

COUNCIL MEETING

January 9, 2019

The monthly meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on January 9, 2019 in the Borough Office, 9 Old Mill Lane, Rose Valley, Pa. President of Council Bill Hale called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm. Other Council members present were: Councilpersons Deb DeMasi, Dave Firn, Stephanie Middleton, Judy Voet and Vippy Yee; Mayor Tim Plummer; Treasurer Joe Hare; Controller John Neilson; Solicitor G. Guy Smith and Secretary Paula Healy. Councilperson Bob Siwicki was absent.

A guest attending the meeting was Ian Rubin, 31 Longpoint Lane.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the December 12, 2018 and December 17, 2018 Council Meetings were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

ENVIRONMENT & EAC

Mr. Firn reported that the Growing Greener Grant reimbursement monies in the amount of \$32,333.14 were received by the Borough in December. There is still about \$7,000 in unused grant monies that could be used in 2019 for additional herbicide spraying to control invasives, replacement and additional plants for streambank restoration, and signage. The grant must be closed out by October 2019.

It is not looking hopeful that the Borough will be able to get the permit from the Penna. Game Commission for a deer cull this winter. Our local Game Commission official has asked that the Borough survey residents regarding deer sightings, plant damage done by deer, vehicle collisions and the prevalence of Lyme disease. Even though he is aware that there are too many deer in Rose Valley, he is resisting a cull because the Game Commission is focused on promoting deer hunting, not on protecting the environment by controlling the deer population. It was suggested we may want to contact our State Representative for help with this matter.

HIGHWAYS, INSURANCE, CABLEVISION & TECHNOLOGY

Ms. Yee reported that the Longpoint Lane resurfacing project is complete except for a few driveways where Gessler must add some macadam fill in the repaired gutters so that vehicles don't scape when they go in and out. This work is difficult to do during the winter. The Borough Engineer recommends Council make a \$79,000 partial payment of the total roadwork bill from Highway Aid but withhold the balance of funds until the driveway work is completed.

Mr. Rubin asked why the contractor did not seal the joints between the concrete gutters and new macadam. Mr. Hale explained that theses joints are not normally sealed because the macadam is slightly higher than the concrete and the hot sealant tends to run downhill from the joint into the middle of the gutter making a mess.

Ms. Yee is going to work with Mr. Firm on a website for the EAC.

LIBRARY

Mrs. Voet reported that the Library Board meeting is next week, so there is nothing to report tonight other than that the Annual Meeting is going to be held on January 15, with the Board Meeting to follow. All members of the Library are invited to attend General Annual Meeting.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mrs. DeMasi reviewed the Police and Fire Reports. The Fire Report cited the following incidents: on 12/6 the fire company responded to an accidental tripped alarm at the Old Mill; and on 12/29 they responded to an accidental tripped alarm at a residence. The Police Report listed 2 false alarms; a report of a suspicious person on 12/1; a response to a burglary in progress on 12/6; a car accident on 12/21; and response to a disabled motorist on 12/27.

Mrs. DeMasi passed around a report generated from data collected by the speed-sign devices and discussed the findings.

The Town Watch program is progressing as usual. The recruitment letter for Longpoint is being reviewed and will be sent out soon.

FINANCES

Mr. Hare reviewed the Status of Funds Report for the month of December. Mr. Neilson reviewed the Income Reports for December and the Bills for Approval for January. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the amounts of \$13,346.37 from the General Fund, \$6,651.50 from the Borough Road Improvement Fund for roadwork engineering and \$79,000.00 from the State Highway Aid Fund for roadwork were approved for payment.

Mr. Hare also reviewed the Status of Funds Report for the beginning of year transfers and loan. At the end of 2018, all the monies in the General Fund Checking and Savings accounts are transferred to Capital Reserve. These transfers include payback of the \$70,000 loan made at the beginning of 2018. At the beginning of 2019, 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 Checking to Capital Reserve of \$16,105.13 and a net transfer from Savings to Capital Reserve of \$5,200.72 to accomplish these transfers.

Mr. Hale reviewed the final Budget vs. Actual Report for 2018 noting that the income of \$372,830.72 was \$9,491.72 more than budgeted while the expenses of \$354,869.16 were \$8,469.84 less than budgeted, resulting in net income of \$17,961.56 per QuickBooks assuming all checks had cleared before the end of the year.

PLANNING

Ms. Middleton asked Mr. Hale to review the Subdivision and Reverse Subdivision Plan of Rowan, Ewing and Rose Valley Borough Properties prepared by G.D. Houtman & Son, Inc, Civil Engineers and Land Surveyors dated August 14, 2018. Mr. Hale explained that the Rowan and Ewing families jointed owned an undeveloped two-acre lot which they donated to the Borough on December 7, 2017. John and Margaret Ewing own a lot that has their house on it; this is to the southwest of the donated lot. Robert and Beth Rowan own a lot with their house on it; this is to the northeast of the donated lot. All three properties extend down a steep slope to Ridley Creek. There are small wooded areas of the Rowan and Ewing lots along Ridley Creek which the Borough would like to acquire and small areas of equal size at the top of the donated lot which the Borough would like to exchange for the areas along the creek. These small areas at the top are inappropriate as Open Space because they have been landscaped as grass lawns with ornamental trees, and one of the areas contains the driveway and utilities for the Rowan house, while the other contains the utilities for the Ewing house. The small wooded areas along Ridley Creek will connect the Todmorden Woods Borough-owned Open Space and the recently donated two-acre lot. The Plan first subdivides these four parcels from their current lots and then reverse subdivides them as follows:

