the results of this inspection, the Borough Engineer will make recommendations regarding road repaving and repair.
- Update the Borough website.

Library (Judy Voet, Chair)

2019 Accomplishments:

Background: Judy Voet serves as one of Borough Council's representatives on the Helen Kate Furness Free Library (HKF) Board. Penny Sass served as our second representative until her resignation in December due to moving. Jennifer Brill was appointed to fill that position. Many Rose Valley residents support this gem in our community not only financially, but also through their time and talents as volunteers or by serving on the Board. In addition, several of the HKF Investment Committee members are Rose Valley residents who provide financial guidance and expertise. The Borough's financial support of the library continues to be strong and we have increased our funding again this year to help support a much-needed staff increase. Library Director Jen Stock resigned at the end of 2019 to take a position as Director of Upper Darby Library which has multiple branches.

Fundraising: A significant portion of the library budget is generated by fund-raising activities of the Board, such as the Annual Appeal, May Fair, Well-Red community events and extensive book sales. A joint project, the Book It! 5K Walk/Run from HKF to Swarthmore Public Library has been scheduled again for April 25, 2020. We hope Rose Valley residents will support and

participate in this activity.

Adult Programming: For adults, the year started with our sixth annual Senior Technology Day held during the Martin Luther King Jr. service holiday. Fiction Book Club, Mah Jongg and Front Room Fridays continue to be popular.

Special Events: Gardening with Nature in Mind and a Pop-up garden, co-sponsored with Audubon/Pennsylvania to promote the Delaware River Watershed, was held September 14-27; a Wildlife, Water and Wellness lecture was held September 17, in conjunction with the above event; PBS Books and WHYY sponsored Ken Burn's **Country Music** documentary preview showing on September 24, at which we had a performance by Last Chance musical duo.

Children Programming: As always, children's programming was a big draw for the Library. Story times, PAWS for Reading to dogs, LEGO Builders, SKOYZ, Hogwarts Halloween and Santa Saturday all saw great participation in 2019. Tween-teen board gaming brought in many new faces, with new participants each session. We celebrated National Parfait Day with a nutrition program co-sponsored by Giant Supermarkets.

Facilities: Tinkering Kits from a state library grant will be used for more STEM programs in 2020.

Volunteering: We gained and lost volunteers and continue to rely on their efforts to staff our circulation desks. People interested in volunteering should contact the Library Director at fsdirector@delcolibraries.org. The Library website is www.hkflibrary.org

2020 Goals:

- Find a replacement Director and Librarian.
- Increase staff by one part-time position.
- Continue to increase the circulation.
- Provide community meeting space and interesting and informative programs for all ages.
- Add to the collection at or above the Del. Co. Library's recommendation of 12% of budget.
- Continue to host fundraising programs that are fun, interesting and supported by the community.
- Keep the website current with frequent updates.

Finance (Bob Siwicki, Chair)

2019 Accomplishments:

2019: The Borough ended 2019 with expenses exceeding income by approximately \$1,500 on a cash basis with no appropriation from capital reserve, so the budget was essentially balanced.

2020 Budget: Council approved a 2020 budget which calls for the millage rate to remain at 2.04 mills, total revenue and expenses of \$400,949, an increase in the contribution to both the Helen Kate Furness Library and the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation from \$20,000 to \$23,000, and an appropriation from Capital Reserve of \$45,000. The millage was not reduced in part to meet increased recycling costs. The dynamics of the recycling industry have changed with much lower prices paid to recyclers who must now charge municipalities more to make up the difference.

Accordingly, upon receipt of a winning bid that was nearly 70% above last year's level, this line item was increased by a like amount to \$42,250. For a third year, we are contributing to the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation's Capital Campaign to fund the repair and renovation of Thunderbird Lodge to create a permanent home for the Rose Valley Museum.

Information Technology: The budget also includes an increase in our IT expenditures. During the year, in responding to data security concerns, we migrated to online accounting software better positioned for our long-term needs. Part of the budgeted increase in Computer Services represents increased training and consulting costs relating to the new software. We lost the services of our Borough office IT system manager, SqrCom Technologies, when the principal

encountered health issues and are currently considering a replacement.

