

COUNCIL MEETING

February 14, 2024

The monthly meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on February 14, 2024 in the main room of the Old Mill, 9 Old Mill Lane, Rose Valley, Pa. President of Council Matt Sullivan called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Other Council members present were Joe Hare, Cheryl Harner, Kathryn Mehan, Tony Orr and Shannon Prown; Mayor Bill Hale; Controller John Neilson; Solicitor G. Guy Smith and Secretary Paula Healy. Councilman Leonard Busby and Treasurer Chris Bourke were absent.

Residents attending the meeting were Christina DiChiara, Jim Kauffman, Ron Ploeg and Bill Thomas.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the January 10, 2024 Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ENVIRONMENT & EAC

Leonard Busby submitted the following report: The only designated hunter for the Borough's deer management program harvested 6 deer from the Todmorden Woods during the authorized hunting period which ended January 26, 2024. As in recent years, there were no complaints or concerns expressed by residents.

The EAC and Rose Valley Gardeners Annual Native Plant Sale is scheduled for April 27 under the pavilion at the Old Mill. This has been approved by the Rose Valley Folk. This will be the last Native Plant Sale organized by Cindy McPherson of the EAC, who has done a truly awesome job of planning and leading this sale for many years.

Immense thanks to Kathy Siwicki who has again agreed to lead a "Free the Trees" work weekend on May 4 and 5 to free trees from English ivy on Borough property and on private properties at the request of landowners. This work weekend has also been coordinated with the Folk. More than 150 trees were freed of English ivy at last year's "Free the Trees" weekend. The EAC reminds everyone that English ivy is an invasive and non-native plant. It only produces berries, which are its seeds, when it goes vertical by climbing trees or other structures; birds eat the berries and thereby introduce the ivy elsewhere. Berries also blow off the trees and start new infestations of ivy. Trees that host English ivy are damaged by the ivy in multiple ways including by introducing insects and rot, damaging and often killing the tree when the ivy climbs to the top, and by creating an enhanced risk of the tree being blown down in windstorms because of the extra weight when ice, snow, or water is retained by the ivy.

In short, allowing English ivy to grow on trees is dangerous, unhealthy for the tree, and allows invasive English ivy to reproduce. The EAC encourages residents of Rose Valley to remove English ivy from their trees by simply cutting all vines at the base of the tree and preventing new ones from climbing up. The existing vines that have climbed the tree will die and fall off in a year or two.

The EAC continues to have a voting member vacancy. Anyone interested in serving as a voting member of the EAC should contact Paula Healy.

HIGHWAYS, INSURANCE & TECHNOLOGY

Engineer Matt Houtmann prepared a report of the estimated cost for the Borough or Aqua to mill and overlay roads disturbed by Aqua's water line replacement work. Aqua informed Matt that its cost to mill and overlay was \$21.00 per square yard, while A. F. Damon provided a current estimated cost for such work to Matt of \$12.75 per square yard. Aqua would probably only be required to repave half the width of most roads, depending on the extent of disturbance and how narrow the road is. Resident Tina DiChiara asked that the full width of Price's Lane be repaved. It would probably be preferable to accept a contribution from Aqua for the work it would have done and have the Borough repave the full width of the roads. After some discussion, it was agreed to have Matt Houtmann finalize his calculation of the repaving quantities for the work that Aqua would be required to do and then seek a contribution-in-lieu of repaving offer from Aqua that the Borough could consider authorizing for acceptance at the March meeting.

Mr. Orr has updated the Borough website and is working on making it easier to navigate.

LIBRARY

Ms. Mehan was unable to attend the monthly Library Board of Directors meeting and had nothing new to report.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Ms. Harner reported the January Police Report showed no incidents and the January Fire Report showed five responses to automatic fire alarms and a house fire on Locust Lane on 1/12/24. The Fire Marshall sent a flier reminding everyone to replace the batteries in their smoke detectors. Typical data was received from the Rose Valley Road speed devices. The State Police will hold their annual Troop K Camp Cadet Program for ages 11 – 14 this summer.

PLANNING

Ms. Prown informed Council that the Borough was awarded a \$100,000 grant from the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program (GTRP) for the design and construction of a walking trail from Woodward Road to Buttonwood Way, with the exception of the portion from the Seider's driveway south to the Seider property line. This money, along with the \$75,980 Delaware County Green Ways Round 2 Grant for a trail from Woodward Road to the Seider's driveway, the Eagle Scout

Project trail from the Seider's driveway south to the Seider property line, and the \$150,000 Delaware County Green Ways Round 4 Grant for a trail from the Seider property line south to Buttonwood Way, will allow the Borough the complete the walking trail from Woodward Road to Buttonwood Way.

Ms. Prown made a motion that the Borough sign the Grant Agreement with Delaware County for the \$150,000 Round 4 Green Ways Municipal Grant. The agreement states the Scope of Work is: "Design and construction of a 4-foot wide, hard-surfaced connector trail for safe pedestrian travel along the east side of Rose Valley Road within the municipal Right-of-Way in front of four (4) properties: 1 & 2 Thornpath Way, 173 Rose Valley Road and 2 Buttonwood Way. The project also includes the professional services for final design, bidding the project and supervising construction activities." The grant agreement requires the Borough to record a "Declaration of Public Trust, Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions" for each of four municipal Rights-of-Way where the project is to be located. This motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

Ms. Prown also made a motion that the Borough sign the Contract for the \$100,000 grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, acting through the Commonwealth Financing Authority, for the design and construction of a walking trail from Woodward Road to Buttonwood Way, with the exception of the portion from the Seider's driveway south to the Seider property line. This grant has a 15% matching funds requirement which will be met using the grant monies from Delaware County. This motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

Mr. Sullivan made a motion to authorize the Borough to request proposals from local engineering firms for the development of construction drawings for the walkway from Woodward Road to Buttonwood Way, with the exception of the portion from the Seider's driveway south to the Seider property line. This motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

FINANCES

In Treasurer Bourke's absence, Mr. Hare reviewed the Status of Funds for January and reported that the Bank accounts had been reconciled. He also went over the January Income Reports. Mr. Neilson reviewed the February Bills for Approval and answered questions. The Bills in the amounts of \$34,982.47 from the General Fund and \$19,622.27 from the Highway Aid Fund, which included snowplowing expenses, were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

Mr. Sullivan proposed that Rose Valley pass an ordinance giving volunteer firefighters a "volunteer tax credit" on their Borough Real Estate tax bill, similar to what Nether Providence does, to encourage more people to volunteer. Mr. Smith will prepare an Ordinance for Rose Valley Borough similar to Nether Providence Township's Ordinance for consideration in March.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mrs. Healy reported that the 2024 Borough Real Estate tax bills have been mailed to residents.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Paula W. Healy, Secretary