| <u>Parcel</u> | | <u>From Grantor</u> | <u>To Grantee</u> |
|------------------|----------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| "A" along creek, | 15,265 sq. ft. | John & Margaret Ewing | Borough of Rose Valley |
| "B" at the top, | 15,265 sq. ft. | Borough of Rose Valley | John & Margaret Ewing |
| "D" along creek, | 11,179 sq. ft. | Robert & Beth Rowan | Borough of Rose Valley |
| "C" at the top, | 11.170 sq. ft. | Borough of Rose Valley | Robert & Beth Rowan |

The adjacent Long Point Wildlife Preserve on the other side of Ridley Creek to the west and the adjacent Todmorden Woods Borough-owned properties to the south are zoned Open Space Preservation. It is proposed that the Borough property resulting from the small parcel land swaps be rezoned from Zone A Residential to Open Space Preservation.

The Delaware County Planning Commission reviewed the Subdivision and Reverse Subdivision Plan of Rowan, Ewing & Rose Valley Borough Properties prepared by G.D. Houtman & Son dated August 14, 2018 at its meeting on November 29, 2018. They recommended approval of the Plan and approval of rezoning the resulting Borough property from Zone A Residential to Open Space Preservation.

Ms. Middleton reported that the Rose Valley Planning Commission also reviewed the small parcel land swap Plan and unanimously voted to recommend that Borough Council approve the Plan and the rezoning of the resulting Borough property.

On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, Borough Council approved the small parcel land swap Plan and rezoning of the resulting Borough property from Zone A Residential to Open Space Preservation.

The next Planning Commission Meeting will be held on February 26, 2019 at 7:30 pm in the Borough Office.

GENERAL

On a motion made seconded and unanimously passed, Council approved Resolution 1 - 2019 appointing Robert M. Healy to the Vacancy Board.

Vippy Yee discussed an incident involving students which occurred within the school district.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Smith brought Council up to date on the Sigismondi properties tax appeal case. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed Council authorized G. Guy Smith to represent the Borough in this matter.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor's State of the Borough Address Submitted to Borough Council, January 9, 2019 by Mayor Tim Plummer

As we begin our 96th year as a Borough, only four 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 2018. 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. An update on Delcora sewer authority's decommissioning of the Rose Valley sewage treatment plant is also provided in the Planning section below. 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, Leonard Busby, Mary Beth Decrescenzo, Margery Howe and Ron Ploeg,

2018 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 September, 2018 Todmorden Woods and Long Point were opened to limited bow hunting by experienced volunteer hunters.

Unlike previous years, the hunt ended upon the holiday break in December as the Borough has applied to the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) for permission to conduct a cull in January 2019. An Eagle Scout project cleared the deer enclosure monitoring plots and replanted them with native shrubs and perennials.

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. The Spring workshop included a native plant sale in conjunction with the Gardeners of Rose Valley. Follow-up applications of herbicide were accomplished for the dwarf running bamboo infestation in the Todmorden Woods, the Japanese knotweed infestation in Long Point, and the deer impact monitoring plots at Long Point. A Fall workshop was scheduled in conjunction with a Long Point planting event organized by the Chester-Ridley-Crum Watersheds Association (CRC) pursuant to the borough's Growing Greener grant. However, the fall event was canceled due to inclement weather but also because the planting was able to be completed by a previous CRC-sponsored event. In addition, "Weed Watch" postings in the sanctuaries, prepared by the EAC, appear to have been highly effective in encouraging visitors to remove the featured invasive plants. Spotted lanternfly signs were also posted to alert visitors to the imminent arrival of this invasive insect.

Outdoor Recreation, Park and Open Space Study: A Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation, Park and Open Space (CORPOS) plan, performed by Natural Lands (NL) for the four municipalities in the Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan, i.e., Rose Valley, Nether Providence, Swarthmore and Rutledge, has concluded. This project was funded by a \$25,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), a \$20,000 matching grant from PECO and a \$5,000 contribution in kind from NL. Borough Council passed a resolution accepting the final report and allowing the grant to be closed out.

Growing Greener Streambank Grant: The Borough has 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. In February 2018, Land Stewards Ecological Landscape Design, in Quakertown, installed shrub dogwood fascines and shrub willow brush mattresses in Saul. Due to severe deer browsing, Land Stewards installed 150 additional pot-grown shrub dogwoods and erected temporary fencing. In addition, the grant funded native plantings in the riparian buffer in Long Point in a two-acre area previously infested with Japanese knotweed. Eagle Scout projects cleared the area of invasive plants and accomplished the first planting in September. A second planting organized by CRC as a corporate event completed the remainder of the project in October. CRC provided engineering and administrative oversight for this grant.

MS4: Completion of the streambank stabilization project under the Growing Greener grant has satisfied the Borough's requirement to reduce stream sediment loading by 10 percent over a five-year period under its MS4 permit at no cost to the Borough.

