

MINUTES FOR THE ROSE VALLEY EAC MEETING OF JUNE 24, 2025

Attendance:

EAC Voting Members: Leonard Busby, Chair; Roger Latham, Vice Chair; Ron Ploeg; Katie Rubin; Olivia Nnadi; Cindy Burke

EAC Associate Members: Jim Audley; Dave Firn

Other Attendees: Bill Hale, Mayor; Marya Bradley

Call to Order:

Leonard called the meeting to order at 7:37 pm.

Public Comment:

None.

Approval of Minutes for EAC meeting of April 22, 2025:

With the understanding that Leonard would correct non-substantive typos, Cindy Burke moved that these minutes be approved; Katie Rubin seconded this motion. The motion was unanimously approved except that Cindy abstained because she had not been present for the April 22 meeting.

Final financial report for the Annual Native Plant Sale:

Leonard reported that he would insert into the minutes the final figures for expenditures and revenue after obtaining these figures from the Borough Office. And, the now inserted final figures are as follows: expenses of \$4,367.80 for the purchase of native plants; revenues of \$8,159.85 for the sale of native plants; net revenue to the Borough of \$3,792.05. Leonard and all present expressed renewed thanks to Marge Firn and the Gardeners of Rose Valley for doing another awesome job. Cindy Burke was acknowledged and thanked for her three years of leadership and work on previous native plant sales.

Report on May and June workdays in the Saul and Chadwick Preserves:

Jim Audley was thanked by all for his remarkable continuing contributions to our Preserves. Jim reported that a total of seven people each worked between 4 to 8 hours on May 10; water bars on trails were cleared; downed trees were cleared from trails; various invasive plants were removed; existing cages protecting trees from deer were cleared of vines and other vegetation; 14 trees were planted and caged; photos of invasive plants to be removed by any and all Preserve visitors were posted in the Saul kiosk.

Jim noted that he had arranged for use of the Delco Tool Trailer which is made available through Delaware County at no cost to municipalities and non-profit environmental groups; this trailer contains all needed tools and equipment for the volunteer work done in our preserves.

Total expenses incurred were \$924, but Jim and his neighbor had received payment of \$200 for clearing a downed tree in their own neighborhood and they donated that sum to the Borough such that the net total cost was \$724. Appreciation for this gift was expressed by all.

Jim arranged for and picked up 47 trees that were provided for free through the Schuylkill Valley Nature Center; 23 of these trees remain available and are being cared for by Jim or others until planted.

On May 18 another work day was organized by Jim, this one in Chadwick and Jim ended up being the only volunteer. Jim removed a number of invasive Angelica trees and multiflora rose shrubs.

Jim shared that he had made plans (all cleared with The Folk) for “Friends of the Trails” workdays on the third Sunday of each month this summer, plus an additional Sunday on July 13. Work will go from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm each day.

Leonard noted that Jim had identified a number of dead trees in the Saul Preserve that are near trails or near living trees that could be damaged if the dead trees fell on them. After discussion it was agreed that Leonard and our Mayor, Bill Hale, will look at various of these trees. Leaving portions of dead trees standing as habitat for critters and to save expense was discussed.

Report on management of invasive knotweed and poison ivy:

Leonard reported that David Hilbert had completed the spring program of applying glyphosate onto remaining invasive knotweed plants in the Long Point flood plain in the Chadwick Preserve. Leonard said that David stated to him that all equipment and materials used by David last Fall and this Spring to treat invasive knotweed had now been removed.

Leonard said that poison ivy spraying (using Triclopyr) three feet on each side of trails in the Saul Preserve had also been completed by David, as was the cutting and Triclopyr treatment of one poison ivy vine in Chadwick near the Chadwick kiosk.

Jim Audley said that he had seen healthy and untreated poison ivy along side the trail next to the Saul kiosk; Jim then showed the photo that he had taken of this apparently thriving poison ivy. Leonard said that he would ask David to treat untreated poison ivy in the Saul Preserve.

Update on PECO program for free tree replacement program for trees being removed by PECO and on recommended best practices as regards PECO tree pruning or removal:

Leonard stated his understanding that Paula Healey had not yet gotten details from PECO about when free replacement trees would be available or about other logistical details.