2020 Goals:

-We are budgeting to utilize some of the balance in our capital reserve fund to meet operating expenses, as the fund has begun to exceed the size deemed sufficient for capital reserves. The amount of the contribution represents slightly more than 10% of budgeted revenues.

-Monitor expected multi-year road re-surfacing costs for Borough roads to ensure sufficient funds are available from the Highway Aid Fund and the Borough funded Road Improvement Fund.

-Monitor any budgetary demands that may present themselves in our compliance with Commonwealth mandates concerning the abatement of storm water run-off.

-The migration to new software is presenting us with an opportunity to review the general status of how our record-keeping and data management systems are configured. Within the Computer Services line item, we are budgeting amounts that will be spent working with an outside CPA consulting firm to assess our current situation and identify ways to improve it.

-Support other possible projects the Borough may elect to pursue in 2020.

2019 Borough Resolutions and Ordinances

Resolution 1 – Appointing Robert M. Healy to the Vacancy Board

Resolution 2 – Authorization of Execution of Cable Franchise with Verizon

Resolution 3 – Appointing Brent Hopkins as Emergency Management Coordinator

Resolution 4 – Setting Salaries and Employee Benefits for 2020

Resolution 5 – Setting Fees for Permits for 2020

Resolution 6 – Appointing R.C Marland as Snowplower for 2020

Resolution 7 – Appointing B&L Services as Recyclers for 2020

Resolution 8 – Appointing Fischer Cunnane as Auditors for 2020

Resolution 9 – Appointing Jessica Brill to Library Board as RVB Council Rep.

Resolution 10 – Applying for County Aid for Road Work

Resolution 11 – Appointing Ron Ploeg to EAC

Resolution 12 – Appointing Monica Gagliardi to EAC

Resolution 13 – Appointing Hope Thurlow to Planning Commission

Ordinance 349 – Demolition Ordinance

Ordinance 350 – Setting Millage Rate at 2.04 Mills for 2020

Rose Valley Centennial Foundation (Tim Plummer, President)

Other Board Members: Jack Reohr, Lynn Kelley (VP Finance), Bruce Hunt, Mimi Spangler, Tami Caesar, and Nick Slagis. Board Members Mary Attig, Gena Scanlan and Paul Shregel resigned during 2019 after making tremendous contributions toward building the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation.

Website: www.rosevalley100.org

2019 Accomplishments:

Fund Raising: The RVCF established a fundraising goal of \$1,000,000 for its Capital Campaign to repair and renovate Thunderbird Lodge so it could be a suitable home for the Rose Valley Museum. Our fundraising committee consists of Tami Caesar, Mimi Spangler, Bruce Hunt, Tim Plummer, Lynn Kelley, and Nick Slagis from the RVCF and Morris Potter and Paula Healy from the Rose Valley Museum and Historical Society. Our fundraising consultant had advised us that it would be necessary to raise \$500,000 from the local community before starting to seek grants

and donations from outside organizations. At the end of 2018, we finally reached that milestone after a RVCF board member made a large donation which other board and community members then matched. In early March we began fundraising from outside organizations with an application to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission for a Keystone Grant. Based on the strength of our application, the support of local leaders including state representative Leanne Krueger, and the fact the Thunderbird Lodge is recognized as one of the ten most historically significant Arts and Crafts structures in the country, PHMC awarded us a grant for \$99,787, which RVCF must match dollar for dollar. We will continue to work on matching grant applications since each dollar donated to RVCF is effectively doubled when we receive such a grant. We sincerely thank all those in our community who helped us with funding in the past to preserve this Rose Valley treasure. We intend to apply for another PHMC Keystone Grant in 2021 and will need the continued help of the community to raise the necessary matching funds.

Thunderbird Lodge Repairs and Preservation:

Roof Leak: Prior to beginning the Keystone Grant work, RVCF repaired a leaking section of the tile roof located near the octagonal tower, which was a result of improperly installed flashing. Proper repair required repointing a section of the tower stonework above the leaking roof and lifting an area of the tile four feet wide next to the tower. Underlayment was installed. New underlayment and copper step flashing was installed, and the roof tiles were replaced. The repair was successful and no new water penetration in the area has occurred.