Remediation of Wetlands: The EAC provided advice and oversight to Delcora and the Rose Valley Swimming Pool to ensure that the portions of the wetlands along Vernon Run adversely affected by sewer line reconstruction were remediated with plantings of appropriate species of native shrubs and trees using funds provided by Delcora. Seeding with native wetland perennials was done in 2018. The EAC will work with the Rose Valley Swimming Pool in 2019 on acquiring and planting native wetland shrubs and trees to replace those lost during construction.

2019 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 continue to implement,

or revise as warranted, the Borough's long-range plan for deer management. Apply pre-emergence herbicide in the spring to the plots inside and outside the enclosure to protect the native perennials and shrubs planted in spring 2018 from competition by rampant growth of nonnative invasive annuals, including Japanese stiltgrass, Japanese hops, and mile-a-minute weed. Obtain PGC permission to conduct a cull after the Borough's hunting season closes in December 2018.

-Continue to sponsor Invasive Plants/Native Planting Workshops and the annual native plant sale.

-Continue spot-treatments of invasive Japanese knotweed 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 with a focus on the Saul Wildlife Sanctuary. Develop a plan for improvement and implement trail enhancement strategies. Invite volunteer participation when appropriate and apply for grant funding to support materials costs and new signs.

-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. The 2019 campaign is in its inception; the topic is reducing environmental toxins.

-The EAC will continue to search for grant opportunities to improve the quality of our parklands, stream banks and floodplains.

-The EAC will 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.

-The EAC will continue to monitor and maintain the streambank stabilization and restoration projects completed in 2018.

-The EAC will 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.

-The EAC will continue to educate our community about environmental pests and other 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.

2018 Accomplishments:

The Rose Valley Planning Commission met three times during 2018. There also was much work on planning-related projects by individuals throughout the year, particularly by Bill Hale, Tim Plummer and G. Guy Smith. It is a pleasure to work with the members of the Commission and with the EAC, Borough Council, other volunteers, and our solicitor, on the important efforts discussed below as we approach our Borough Centennial. Please check the Borough website for notice of the Planning Commission meetings. All residents are welcome to attend.

Rowan/Ewing/Borough Properties: At the August 14, 2018, meeting, Bill Hale presented a 2018 Subdivision and Reverse Subdivision Plan of Rowan, Ewing and Rose Valley Borough Properties. The Rowan and Ewing families jointly owned an undeveloped two-acre lot which they donated to the Borough on December 7, 2017. John and Margaret Ewing own a lot that has their house on it; this is southwest of the donated lot. Robert and Beth Rowan own a lot with their house on it; this is to the northeast of the donated lot. All three properties extend down a steep slope to Ridley Creek. There are small wooded areas of the Rowan and Ewing lots along Ridley Creek which the Borough would like to acquire and small areas of equal size on the top of the donated lot which the Borough would like to exchange for the areas along the creek. These small areas at the top are inappropriate as Open Space because they have been landscaped as grass lawns with ornamental trees, and one of the areas contains the driveway and utilities for the Rowan house, while the other contains the utilities for the Ewing house. The small wooded areas along Ridley Creek will connect the Todmorden Woods Borough-owned Open Space and the recently donated two-acre lot. The Plan first subdivides these four parcels from their current lots and then reverse subdivides them. After discussion, the Planning Commission voted to recommend to Borough Council that the Plan be approved. At its December meeting, the Planning Commission subsequently voted to recommend to Borough Council that the reconfigured Borough-owned two-acre lot be rezoned from Residential Zone A to Open Space. The Planning Commission is grateful to Bill Hale for his tireless and expert work on this project.

UPenn Study of Rose Valley: Also, at the August meeting, Tim Plummer discussed the University of Pennsylvania Study of Rose Valley. He worked closely with the students during this long project. During 2017-2018, students in the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate Program in Historic Preservation conducted a Preservation Study on Rose Valley directed by Professor Pamela Hawkes. The students produced a report entitled "Rose Valley, PA, A Community Rooted in the Arts and Crafts Movement" as their group course project. The Executive Summary states that the "goal of this study was to assess the strengths and weaknesses of Rose Valley's historic fabric and of its community, to shed light on the threats and opportunities that it is facing, and to help Rose Valley plan for a successful future, accounting for both preservation and change, in preparation for the Centennial that will take place in 2023." It notes that Rose Valley is one of the earliest and most significant Utopian Arts and Craft communities in the country. The Planning Commission has read and is considering the recommendations in the report. As recommended in the study, the Borough sought and recently received a conservation easement on Anne Marie and John Smith's property on Applebough Lane, and, as recommended is working on obtaining other easements to restrict potential subdivision. The Borough also has recently received Trail Easements from the Bartons and the Ewings and is working on obtaining other easements that will connect the Vernon Lane and Todmorden areas to central Rose Valley, also as recommended by the study. We are grateful to Judy Voet for her many hours spent editing and formatting the report so it could be posted on the Borough's website. We also are grateful to Bill Hale for his work on obtaining the easements.

Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Study: As discussed at the August meeting, Natural Lands (it no longer uses the term Trust) worked with representatives from Rose Valley, Nether Providence, Rutledge, and Swarthmore to develop the Multi-municipal Comprehensive Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Plan. This plan can be viewed on the Borough's EAC website. Among other things, the Plan recommends improving the Rose Valley trail network and making Rose Valley Road safer for walking. The Planning Commission is considering the various elements of the plan.

