

Rose Valley EAC meeting, October 28, 2025

Voting members present: Leonard Busby (chair), Roger Latham, Olivia Nnadi, Ron Ploeg, Katie Rubin, Kathy Siwicki (recording)

Associate members present: Jim Audley, Dave Firn

Residents attending: Bill Hale (Mayor), Peter Howell, David and Julie Shaw, Bill Thomas

(Action items are in red type, below.)

1. Leonard Busby called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm.
2. **Minutes** of September 23, 2025 EAC meeting were approved.
3. **Report on MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) Project Planned for Vernon Run and Discussion of Options for future MS4 Projects**

Roger Latham reported on meeting with Hermann Moser of Land Stewards LLC. This company did the work in the Saul Preserve to stabilize the Ridley Creek stream bank several years ago. (That work does not qualify for MS4 approval.)

Reminder that Matt Houtmann had identified two spots along Vernon Run where we could do streambank stabilization projects (live staking) that would be approved by MS4:

- Along the stream where it joins Ridley Creek at the Old Mill. But the RV Folk owns this property, and they want to preserve the bamboo that is presently along the stream.
- Along Vernon Run on Pool property, extending from the stone bridge near the pool upstream to the edge of Pool property near the manhole cover on Pool Lane.
 - Hermann Moser will do the design proposal for the work, specifying details and providing a cost estimate. This design will be the “bid specs” that we can then put out for bid.
 - **Roger will find out what Hermann will charge to prepare the bid specs.**
- Peter Howell - Can the project be extended to bordering private properties? Specifically wondering about his own property and the next one downstream. Leonard pointed out that to meet the needs of our current MS4 permit, we need to stabilize banks on both sides of the stream for a length of 100 ft. To do more than that might be more than is budgeted.
- Roger - Re Jim Audley’s proposal for a detention basin to catch water from “Dishwater Run.” Hermann also looked at that, and raised a couple issues:
 - The present “system” causes overflow onto Rose Valley Rd and into residents’ yards during heavy rains. It will be necessary to decrease the flow coming from upstream (the watershed).
 - PennDOT has to be involved in a project that would cross Rose Valley Rd.
- Leonard – the approval deadline for the next 5 years of the MS4 permit is Fall 2026. Our goal is to get the work done (planting new trees) in February 2026. So we need to get the bid specs asap in order to get it approved by Borough Council then invite bids in

November and award the contract in time to get the work done in February. Borough Council meets in 2 weeks (November 12).

- Roger will contact Hermann Moser and try to get the bid specs asap.

4. Deer Management Program for December of 2025 and January of 2026

Leonard summarized the proposal for the coming season. As in recent years, the EAC will propose to have only one authorized hunter, Justin Franks, who will hunt on Borough Property in Todmorden Woods with a bow and arrow, only on weekdays, only during specified times, for two weeks in early December and four weeks after the New Years' holiday. He'll be allowed to take one buck and a number of does, depending on permits (aka "tags"). Specific dates are the weeks of Dec 1-5, Dec 8-12, Jan 5-9, Jan 12-16, Jan 19-23, Jan 26-30.

David and Julie Shaw (Longpoint residents) voiced strong opposition to the proposal, including to the use of taxpayer money to support a deer hunt.

Leonard reviewed the facts of EAC-approved deer hunting on Borough property.

- Public hunting was initially allowed, but results were mixed.
- In response to community feedback, the hunt has subsequently been limited to a single bow hunter who is a retired PA State Police officer. The Borough pays him for each deer that he gets.
- It has been limited to Todmorden Woods for many years.

Jim Audley argued that the deer hunt is intended to protect our woods from over-grazing by deer. They eat the young plants that other critters rely on. The goal of the hunt is to mitigate that, to help the community by keeping the woods healthy.

Leonard noted the Shaws' opposition, and their concerns about using taxpayer dollars. He noted that the task of the EAC is to consider the pros and cons, and to make recommendations to Borough Council.

Roger moved to recommend that Borough Council approve the Todmorden deer hunt by Justin Franks, as described above. The motion was seconded and approved by a unanimous voice vote.

5. Update on the PECO Tree Replacement Program

Leonard: Paula Healy has reached out to Michelle Garrity at PECO to find out when they will deliver the trees that they promised when they initially informed us about the ongoing work of replacing utility lines and poles. But she has not responded to Paula's messages.

Leonard will follow up with Michelle.

6. Report on October Volunteer Stewardship Days in the Saul Preserve

Jim Audley – About 20 people worked in Saul Preserve last weekend, widening and improving drainage on 300 feet of trail and 12 water bars. The cost was \$2,900 for equipment rental and materials (including lunch for workers). Many EAC members expressed thanks to Jim for his remarkable efforts to organize the work and his continuing commitment to our Preserves.

Roger will forward photos to Jim, who will forward to Olivia for posting on the EAC website.

7. Update on Invasive Knotweed Management

Leonard reported that David Hilbert has been hired to apply glyphosate to knotweed in the Chadwick floodplain. David is fastidious about applying glyphosate only when there's no rain in the forecast, applying it directly to stems of cut plants, or spraying a heavy mist. There's been a gradual improvement over 4-5 years.

8. EAC Budget

The proposed EAC budget (discussed at the September meeting) is being considered by Borough Council in their ongoing budget discussions.

9. Discussion on Composter Purchases, and possible tree planting, collectively made possible by the Ronald and Audrey Winkelvoss Charitable Fund

EAC needs to recommend to Borough Council how to use the Winkelvoss Fund contribution. Two options being considered:

- Composters – The Borough could purchase composters and offer them to residents at half price. Roger will look into this.
- Audrey W. is interested in planting shade trees. Let's think about where to plant and what kinds of trees.

10. New and Old Business

Leonard – Borough Council will soon be considering next year's recycling contract. Should we recommend in future years that Council also consider a municipal trash hauler for the Borough? It would likely be a smaller carbon footprint than the multiple private trash haulers that presently service RV residents.

Dave Firn – We are close to final certification of Rose Valley as a wildlife friendly community by the National Wildlife Foundation. He submitted a draft letter for the EAC to support this. The EAC unanimously approved Leonard sending a slightly modified version of this letter.

Katie Rubin reported on two water-quality projects.

- Leaf packs have been placed in Ridley Creek in the Saul Preserve. Borough residents (especially families) will be invited to participate on November 9 when the Stroud Water Conservation people will be here to help identify the invertebrates in the leaf packs.
- To assess the impacts of winter uses of salt-based ice melt, she has collected “pre-salting” water samples from Minquas Run, Vernon Run, and streams in Todmorden and near the Mills in RV. She will also take samples during the winter and subject them to chloride testing.

Borough resident John Caldwell is interested in supporting the EAC to plant disease-resistant elms and chestnuts. To be considered in future meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Siwicki
Acting Secretary