Honeybees: A project was undertaken to remove a large honeybee nest from under the bay window roof on the side of Thunderbird Lodge facing Rose Valley Road. We consulted noted apiarist Na'an Harp who had successfully removed a large colony from a barn at the Biltmore Estate in Ashville, NC. She confirmed that it would be possible to remove and save the hive. A call went out for help and we received several offers from local beekeepers. RVCF determined that Noah Gress was the best choice. Noah operates Raindance Apiary and also has experience as a roofer, two skills vital to the safe removal of the bees. Over several days he placed temporary hives over the roof which allowed the foraging bees to depart their current hive but forced them to return to the temporary hives. When he had captured most of the foragers, he took off the roofing tiles and underlayment and removed the remaining worker bees, their queen, wax and honey to a new hive that he relocated to the Raindance Apiary in Media. Our roofer, Andrew Wasik, then removed the remaining roof tiles, rebuilt the underlayment, replaced the tiles and installed new copper flashing at the window and ridge lines. Our mason, Keith Childs, finished the project by filling the area above the new copper flashing with specially formulated Thunderbird Lodge mortar mix. This was a very important project because the bees were safely removed, the roof was preserved to Department of Interior Standards, and our craftsmen previously prevented from working on the Rose Valley Road side of the building by the bees will be able to do so in 2020.

Dead Trees: Two dead trees were removed from the Thunderbird Lodge property by Carney Tree Co. One was a dead pine near the rear carriage shed, the other was a dead red oak along School Lane. Two more trees are slated for removal by Carney Tree early in 2020, a dying red oak in the front island and a dead ash at the corner of School Lane. Continued removal of ash trees impacted by the emerald ash borer will be a long-term property maintenance issue.

Pests, Alarm System and Chimneys: Modern Pest Control inspected for termites and determined that no new infestations existed. Modern was also contracted to remove squirrels which had gained access to the Lodge. The process, which took several weeks, involved placing

one-way doors over the entrance holes the squirrels had made. This allowed the squirrels to leave, but not re-enter and the doors were eventually sealed. There is evidence of several alarm systems having been installed in Thunderbird Lodge, although none of them are functioning. RVCF currently is reviewing bids to for a new fire and security system. Jim Murray Chimneys was hired to inspect the chimneys and a fire policy for Thunderbird Lodge was developed.

PHMC Keystone Grant: The Keystone Grant was requested to continue exterior work on the building to ensure Thunderbird Lodge remains watertight. The scope of work involves repointing deteriorating mortar on the stone walls, repairing and refinishing areas of stucco, and repairing the tile roof. The Grant requires that we follow Department of Interior standards for preservation. Doug Seiler is our Preservation Architect and our bridge to understanding the standards and how to properly apply them. Working with Doug we have been able to build a network of dedicated experts to support, guide and provide the craftsmanship Thunderbird Lodge requires.

Architectural Plans: The first step in applying for the PHMC Grant was submission of plans to Keystone Grant coordinator Karen Arnold. Doug Seiler prepared the plans, which involved inspecting the way the building was constructed and creating elevations and floor plans of the building. Chris Frey of the Keystone Preservation Group was engaged to evaluate the original finishes on the exterior trim and interior flooring through optical microscopy. Chris Frey's initial draft report of the Thunderbird Lodge trim finishes indicates that the original trim finish color was a light olive tone. The plans were approved as submitted. Karen Arnold, PHMC Keystone Grant Coordinator, and Cory Kegerise, SE PA Community Preservation Officer, toured Thunderbird Lodge and provided RVCF with valuable insights on projects we need to consider as we move forward.

Roof Work: After the plans were approved, work commenced immediately on the roof around the damaged chimney which was repaired in 2018. Scaffolding and material lifts were put into place and the temporary tarpaulins were removed. The roof tiles were then lifted, and repairs made to the underlayment and rafter tails, with new ice shield and flashing installed. Roof tiles to the right of the chimney were also lifted and preliminary investigation of damage in this area begun.