Demolition Ordinance: At the October and December meetings, the Planning Commission worked on a demolition ordinance, which was one of the actions recommended in the University of Pennsylvania study. This ordinance will require owners of buildings and structures to apply for and obtain a demolition permit before they undertake demolition or make significant external alterations. It is intended to delay the demolition of buildings and structures which Borough Council has deemed worthy of preservation or rehabilitation due to their historical or architectural significance. For such buildings and structures, depending on the specific circumstances, the owner may have to submit building plans and the Borough may have public hearings on the proposed demolition and plans. The Borough will impose penalties if an owner proceeds with demolition before obtaining all required permits. The imposed delay will allow time to explore and develop alternative options to preserve, rehabilitate or restore such buildings and structures, and alert residents to their impending demolition.

Delcora Update: After years of planning and over a year of construction, the Delaware County Regional Water Authority has finally decommissioned the Rose Valley Sewage Treatment Plant and converted it into a transfer pump station. New three phase, 480-volt power lines had to be installed by PECO to power the new transfer pumps. A new force main had to be installed under Longpoint Lane and Knowlton Road to tie into Middletown Township Sewer Authority's piping system to ultimately convey the sewage to Delcora's western regional treatment plant on the Delaware River. Delcora also relined the sewer piping along Vernon Run near Rose Valley Swimming Pool to prevent leakage and replaced old piping crossing under Ridley Creek downstream of the Old Mill. Delcora plans to increase sewer fees by \$275 per household in 2019 and move from twice-a-year to quarterly billing. Sewer fees were \$625 per household in 2018. While a sewer fee increase is not good news, it would have been far more expensive had the Borough remained responsible for the sewage system and treatment plant instead of transferring it to Delcora.

2019 Goals:

- Complete work on the demolition ordinance.
- Convene the Planning Commission on an as needed basis to deal with planning issues in a timely fashion and make recommendations regarding these issues to Borough Council.

Public Safety: Debra DeMasi (Chair)

2018 Accomplishments:

Town Watch: Rose Valley Town Watch is one of the mainstays for the well-being of our citizenry and community. Significant transformations were made to its operations and processes in 2016, which included the use of cell phones as the primary means of communication. These changes enabled patrollers to communicate directly with emergency service agencies and convey patrol incident information directly to the RV Borough Office. Our Borough Town Watch has three patrolled areas: Central Rose Valley, Longpoint Lane, and Todmorden. These areas follow guidelines that are updated yearly and are run by their respective volunteer Captains. Citizen

volunteers patrol their route daily at a time of their choosing. The random patrol times, and the display of Town Watch signs by patrollers, act as visual deterrents to criminal mischief, vehicular inattention, and other undesirable activities. Town Watch recruitment involves the three patrol area Captains creating and mailing a recruitment letter for new volunteers to replace current members who retire or move from Rose Valley. Recruitment in the Todmorden area was successfully undertaken in March of 2018, and further recruitment efforts will continue in all areas on an as needed basis in 2019. Any resident interested in participating in Town Watch is always welcome to call the Borough Office.

Windstorm: This past March 2nd, a winter windstorm caused numerous large branches to fall, with a significant sized tree downed on Possum Hollow Road. This tree encountered electrical wires, and was still blocking the road on Sunday, March 4th. A power outage occurred for several Borough households and lasted through March 5th.

Traffic Calming & Pedestrian Safety: Each week for the past several years, Council President Bill Hale replaced the battery and alternated the location of our single speed sign on Rose Valley Road. During the summer months, two new, state-of-the-art speed signs were purchased and permanently installed and wired to 120-volt power on the posts for the blinking caution lights on either side of the Hedgerow curve. These signs provide motorists with immediate mile-per-hour feedback, usually causing them to slow down, and continuously track vehicle speeds and volumes on a twenty-four-hour basis. Most importantly, these new speed signs may be used as follows: to monitor and accrue speed data for traffic control along Rose Valley Road; to confer and collaborate with emergency agencies such as the State Police for ideas to enhance the safety of our Borough roadways; and to collaborate with the appropriate Borough organizations and committees to explore the idea of trails along Rose Valley for safer pedestrian traffic.

Fire Marshall: In the fall of 2018, Jim Ortoleva retired from his position as the Fire Marshal for Rose Valley Borough. During his tenure he attended multiple Borough meetings and shared his professional expertise and fire safety services for over a decade. Mr. Ortoleva's last contribution was to recommend one of his peers, Matt Poissant, as his replacement. Mr. Poissant is a past Chief of the South Media Fire Company, has a degree in Fire Protection Engineering, and is currently employed as a Fire Protection Specialist. Borough Council unanimously approved Mr. Poissant for the position of Fire Marshall. He seamlessly assumed the duties of this role and has completed fire inspections and follow-ups on various structures within the Borough.

Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services (EMS): Nether Providence Township provides fire protection through their two fire companies: South Media, and Garden City. South Media covers most of the Borough while Garden City handles the Todmorden area. Middletown Fire Co. provides fire protection for the Longpoint Lane area. EMS services are provided for most of the Borough by Media Ambulance while Parkside Ambulance usually covers the Todmorden area. For the year 2019, Rose Valley will continue its collaboration with all the first responders who provide services to the Borough.

