

## COUNCIL MEETING

April 14, 2021

The regular meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held via Zoom on April 14, 2021. President of Council Bill Hale called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Other Council members present were: Councilpersons Deb DeMasi, Dave Firn, Bob Siwicki and Judy Voet; Treasurer Joe Hare; Controller John Neilson; Solicitor G. Guy Smith and Secretary Paula Healy. Councilpersons Stephanie Middleton and Vippy Yee, and Mayor Tim Plummer were absent.

Members of the public attending the meeting were: Susan Audley, Janet Baycich, John Baycich, Carl Breithaupt, John Caldwell, Bob Caulfield, Kelly Caulfield, Kevin Coan, Cindy Holston, Peter Howell, Frida Keiter, Mac Keiter, Jack Lewis, Kristina Novick, Ron Ploeg, Rich O'Flynn, Teresa O'Flynn, Owen Redgrave, Penny Reed, Ian Rubin, Katie Rubin, John Sawyer, Chip Seltzer, David Shaw, Kathleen Siwicki, Marion Taxin, Richard Taxin and Kelly Walker.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the March 10, 2021 Council Meeting were approved with the addition of librarian Laura McBride's last name, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Hale asked if there was any public comment. Chip Seltzer, President of the Rose Valley Swimming Pool Board, said he was attending the meeting to request that Council again waive the amusement tax for the Pool in 2021 as income was down and costs were up substantially last summer due to the pandemic and the club is still struggling financially. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, Council agreed to exonerate the Borough Tax Collector from collecting the amusement tax from Rose Valley Swimming Pool for 2021.

### ENVIRONMENT & EAC

Mr. Firn reported that the annual EAC Plant Sale and Invasives Workshop will be held on Saturday, April 24 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with a rain date of Sunday, April 25. Native plants will be for sale and Dr. Roger Latham will guide a nature walk through the Saul Wildlife Sanctuary.

Mr. Firn also reported that the concept of a bridge across Ridley Creek from the Saul Wildlife Sanctuary to the Chadwick Wildlife Sanctuary has become quite controversial and that it turns out the deeds gifting the Saul Wildlife Sanctuary to the Borough state that the land is to be used as a wildlife refuge and bird sanctuary and for no other purposes whatsoever. Council asked Solicitor Smith to advise whether this deed restriction would preclude the construction of a pedestrian bridge across Ridley Creek on Saul Wildlife Sanctuary land. Mr. Smith said he would need time to research the matter and noted that Section 701 of the Borough Zoning Code regarding permitted uses of land designated as Open Space would prohibit a bridge as currently written. He also noted the Environmental Ordinance would require a Conservation Plan and building permit for any construction in the floodplain.

## HIGHWAYS, INSURANCE & TECHNOLOGY

McCusker Landscaping has cut back the embankment at the corner of Longpoint Lane and Knowlton Road to improve the left-hand sightline and is investigating the availability of native plants to replant the hillside. The increased cost for native plants will depend on the plants purchased but is expected to be between \$1,600 and \$2,000. John Baycich, 4 N. Longpoint Lane, thanked Council on behalf of all the Longpoint Lane residents for making this much needed improvement.

Three bids were received for the repointing the stone bridge on Old Mill Lane. They were \$15,000 from the Keith Childs Masonry, who did the masonry work and repointing at Thunderbird Lodge; \$14,000 from Jeff George Masonry; and \$10,200 from Weaverland Masonry, who previously repointed Hedgerow Theatre, various Mill houses, the Gate House ruins and the Old Mill Lane pillars. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, Weaverland Masonry was awarded the contract to repoint the Old Mill Lane bridge. The work is expected to be done in July.

A bid of \$1,975 was received from Jeff George Masonry, who repaired the damaged bricks near the top of the stormwater inlet on Todmorden Drive last year, to make similar repairs to the stormwater inlet on Tanglewood Circle. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, Jeff George Masonry was awarded the contract to repair the Tanglewood Circle stormwater inlet.

Bids are also being requested to take down the stonewall and cut back the embankment at the intersection of Prices Lane and Rose Valley Road in preparation for rebuilding the stone wall further back from Rose Valley Road to improve the left-hand sightline for motorist pulling out of Price's Lane.

Ms. Yee also reported that her daughter and Penn State Brandywine intern Shane Houseman have been working on updating the Borough website.