2020 Grant Work:

There are three major components of the Keystone Grant repair work which will be done in 2020 starting in the spring: 1) Repair of the damaged roofing to the left and right of the repaired chimney and continuing around to the end of the roof near the ginkgo tree. Included in this are replacing the copper dormer roofing in that area and replacement of many of the damaged rafter tails; 2) Repair, cleaning and refreshing the lime rendering (stucco) on certain exterior walls; and 3) Repair, cleaning and repointing of much of the masonry around the building including the porch columns and the wall facing Rose Valley Road.

Sagging Corner: During preparation of our final plans, it was determined that there was a significant sag in a corner of the cantilevered second floor located near the ginkgo tree. The original cantilevered joists and support beams in this area were not properly designed to bear the building load. RVCF is working with Doug Seiler and Charles Timbie, a structural engineer, to prepare plans for submission to Karen Arnold for a revision of our grant scope of work to address this structural repair. Several methods requiring beams and strappings to support the area from above are under consideration. The repair is intended to stabilize the corner while not effecting the exterior sightlines of Thunderbird Lodge. After repairs are completed, the stucco in that area can be refurbished. The unfortunate side effect of this development is that we will not be able to complete as much exterior work on Thunderbird Lodge as originally called for in the

grant application. The extent of the stucco and masonry work will have to be scaled back and the remainder of this work postponed until our next grant campaign.

Landscaping: A considerable amount of work was accomplished as volunteers worked cleaning up the property and planting new gardens. The removal of unwanted brush continues. New native plants have replaced non-native invasive ones thanks to many hours of work by Margery Howe and others on the grounds committee.

2020 Goals:

- Apply for grants and donations from outside organizations while continue fundraising efforts within the local community to build up matching funds for the next Keystone Grant.
- Successfully complete the scope of work funded by the current Keystone Grant to PHMC standards by the close of 2020. This will be the key to receipt of another grant from PHMC.
- Prepare to apply for a second PHMC Keystone Grant in March of 2021 to finish work not completed in the first campaign and address other items.
- Reinstall the pergola pillar knocked over by a fallen tree.
- Install a new fire and security system.
- Clean and repair four chimneys in the building.
- Remove an old heating oil tank in the basement.

Rose Valley Museum & Historical Society (Morris Potter, President)

Other Board Members: Ryan Berley (curator), Maggie Dee (treasurer), Paula Healy (secretary), Sue Keilbaugh (membership and program co-chair), Jim Reed (facilities manager) and Peter Howell (program co-chair).

Website: www.rosevalleymuseum.org

2019 Accomplishments:

Our 2nd Year in Thunderbird Lodge, and it feels more and more like home. Membership is staying steady at around 250. We continue to have a steady trickle of visitors on our open days (one weekend per month); our lectures and special events, all of which have increased over last year, attract capacity crowds of 60-70. And we have started a new Rose Valley tradition of tree lighting/caroling - free and open to the public. The wide and shining eyes of little children as they lighted real candles on a real tree was a sight to behold!

Conferences: For the past several years we have been attending the National Arts and Crafts Conference in Asheville in February to put Rose Valley and Thunderbird Lodge in the consciousness of a national community. This has led to personal connections with other craft communities, i.e. Roycroft in upstate NY and Craftsman Farms in NJ. This conference is also a major convergence of dealers and collectors of all things Arts and Crafts. Last February Ryan Berley returned from the conference with several chairs, all born in the RV Furniture Shop, and telling vastly different tales of their ensuing lives. This coming February, curator Ryan will be one of the featured speakers and his trench art collection will be on display in the main hallway!

Sponsored Trips: We took a couple of interesting museum-sponsored trips this year. The first was to Harrisburg to tour the State Capitol and its murals by Violet Oakley and its astonishing acres of tile floors by Henry Mercer. Almost everything about the building was astonishing. The tour was arranged for us by Ryan with the help of State Rep Leanne Krueger. Our group of 37 gathered for a convivial lunch at a local restaurant where we expressed our awe at the sheer size and scale, let alone extravagance, of our State's halls of power. Our second trip, in September, was up to visit Roycroft in East Aurora, NY for a celebration of the 200th anniversary of the birthday of Arts and Crafts pioneer John Ruskin with two days of free lectures on Ruskin and

interaction with Ruskin scholars and enthusiasts. Seeing the community that built up around the production of furniture, art, metal work, and printing was an interesting case study. Unlike Rose Valley, Roycroft was a company town with a highly successful line of products; Elbert Hubbard was a good businessman.