Police: The Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) act as Rose Valley's Police force. During 2018, the PSP responded to an average of 13 calls per month in Rose Valley. This is the same average number as 2017. The most significant of these calls were in response to motor vehicle accidents, which included one with a fatality, and thefts with criminal mischief at the Rose Valley Pool. The number of false burglar alarms averaged over four per month, with some residences logging more than three for the year. On the rise were reports of fraud (identity theft) and road hazards in relation to storms with high winds. Residents are encouraged to use the direct line for the PA State Police (484-840-1000) to notify them immediately with any observations and information

regarding suspicious activity. Resident participation is vital to ensuring the wellbeing of the community.

Emergency and Information Notification System: Rose Valley continues to utilize a system known as "Code Red" that provides the Borough with the capability to communicate emergency information to all residents or to tailor notifications to specific target areas. New residents who have moved into Rose Valley are encouraged to sign up for this program. Last, but not least, during the Winter of 2018, Dan Sheehan retired from his position as the Borough's Emergency Planning Coordinator. He leaves after many years of dedicated, invaluable service to Rose Valley. Rob Sammel was recommended to assume this role, and with a unanimous vote of approval, appointed Emergency Planning Coordinator for Rose Valley Borough.

2019 Goals:

- Continue efforts to increase participation in the Town Watch Program.
- Organize and plan for the April 2019 Town Watch Appreciation Night.
- Reach out to County, other agencies and professional personnel to safeguard Rose Valley Borough by keeping its policies up-to-date and in a state of readiness.
- Accrue traffic data provided by the new Speed Signs to explore ways to safely decrease vehicular speeding on Borough roads, particularly Rose Valley Road.
- Explore ways to encourage pedestrian safety on our roads, especially Rose Valley Road.
- Continue collaboration with first responders who provide services to Rose Valley.

Highways & Technology (Vippy Yee, Chair)

2018 Accomplishments:

Snowplowing: The Borough budgeted \$45,000 for snowplowing and salting in 2018 and spent \$50,528. This budgeted amount represents a \$20,000 decrease from the budgeted amount in 2017 (\$65,000). This decrease was based on the amount spent in 2017 (\$27,365) and the healthy reserve funds in place to cover an overage. As always, the budgeted amount for these services is a best estimate and the actual amount spent is based on how often the contractor's services are used and the costs of the treatment materials. The Borough works with a contractor that is available to us throughout the winter season. The contractor is 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 and the judicious decision-making of the Borough Manager. As usual, Paula Healy did an excellent job working with our contractor to keep our streets clear and safe. Each fall the Borough solicits bids for the plowing and salting of our roads through a public notice in a local newspaper. The sealed bids that we receive are opened at a public meeting of the Borough Council and examined against the Borough's bid specifications. The winner is announced at the Borough Council meeting. Since the Borough roads are 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. In 2018, we received one bid for snow removal and salting which was awarded to R.C. Marland.

Roadwork: During the Spring, an annual survey of every Borough-owned road is completed by the Borough engineer and forms the basis for the Borough's annual patching and paving program. The Borough has a wide range of road surfaces and dimensions and not all are built to modern standards. In addition, the condition of the roads is affected by the level of exposure to the sun and traffic volume. In 2018, the borough solicited bids for the repaving and associated concrete gutter work on Longpoint Lane. With a bid of \$202,275, Gessler was awarded the 2018

Road Works contract which included milling and resurfacing all of Longpoint Lane, replacing approximately 160 feet of damaged concrete gutter curbing, and minor work elsewhere in the Borough. Installing the new concrete gutter curbing also required the replacement of about six feet of affected driveways within the Borough right-of-way. The concrete gutter curbing reinforces the road and provides much needed storm water management for the road. Residents were informed that the gutters must not be filled in with macadam during future driveway repaving, otherwise the macadam will have to be removed at the homeowner's expense. During the project, the Borough engineer noted cracks in some of the new concrete gutter curbing which had to be repaired and a soft spot in the roadway that had to be repaved. A portion of the 2018 Roadwork was funded with State liquid fuels money in the Highway Aid Fund (\$79,000) with the balance covered by the Borough-funded Road Improvement Fund.

Aqua Water Line Project: Aqua would like to replace the old water lines on Vernon Lane, Applebough Lane, Valley View Road and Chestnut Lane and will repave the roads that are disturbed by the project. All the residents living on these lanes were invited to multiple meetings with an Aqua representative to better understand the scope of the project. In order to move forward with the project, Aqua is seeking water utility easements from the residents who live on private lanes, which include Applebough Lane, Valley View Road, Chestnut Lane and the short section of Vernon Lane which is in Nether Providence.

Technology: The Borough joined the Burbio online calendar system. Residents can use the app to get updates about Borough events. The Borough website is now being updated and managed by Councilwoman Vippy Yee.

2019 Goals:

- The Borough will perform the Spring inspection of Borough-owned roads as soon in the new year as the weather permits. Based on the results of this inspection, the Borough Engineer will make recommendations regarding road repaving and repair.
- The Borough website will be completely updated.

Library (Judy Voet, Chair)

2018 Accomplishments:

Judy Voet and Penny Sass serve as the Borough's representatives on the Helen Kate Furness Free Library (HKF) Board. 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 this support to become competitive with other communities in Delaware County of equal means.

Fundraising: A significant portion of the library budget is generated by fund-raising activities of the Board, such as the Annual Appeal, May Fair and Well-Red Community parties and extensive book sales. A joint project, the Book It! 5K Walk/Run on April 7 from HKF to Swarthmore Public Library, was moderately successful, considering the weather, and has been scheduled again for 2019. We hope Rose Valley residents will support and participate in this activity.

