

COUNCIL MEETING

March 13, 2024

The monthly meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on March 13, 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, Kathryn Mehan, Tony Orr; Mayor Bill Hale; Controller John Neilson; Treasurer Chris Bourke and Secretary Paula Healy. Councilpersons Leonard Busby, Cheryl Harner and Shannon Prown and Solicitor G. Guy Smith were absent.

Residents attending the meeting were Ron Ploeg and Bill Thomas.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the February 14, 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: EAC Member Katie Rubin has arranged for a Zoom webinar on March 21 with Daniel Cleary, owner of EcoLandscapes Design, entitled "Low-Impact, Low-Effort Lawn Care." His business specializes in converting turf lawns to native ground cover and habitats. The event that will help people understand that lawns are environmentally harmful in many ways, such as by increasing stormwater run-off and pollution of waterways with fertilizers and toxic chemicals. The program will introduce simple, inexpensive steps that homeowners can take to improve the environment.

The EAC and Rose Valley Gardeners will hold their Annual Native Plant Sale on Saturday, April 27 from 9:00 am at Noon under the pavilion at the Old Mill. EAC Member Cindy McPherson is again organizing the event and purchasing native plants including herbaceous specimens, shrubs and young trees. EAC member Roger Latham will lead an informative nature walk in the Saul Preserve following the plant sale.

EAC Associate Member Kathy Siwicki is organizing a "Free the Trees" work weekend on May 4 and 5 to free trees of climbing English ivy. Parking and training will be at the Old Mill. Trees with English ivy in the Borough's preserves will be targeted first. Those on private property will be cleared at the request of the property owners subject to the availability of volunteers. 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. Trees with English ivy are damaged and often killed when the ivy climbs to the top. The ivy also introduces insects and rot and increases the risk of the tree being blown down in windstorms because of the extra weight. 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.

Progress continues integrating EAC information into the EAC portion of the Borough website.

HIGHWAYS, INSURANCE & TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Orr reported that Borough Engineer Matt Houtmann and Alan Roth of Aqua PA are working to determine how large a contribution-in-lieu of repaving Aqua would be willing to make to the Borough for roads affected by water line replacement work.

Mr. Hale reported that McCusker Landscaping had removed the stump grindings from the very large tree that fell in Pew Park and installed topsoil, seed and straw. McCusker also rebuilt the damaged retaining wall above the nearby stormwater outlet and installed river jack stone in the culvert along the side of South Ridley Creek Road.

LIBRARY

Ms. Mehan reported the Library Board is looking into replacing the boiler. A walk-through lighting review with Tri-Point Electric provided suggestions for upgrades. Tri-Point is a PECO approved contractor and the Library will be eligible for electric-upgrade grants. Upcoming April events include a Food Truck Fundraiser featuring Plum Pit and Rivalry on State with live entertainment on April 5; Jazz in the Stacks featuring the Renaissance Quintet on April 18; and a Food Truck Fundraiser featuring The Munchy Machine, Scrape & Scoop (ice cream) and musical guest Last Chance on April 26. Helen Kate now has a “Library of Things” which can be checked out by those over 18 including technology, tools, games, crafts, Toniebox kits and DVD bundles. Search “Library of Things” in the search bar to see a full list of available items. In February the Library had 2,713 in-person visitors and 1,047 web visits with circulation of 1,615 adult books, 198 young adult books and 3,339 children’s books.

PUBLIC SAFETY

In Ms. Harner’s absence, Mrs. Healy reported the February Police Report showed 1 incident of theft-fraud and 1 car crash and the February Fire Report showed a response to the car crash at Rose Valley and Brookhaven Roads and a response to an automatic fire alarm. The Fire Marshall sent a flier about backyard burning with spring clean-ups approaching. Typical data was received from the Rose Valley Road speed devices.

PLANNING

In Mrs. Prown’s absence, Mr. Sullivan reported that he had electronically signed the Contract for the \$100,000 Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program (GTRP) grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), 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. Mrs. Healy now also needs to electronically sign this Contract.

Mr. Sullivan also reported the Grant Agreement with Delaware County for the \$150,000 Round 4 Green Ways Municipal Grant and the "Declarations of Public Trust, Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions" for each of four municipal Rights-of-Way where the project is to be located, had required some clarifications regarding their language but would be signed by himself and Mrs. Healy following the meeting.

FINANCES

Mr. Bourke reviewed the Status of Funds for February and reported that the Bank accounts had been reconciled with QuickBooks. Several older reconciliation items were also resolved. Mr. Hare reviewed the February Income Reports. Mr. Neilson went over the March Bills for Approval and answered questions. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Bills for Approval in the amounts of \$38,820.55 from the General Fund and \$8,378.43 from the Highway Aid Fund, which included roadway salting expenses, were approved.

Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Smith are working on an Ordinance to provide a Rose Valley Borough Real Estate Tax Credit for active resident volunteer firefighters.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mrs. Healy reported that the annual large trash pickup will be on April 29 & 30 with its announcement and details provided in the upcoming Spring Newsletter.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hale reported that President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden made a surprise visit to Rose Valley on Friday, March 8 in the late afternoon to have pizza and visit with the Cunicelli family on Price's Lane before heading to a campaign rally at Strath Haven Middle School. The family was acquainted with the Bidens from a time when they lived in Delaware.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Paula W. Healy, Secretary