Expenses: Thanks to membership dues, strong attendance at our programs, and holding costs in check, we ended the year with modest growth of our financial assets, which puts us on good footing to move into 2020. The Pennsylvania Department of Revenue approved our exemption from paying sales tax on purchases, thus saving us a little more. Earlier in the year we hired an accountant who specializes in non-profits, and he was able to significantly reduce our tax and accounting costs.

RVCF Grant: This year our landlord, the RV Centennial Foundation, received a Keystone Grant of \$99,787 from the State of Pennsylvania. This provided a great photo-op of Tim Plummer and Morris Potter with State Representative Leanne Krueger holding giant blow-up of the check in front of Thunderbird Lodge. This is a major boost to their fundraising efforts, and they intend to use it as impetus for attracting other matching grants.

Programming: This grant, among other factors, also raises our profile as a destination, and we have had to increase our programming. We were officially open one weekend per month, excluding July. On nine of those weekends there were also special events, all of which drew crowds. We also accommodated smaller groups on off-weekends and occasional weekdays. It is clear from demand, and also requirements of some granting agencies, that we will have to be open more weekends. All of this is volunteer effort; fortunately, some of us don't have day jobs anymore.

Our Volunteers: To those volunteers who help receive our visitors, work in the sales shop, guide tours, weed and tend our grounds, refinish our woodwork, civilize us with floral arrangements, provide food for our events, catalogue and photograph our collection, and serve on our board, we thank you! Thunderbird Lodge does not exist without you. And without the School in Rose Valley we wouldn't have a parking facility for our big events. Thank you, SRV.

2020 Goals:

-Going forward, we will need to recruit more volunteers to act as docents and add to our team of people trained in accepting and recording entry fees and sales in the shop. We have made the first steps towards a strategic plan for the future. Goals from last year – serviceable porch areas, outbuilding for storage, restroom facilities, and prep kitchen – are all on hold. Your generous financial donation to the RV Centennial Foundation would hasten those projects. Your generous financial donation to the RV Museum would enhance programming, provide speakers fees and help with acquisitions. Giving to both organizations helps everything.

Gardeners of Rose Valley (Debbie Flanagan and Mary Cooper, Co-presidents)

Background: The Gardeners of Rose Valley (GRV) has a three-fold mission: to join together to share and explore gardening pursuits; to maintain community garden spaces (Pew Park and the Moylan-Rose Valley Train Station perennial garden); and to continue the Rose Valley traditions of decorating pillar and post with greens in December and creating May baskets for worthy recipients. We embrace an informal motto: "Come when you can, and do what you are able." Our membership of 80 plus individuals (men and women) spans the generations; a common thread is our interest in gardening and caring for the community. In all, 2019 was a very robust year of activities, enjoyed by many residents of Rose Valley and beyond.

2019 Accomplishments:

Activities: Field trips and learning opportunities this year were numerous and included: a community-wide winter lecture by internationally known food historian and author, William Woys Weaver; a guided tour of the Mt. Cuba Center; a guided tour of Chanticleer garden; a tour of members Gena Scanlon's and Marilyn Bullock's gardens; and a flower arranging workshop led by Liz Morris Orye of Bough & Blossom. Additionally, Gardeners' Night Out events provided opportunities to work on projects such as prep for May basket and swag making, plan for future activities, and enjoy each other's company.

Gardening: The Gardeners held seasonal group clean-ups of the Moylan-Rose Valley Train Station garden. The garden beds in Pew Park were "adopted" by pairs of members for the duration of the season and the Moylan-Rose Valley Train Station garden was maintained by dedicated weekly summer care-takers. John Kelley with Hollywood Landscaping continues to generously volunteer time assisting with the restoration and rejuvenation of the park's grass, spring mulching and other projects. GRV partnered with the EAC offering native plants for sale to community members and for planting in Rose Valley's Saul Preserve.