Adult Programming: For adults, the year started with our fifth annual Senior Technology Day held during the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. Travel lectures, local authors and a lecture co-sponsored with the Chester Historical Preservation Committee filled the first half of the year. Mindful Cooking, an accessories swap, flu shots and a lecture focusing on JFK's legacy

completed the year. We added a Mah Jongg group to our weekly scheduled programs, Knitting Neighbors and Front Room Fridays.

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 2018. Tween-teen board gaming brought in many new faces, with new participants each session.

Facilities: Physically, the library saw changes in 2018. We successfully completed an update of the HVAC equipment and installed ADA-accessible doors to the main entrance through a Keystone grant. The library's sewer trap was brought up to code.

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

2019 Goals:

- 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.
- Continue to implement the Facilities Improvement Plan.

Finance (Bob Siwicki, Chair)

2018 Accomplishments:

The 2018 budget included an 8.7% reduction in the millage rate, from 2.23 to 2.04 mills. This reduction marked the third consecutive annual drop in millage, which in 2015 had stood at 2.42.

Budgeting: In 2018, Council approved a 2019 budget calling for no change in millage. This was motivated in part to meet budgeted increases in the amounts to be spent on parks, snow removal and the library. The decision to keep the millage unchanged can also be thought of as a hedge against a drop in real estate transfer taxes to be collected in 2019. The real estate market has been showing signs of softening and there is some uncertainty whether 2018's level of transfer tax receipts will be matched in 2019. The budget includes for a second year an expenditure line item for the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation, to further assist that organization in their repair and renovation of Thunderbird Lodge so it can be a suitable home for the Rose Valley Museum. The 2019 budget also calls for appropriating \$17,760 from Capital Reserve for operating expenses.

Technology: The Borough office IT system continues to be managed by SqrCom Technologies.

2019 Goals:

- Continue to try to balance expenditures with revenues and to maintain appropriate levels of capital reserves for operations, future road work and potential capital projects.
- Monitor any budgetary demands that may present themselves in our compliance with Commonwealth mandates such as MS4 stormwater run-off requirements, leaf collection, and possible charges for State Police.
- Monitor recycling cost since our two-year recycling contract with J.P. Mascaro is up in 2020 and there are concerns regarding the cost of a new contract. Due to major changes in the recycling market in 2018, many municipalities have experienced large costs increases. We toured Mascaro's recycling plant and came away with a sense that we are dealing with a well-run

organization. We will be in communication with them to gain insight as to what the costs of renewing our contract might be and how we can best manage these costs.

2018 Borough Resolutions and Ordinances:

- Resolution 1 Appointment of Robert Healy to the Vacancy Board
- Resolution 2 Appointment of Robert Sammel as Emergency Management Coordinator
- Resolution 3 Appointment of Priscilla Sass as Borough Representative on Library Board
- Resolution 4 Appointment of Ron Ploeg to Planning Commission
- Resolution 5 Appointment of Steve Karlovic to Planning Commission
- Resolution 6 Appointment of Jim Kauffman to Planning Commission
- Resolution 7 Conservation Grant Project
- Resolution 8 Appointment of John Curtis to Zoning Hearing Board
- Resolution 9 Appointment of Alan Gee to Zoning Hearing Board
- Resolution 10 Appointment of Scott Laughlin to Zoning Hearing Board
- Resolution 11 Appointing Fischer Cunnane as Auditor for 2019
- Resolution 12 Appointing J.P. Mascaro as Recycler for 2019
- Resolution 13 Appointing R.C. Marland as Snowplower for 2019
- Resolution 14 Setting Fees for Permits in 2019
- Resolution 15 Setting Salaries and Employee Benefits for 2019
- Ordinance 348 Setting Millage Rate at 2.04 Mills for 2019

Rose Valley Centennial Foundation (Tim Plummer, President)

Board Members: Paul Shregel, Jack Reohr, Mary Attig (Secretary), Gena Scanlan, Lynn Kelley (VP Finance), Bruce Hunt, Mimi Spangler, Tami Caesar, and Nick Slagis. Board Members Andy Detterline, Jim Harrison, Bill Keefer, and Geoff Shepard resigned during 2018 after making great contributions toward building the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation.

Website: www.rosevalley100.org

2018 Accomplishments:

Fund Raising: The RVCF established an ultimate 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, Mary Attig and Nick Slagis from the RVCF and Morris Potter and Paula Healy from the Rose Valley Museum and Historical Society. By the end of 2017, we had raised approximately \$250,000 thanks, in large part, to the generosity of the RVCF Board. Our fundraising consultant, Copper Beech, advised us it would be necessary to raise \$500,000 from the local community before starting to seek grants and donations from outside organizations, and that became our goal for the year. A professional brochure was produced with invaluable input from Ryan Berley, Andy Detterline and Copper Beech which became a principal part of our fundraising efforts. Solicitation by the fundraising committee continued throughout the year and culminated in a special event attended by over sixty invited guests at Thunderbird Lodge on November 18th. With a final push as the year ended, contributions and pledges finally reached the \$500,000 milestone! Now we can We sincerely thank all those in our community who made this possible.