Roger Latham noted the experience of a neighbor that past instructions given by the neighbor to PECO personnel about how to treat trees on his property during a previous PECO tree removal and pruning project had not been passed on to the the actual field workers. Therefore, Roger recommended that property owners be personally present if at all possible during any tree work done by or for PECO on their property.

Roger confirmed that best practices include (1) leaving safe snags for wildlife where safe and reasonable (meaning a retained upright portion of the tree trunk) and (2) selecting a variety of native replacement tree that will stay low enough when mature such that future removal will not be required. (Note: Homeowners are encouraged to attach specific requests/instructions for treatment of their trees on any of their trees tagged/marked by PECO.)

Leonard said that he would follow up with PECO (with Paula's help) in order to prepare an email blast to residents with relevant information about the free tree replacement program for Rose Valley (and other municipalities) as promised by PECO in some its previous public communications.

Update on leaf pack project to assess Ridley Creek stream health:

Katie Rubin shared that only two of the six leaf packs previously placed in Ridley Creek were recovered, the other four having been presumably dislodged by flooding. A good variety of macro invertebrates was found in the two recovered leaf packs. The "stream health score" was somewhat lower than last year's. But the very small sample size was noted and thought to be disqualifying in terms of statistical significance.

Katie said that the Stroud Water Research Center mobile laboratory would again be coming to Rose Valley for a program this Fall.

Follow up on winter salt awareness as regards proposed modification(s) to the Borough's annual bid invitation document and contract:

After brief discussion it was agreed that Katie would provide Leonard with a copy of recommended best practices based on her earlier research and attendance at a program devoted to this important environmental issue.

Discussion regarding demonstration rain garden project for Pew Park and possible qualification of this project, or some other Pew Park project, for compliance by Rose Valley Borough with an upcoming MS4 engineering project (Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer System — one “M” and four “S’s”):

Discussion included differences between a “retention tank” and an “infiltration tank” and a rain garden and an infiltration bed.

It was agreed that Katie Rubin would make arrangements with Greenweavers — the landscaping architects identified by Katie (and others) as having substantial experience and expertise in the environmentally-sound management of storm water run-off — for a no-charge site visit to Pew Park by one or more persons from Greenweavers in order to enhance our understanding of what Greenweavers would do in exchange for payment of \$3,000 for a design intended to reduce ongoing erosion on the West side of Pew Park and downhill from Pew Park. Katie will invite all EAC Voting and Associate Members as well as Mayor Hale and other interested persons to participate in the site visit.

The goal is to have the site visit in advance of the next EAC meeting which is on July 22, thereby allowing for a vote by the EAC on July 22 about going forward with contracting with Greenweavers for a \$3,000 design.

As regards having a list of possible future MS4 projects for the EAC to recommend to Borough Council, reference was made to the problem of repeated flooding, with resulting dirt, gravel, and debris, onto Rose Valley Road during intense rains and at the area of Rose Valley Road where the small pedestrian wooden bridge is on one side of Rose Valley Road and the Hedgerow Theatre is on the other side.

Discussion about use of recent contributions (\$500 in 2024 and \$1,000 in 2025) from the Ronald and Audrey Winkelvoss Charitable Fund:

After first expressing renewed appreciation to Ronald and Audrey Winkelvoss for their years of contributions to our Borough for environmental improvements and initiatives, EAC members discussed possible ideas for the use of the noted funds. Jim Audley suggested using the money to encourage residents to obtain their own rotating composter bin to produce home compost for vegetable gardening and flower beds — perhaps by having the Borough use the noted funds to pay for half of the actual cost of each bin. This idea was well received and will be investigated further. Leonard invited all present to offer any additional ideas that occur to them.

Old and New Business:

Mayor Hale noted that the issue of having the Borough solicit bids for trash pick up had been brought up at Borough Council and he asked for the thoughts of the EAC on this idea. Discussion followed. The general consensus on the part of the EAC was that from a solely environmental perspective — as regards, for example, carbon footprint, air pollution, and tire residue contamination — using only one trash hauler, and having only one weekly pick up, would be environmentally much better than the Borough's current system of having individual residents contract with multiple different commercial trash haulers to pick up trash multiple times per week throughout the Borough.

One idea suggested as an alternative to a Borough-wide program was for neighbors on particular streets trying to agree amongst themselves on all using the same trash hauler and only once per week.

Adjourn:

On motion duly made and seconded and then unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard Busby, Acting Secretary