## LIBRARY

Mrs. Voet reported the following: The majority of adult volunteers and staff should be vaccinated by the end of May. The book quarantine period has been reduced to 24 hours. An outdoor Wi-Fi extender was installed so that Wi-Fi now covers both the parking lot and the front lawn. The elevator has been fixed. The problem was found to be caused by a clogged drain and not a roof leak. Mold was found in the ceiling of the elevator shaft and will be dealt with.

The Great Renovate Raffle was won by Debbie Slack who received \$2,500 and a free in-home consultation by A Pickup Project. The raffle raised a net of \$7,170 from 93 bidders and 6 sponsors. The Book Sale cart available at contactless pickups has so far raised over \$100 each month. In the absence of in-library programs the librarians have held outdoor story times and created many projects for both children and adults which have been enthusiastically received. The Book club will transition from virtual to an in-person, outdoor Adult Summer Book Club.

Laura McBride has several interviews scheduled with new volunteers in preparation for reopening the building. The Librarians have requested that it not reopen until they can be vaccinated. There is tentative discussion of reopening with reduced hours and reduced capacity starting June 1<sup>st</sup> with a plan to expand hours in the fall. The book drop will remain open 24/7, there will be no indoor programs or meeting room usage and contactless pick-up will be by special request only. The library will accept book donations of hardbacks, paperbacks, and children's books in good condition on Sundays only from 8am-6pm.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

Mrs. DeMasi reviewed the Police and Fire Reports for March. The Police Report showed 3 incidents of fraud. The Fire Report showed three responses: on 3/1, the fire company assisted an EMS; on 3/3, the fire company responded to an automatic fire alarm at Hedgerow Theatre; and on 3/6 the fire company investigated an outdoor fire in Middletown near the Long Point development. The Fire Marshall Matt Poissant provided a flyer with warnings and advise about propane grilling. Mrs. DeMasi also reviewed the data from the speed devices on Rose Valley Road.

Mrs. DeMasi announced that Covid-19 vaccinations will be available to everyone over 18 starting April 12 and encouraged all residents to get vaccinated as soon as possible. To date there have been 31 reported cases in Rose Valley and one death.

Mrs. DeMasi requested that persons named in the Notification and Resource Manual (NARM) of the Rose Valley Borough Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) make certain their contact information is current and to send any updates to the Rose Valley Borough Office. Additionally, borough residents with special needs during an emergent event are encouraged to send their information to the Borough Office.

## PLANNING

Mr. Hale reported that at the Planning Commission meeting on April 1<sup>st</sup>, consultant Bob Thomas outlined a preliminary preferred layout for the sidepath. In the short section near the Mill Houses, there is not much room for the sidepath other than in the PennDOT right-of-way so easements from landowners are generally not required. For the long institutional section from the Mill Houses to School Lane, the sidepath could be located on Borough owned property and on the Thunderbird Lodge property well out of the PennDOT right-of-way so easements again would not be required. The preferred location for crossing Rose Valley Road is just north of Roylencroft Lane because the road is straight there with good visibility for 300 feet in both directions. The sidepath would then run along the east side of RV Road to Woodward Road within the Borough boundaries. Bob advised it would be best to have the whole project located in the Borough if possible. The feasibility of the project will depend mainly on the willingness of landowners along the proposed route to grant easements. The most crucial easement will be where a stone wall is located only two feet from the white line as this is currently the most dangerous place for pedestrians to try to walk.

Ron Ploeg noted he had initial talks with some landowners and plans to have discussions with the other landowners along the route over the coming weeks.

### FINANCES

Mr. Hare reviewed the Status of Funds for March. Mr. Siwicki went over the Income Report for March noting substantial real estate tax receipts. Mr. Neilson reviewed the Bills for Approval and answered questions. The Bills for Approval in the amount of \$30,108.91 from the General Fund and \$9,975.00 from the Road Improvement Fund for McCusker Landscaping's work along Knowlton Road were approved on motions made, seconded and unanimously passed.

### MANAGER'S REPORT

The bronze beaver and Minquas Indian plaque were stolen from the Minquas Trail monument on Rose Valley Road near Traymore Lane some time during the night of Easter Sunday. The Minquas Trail Monument was dedicated in 1926 and was considered to be the most beautiful roadside marker in Pennsylvania. The State Police were notified, and Trooper Tobin quickly arranged for three TV news crews to come to Thunderbird Lodge and report on the story for the evening news noting a reward of \$5,000 for the safe return of the beaver and plaque.

The Annual Large Trash Collection will be held on May 3 and 4.

There is a possibility the Borough could receive some money from the Federal Recovery Act.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

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Paula W. Healy, Secretary