Jim Harrison Collection: Former Board Member Jim Harrison's gift of rare Rose Valley furniture and other arts and crafts memorabilia was appraised at \$274,000. We also continue to receive donations of treasures from the Arts and Crafts period that are steadily increasing Rose

Valley's importance nationally.

Thunderbird Lodge Repairs: A major accomplishment was the rebuilding a badly damaged chimney above the roof line which even had a small tree growing out of it. The entire chimney all the way down to the ground was then repointed. This effort required extensive scaffolding and a study to duplicate the original pointing material as closely as possible. The effort also required the removal of a large number of roof tiles around the chimney, so scaffolding could be placed on the roof. Many of the tiles have been replaced, with the exception of on those sections of the roof which have water-damaged wood that must be replaced. This effort will continue in 2019 and tarpaulins were spread over the affected areas to prevent further damage from winter snows and rain. The roof over the tower and the roof over the second-floor bathroom have also shown signs of water leakage.

Landscaping: Considerable work was accomplished in cleaning up the property, planting new gardens, and getting unwanted brush and small trees removed. The large tree which fell in the back yard was removed by Carney Tree Company. Many new native plants have replaced non-native invasive ones thanks to many hours of work by Margery Howe and others on the grounds committee.

Ambassador Program: Under the leadership of Gena Scanlon, a formal "Ambassador" program has been instituted to welcome our new residents. An impressive folder of useful and relevant materials has been beautifully prepared by Marylyn Bullock. The Ambassadors (one on Long Point, one in Todmorden, and one in Central Rose Valley) personally welcome each new resident.

Boy Scouts: Gavin Woodward completed his Eagle Scout project constructing an attractive set of steps with a stone walkway between the studio entrance and the tower doorway, and removing the railroad ties and clearing overgrowth along Rose Valley Road. Will Swartzentruber completed his Eagle Project rebuilding the bus stop shelter on the corner of Rose Valley and Brookhaven Roads.

2019 Goals:

- Apply for grants and donations from outside organizations while continue fundraising efforts within the local community.
- Replace the damaged wood in the roof where the tiles were removed to rebuild the chimney last year, build a cricket to divert water away from the back of the chimney, replace the ice and water shield underlayment, and reinstall the roof tiles in this area.
- Repair other areas of the roof where leaks or damaged wood are identified.
- Repair the walls, floor and ceiling in the downstairs studio where the bathroom was removed last year.
- Make the deck of the upstairs porch water proof.
- Repair and re-point the masonry column on the downstairs porch.
- Determine the cost/benefit of replacing the awning that once covered the upstairs porch.
- Improve the building security.
- Develop a plan for improving the parking lot.

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

2018 Accomplishments:

During our first full year in Thunderbird Lodge we have managed to fulfill our goal of being open to the public one weekend a month, except for summer when we were undergoing renovation. We have had a light but consistent stream of visitors during the day-time hours. That stream has also consistently turned into a deluge for our evening programs, with standing-room-only for our four lectures, and a packed house for our “Mischief Night at the Museum” fundraiser/party. This event netted us \$7,000, some of which will go towards the restoration of a roughly used but beautiful and unique Rose Valley table now in our collection.

Fourteen of us took a spectacular weekend field trip in May to western Pennsylvania to visit Frank Lloyd Wright’s Fallingwater and Kentuck Knob. Stay tuned for a trip next year to Harrisburg to see the Mercer tile floors and Violet Oakley murals in the State Capitol, with a guided tour courtesy of Representative Leanne Kruger-Braneky. There are murmurs about a trip to the arts community of Byrdcliffe in Woodstock, NY too.

Three years ago our Board was invited to visit Craftsman Farm and discuss with their Board what it takes to run a museum. We reciprocated this summer with an invite to their Board and major sponsors to visit us. It was a gratifying day as many of the participants were aficionados of the Arts and Crafts movement and were so impressed that we actually sold quite a bit of material from the Museum shop.

In June we partnered with Winterthur in a workshop exploring the Arts and Crafts movement and its relationship to utopian communities, using Rose Valley as an example. The day included a lecture by Thomas Guiler, PhD, Assistant Professor of History and Public Humanities at Winterthur, a tour of the Winterthur Library and its resources, then on to Rose Valley for a box lunch and walking tour of Rose Valley, Thunderbird Lodge and our collection.

This coming February, a group of us will again attend the Arts and Crafts Conference in Asheville, NC to bring Rose Valley’s existence to national attention. And speaking of attention, we were awarded the Gina Walker Outstanding Project Award by the Communal Studies Association. Go to their website and see a photo of Tom Guiler accepting the award for us.

With a grant from the Ethel Sergeant Clarke Smith Foundation we are purchasing much-needed display cases and three tablet computers. The tablets will enable us to create virtual tours of our collection. RVMHS member Neil Toporski has volunteered to help make us ADA compliant with this project and has completed the visuals; the audio is next. Another of our members, Carl Finkbeiner, volunteered many hours of 2018 with Ryan Berley photographing every piece in our collection. These were both time-consuming and necessary steps in our maturation as a museum.