May Baskets and Holiday Swags: Two traditions of the Gardeners of Rose Valley are making May baskets and in December decorating pillars, street signs, monuments, and iconic landmarks throughout the Valley. Many hands gathered to make the 40+ May baskets and the 80+ holiday swags. Additionally, Boy Scouts from Rose Valley Troop 272 assisted with wilt proofing the greens.

2020 Goals:

-We look forward to seeing community members at our upcoming evening **Winter Lecture** by author Doug Tallamy, "Creating Living Landscapes," at 7:30 pm, **Monday, January 27**, at the Old Mill. Dr. Tallamy's lecture will describe how insects support life within our gardens and ensure that plants and the ecosystem remain healthy and vibrant. This lecture is also an early release celebration for Dr. Tallamy's new book, *Nature's Best Hope*. A limited number of books will be available for sale at the lecture. Tickets are \$15 at the door. Refreshments will follow. For inclement weather updates please check the Borough website.

-We continue to encourage **New Members** to join us. Those interested should contact co-presidents Debbie Flanagan (debflan@gmail.com) or Mary Cooper (mcooper@dcdesignco.com).

Twenty-Second Annual Fourth of July Celebration (Tim Plummer, Uncle Sam)

Thank you for making our 2019 July 4th Celebration one of the Best Ever! Special thanks to Bill Hale, President of Borough Council; Dave Firn, Vice President of Council; Paula Healy, Borough Manager; Chip Seltzer, Chair of the Rose Valley Swimming Pool Board; Mary Hertzog, Vice President of the Pool Board; and to State Representative Leanne Krueger. Thanks also to Matt Maytis, Pool Supervisor, and his assistant, Kevin Windsor. The pool guards had the pool in excellent shape and helped out with all pool tasks; they were terrific! The pool was beautifully decorated before the parade by a loyal crew who turned the scene into a Red-White-and-Blue panorama. All-around helpers included Gail and Bill Hale, Marge and Dave Firn, Bob and Paula Healy, Tom Plummer and Margee Hanford, Kevin and Camille Morrison, and Deidre Waters. Balloons were delivered by Dave Firn. The parade was led by Boy Scouts from Rose Valley Troop 272 under Scoutmaster John Traverso. There were wailing fire engines from South Media Fire Company; antique cars driven by Dennis and Michele Morris, Peter Dijkstra, Jim Reid, and Paul and Elena Dodge; and a forest of decorated bicycles, wagons, scooters and walkers. Over 250 stood for the Scout flag raising, National Anthem (beautifully sung by Vippy Yee), and the Pledge of Allegiance (led by Representative Leanne Krueger). Uncle Sam

provided a brief summary of the events leading up to the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. Games in the pool, ably led by Gabby Rinaldi, were followed by a sumptuous picnic. Our faithful crew cooked and wrapped 20 dozen hamburgers and as many hot dogs in one hour! They included: Peter Howell and Deirdre Waters, Dave Firn, Debra DeMasi, Gail Hale, Bob and Paula Healy, John Neilson, Michael Rinaldi, Vippy Yee and John Bauer. Guests formed two lines around tables overflowing with burgers and dogs, and donated salads and desserts. Perhaps the best part of the day was the neighborhood picnic that followed. A great sense of community was felt by everyone.

Ambassador Program

The Rose Valley Ambassadors continue to welcome new residents to Rose Valley with red welcome bags full of information about Rose Valley and the surrounding area. Over 25 visits were made, most of them face-to-face. Janet Baycich and Murray Blanchette covered Longpoint. Marilyn Bullock, who leads the effort, and Gail Hale covered the remaining residents. In 2020 we expect the numbers to grow as we reach out to incoming residents as well as existing residents who never received a welcome bag.

In Summary

Rose Valley is blessed to have so many talented volunteers serve in our Borough government and local organizations. We can be proud of our accomplishments in 2019 and look forward to another wonderful year in the Valley during 2020!

Sincerely,

Tim Plummer
Mayor