On the collections front, 2018 has seen donations of some very significant objects, including a rare, signed Rose Valley Shops circular table that descended in the Walton family, along with a hand-carved Gothic table, ironwork, photographs and other local material from the Walton’s, an important early Rose Valley family. And speaking of families, some long-lost relatives of the Price clan came forward to donate 19th century photographs of Will Price, along with his parents, brothers and sisters. Additionally, a couple of Will Price watercolors were added to our growing Price collection, along with an incredible 1884 diary, hand-illuminated and illustrated in pen-and-ink by Will Price detailing a two-week sojourn by the S.A.K. (Seekers After Knowledge) near Eagles Mere, PA. This record survives as one of the most important pieces the Museum owns today; we are thrilled to have it and share it with the larger community.

We are addressing our expanding need to maintain accurate accession/deaccession files and set up a more permanent inventory system for the Museum collection/business, but still have miles to go. We have switched to Quick Books Non-Profit software to track the financial side of the Museum. It has been a challenge, but we are near completion of what we hope will work for the foreseeable future.

All in all, a very good year, and impossible without the help of our volunteers who greet guests, answer questions, guard the collection, help in the shop, arrange flowers and provide food. Thunderbird Lodge is not just a museum, it is another opportunity to interact with other members of the community. And for you Rose Valley trail walkers, there is now a perch by the pergola on which you can sit and appreciate this picturesque place.

2019 Goals:

- Completion of collections inventory.
- Formalize committees for operations of house, grounds & museum.
- iPad program in place for virtual tours of Museum.
- Roof awnings over decks in order to make them functional.
- Outbuildings for storage, restroom facilities & iron smithy.
- Serviceable prep kitchen in cellar.

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 70 plus individuals (men and women) spans the generations; a common thread is our interest in gardening and caring for the community. In all, 2018 was a very robust year of activities enjoyed by many residents of Rose Valley and beyond.

2018 Accomplishments:

Activities: Field trips and learning opportunities this year were numerous and included: a community-wide winter lecture by Chanticleer Garden horticulturist and photographer, Lisa Roper; a tour of the rose and perennial garden at Scott Arboretum; field trips to Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve, the Shofuso Japanese House and Gardens in Fairmont Park, Bartram’s Garden, and Stoneleigh; and a tour of Fishing Rock Farm, the garden of community member Janet Chrzan. Additionally, four Gardeners’ Night Out events provided opportunities to prep for May basket and swag making, brainstorm about future activities, informally swap plants, and enjoy each other’s company.

Gardening: The Gardeners held seasonal group clean-ups of Pew Park and 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 caretakers. John Kelley of Hollywood Landscaping continues to generously volunteer time assisting with the restoration and rejuvenation of the Pew 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 plus May baskets and the 80 plus holiday swags. Additionally, Boy Scouts from Rose Valley Troop 272 assisted with wilt proofing the greens.

2019 Goals:

-We look forward to seeing community members at our upcoming evening winter lecture on Monday, January 28, at the Old Mill at 7:30 pm. Internationally known food historian and author, William Woys Weaver will be the speaker. Weaver, an organic gardener, will be speaking on the topic of heirloom vegetables and seed collection. Refreshments will follow. Tickets are \$12 at the door.

-We continue to encourage new members to join us. Those interested should contact Debbie Flanagan (debflan@gmail.com) or Mary Cooper (mcooper@dcdesignco.com).

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

Thank you, residents, for making our 2018 July 4th Celebration one of the Best Ever!

Special thanks to Mike Dixon, Chair of the Rose Valley Swimming Pool Board; Paula Healy, Borough Manager; Bill Hale, President of Borough Council; and to State Representative Leanne Krueger-Braneky who led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Thanks to Vince Deery and his hardworking staff who provided guards and had the pool in excellent shape. The pool was beautifully decorated before the parade by a loyal crew including Mina Varney, Karen Johnson, Janet Goldstein, and Cynthia McPherson who turned the scene into a Red-White-and-Blue panorama. All-around helpers included Gail and Bill Hale, Marge and Dave Firm, Bob and Paula Healy, Tim and Margee Hanford. Balloons were delivered by Marge Firm and Gail Hale. The parade led by Boy Scouts from Troop 272 and Scoutmaster John Traverso kicked off at 2:00 pm sharp. There were wailing fire engines from South Media Fire Company; a mob from Hedgerow Theatre; antique cars driven by Marty Goldstein, Dennis and Michele Morris, Peter Dijkstra, and Jim Reid; a forest of decorated bicycles, wagons, scooters and walkers. Over 250 stood for the Boy Scout flag raising, National Anthem (beautifully sung by Vippy Yee), and the Pledge of Allegiance. Uncle Sam provided a brief summary of the events leading up to the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. Our DJ kept everyone in a holiday mood. Games in the pool, ably led by Lacey Nolan again, were followed by a gorgeous picnic. Our faithful crew had cooked and wrapped 20 dozen hamburgers and as many hotdogs. Guests formed two lines around tables overflowing with burgers and dogs, donated salads and desserts. A sense of community was felt by everyone as they enjoyed the neighborhood picnic that followed. Our list of loyal workers, many of whom have served faithfully year after year, included Mike and Mary Vartanian, Stu Ockman, John Neilson, and Anthony Ferruzzi. Wrappers and servers included Annette Bushmen, Carol Dixon, Gail Hale and Paula Healy. Please plan to attend our July 4, 2019 celebration. All Rose Valley residents, Rose Valley Pool members and their guests are invited.

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 2018 and look forward to another wonderful year in the Valley during 2019!

Sincerely,
Tim Plummer
Mayor