

COUNCIL MEETING

September 9, 2020

The monthly meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held via Zoom on September 9, 2020. 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, Stephanie Middleton, Bob Siwicki, Judy Voet and Vippy Yee; Mayor Tim Plummer; Treasurer Joe Hare; Controller John Nielson; Solicitor G. Guy Smith; and Secretary Paula Healy.

Members of the Public attending the meeting were: Ed Bendinsky, John Caldwell, Diane Corbett, Geoff Cox, David Dee, S. Diaz, Becky Finley, Gene Foehl, Cindy Holston, Alan Gee, Denham Kelsey, Allison Kimsey, Jim Kimsey, Jessie King, Stephen Knob, Carol Kroch, Julio Loor, Marybeth Kelley, Rich O'Flynn, Teresa O'Flynn, Martin O'Rourke, Ron Ploeg, Sally Jenkins Redgrave, Eric Root, Ian Rubin, Katie Rubin, Chris Sembrot, Aaron Shaver, Anne Marie Smith, Richard Taxin, Kelly Walker and the Zderics.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the August 12, 2020 Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed with the following corrections: the matching grant was \$99,788, not \$98,000; the Ethel Sargeant Clark grant was \$8,000, not \$10,000; and the applied spotted-lantern-fly treatment made the affected trees into trap trees.

ENVIRONMENT & EAC

Jim Audley had some additions to his original plan for the switchback trail in the Chadwick Wildlife Sanctuary. These were distributed to the Council members and there were no objections. Consultant Holly Harper from Natural Lands Trust is going to provide the Borough with improved wording for signs that will be put in the sanctuaries.

HIGHWAYS, INSURANCE & CABLEVISION

Ms. Yee reported that the Borough Engineer Matt Houtmann has started to do the engineering studies for improving the left-side sight line for motorists pulling out of Longpoint Lane onto Knowlton Road and out of Price's Lane onto Rose Valley Road.

LIBRARY

Mrs. Voet submitted the following report: Laura MacBride is a new part-time Public Services Librarian. Contactless pick-up is on Mondays and Wednesdays 12-3pm and Thursdays 4-7pm through September. The book drop is open 24/7 to accept returns, and themed children's book bundles are available for pickup. Delco Libraries extended their quarantine period to 4 days. Please see the updated HKF website (hkflibrary.org) for information on volunteer applications, chromebook check out, museum passes, the Interlibrary Loan program and remote printing.

The library received grants of \$25,000 from Delco Strong and \$4,500 from the Pennsylvania Humanities Council which will be used for COVID-related expenses. The building flooded twice in August, two upstairs HVAC units have stopped working and there was a significant leak

in one area of the building. Due to increased COVID related expenses and HVAC problems, the library anticipates requesting an increase of \$2,000 next year in Rose Valley Borough's contribution, bringing the total donation to \$25,000. A Kona Ice truck fundraiser benefiting the library will take place September 24 from 4:00 to 6:30.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mrs. DeMasi reminded everyone that Pennsylvania is still under the green phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. Peak hurricane season is also here, and she encouraged everyone to have essential items such as food and water stockpiled in their homes. Mrs. DeMasi encouraged residents to vote by mail to avoid crowds.

The Police report cited the following incidents during the month of August: 3 false alarms; 3 reports of animal debris on roads; 1 motor vehicle accident; and 1 call for information. The Fire report showed that the fire company responded to one incident of an automatic alarm set off by cooking.

Mrs. DeMasi distributed data from the working speed device. The second device will be reinstalled as soon as repairs are completed. Mrs. DeMasi answered questions from residents related to the speed on Rose Valley Road.

The Town Watch program is progressing as usual.

PLANNING

Ms. Middleton presented two recommendations to Council which were approved at the September 3, 2020 Planning Commission Meeting.

1) Kelsey Trust Subdivision:

The Janet C. Kelsey Irrevocable Living Trust desires to subdivide the property known as 71-73 West Rose Valley Road, which is the middle of three buildings originally constructed as duplexes to house mill workers on the south side of Rose Valley Road near the intersection with Possum Hollow Road. The Trust previously requested a use variance from Section 401 of the Borough Zoning Ordinance and dimensional variances from Sections 402, 403 and 405 thereof from the Rose Valley Zoning Hearing Board. The RV ZHB approved the request in a decision dated April 10, 2020 with the condition that the Trust seal the basement and third floor openings between the two abodes to the satisfaction of the Borough Building Inspector. The Delaware County Planning Commission reviewed the proposed subdivision plan at its August 20, 2020 meeting. The DCPC recommended the Trust revise and resubmit the plan to address zoning non-conformities because they were unaware that the Trust had already obtained variances from the RV ZHB. A letter from the Delaware County Planning Department dated September 1, 2020 stated that the decision of the RV ZHB satisfies the zoning concerns outlined in the DCPC review. The Planning Commission unanimously voted to recommend to Borough Council that the subdivision plan for 71-73 West Rose Valley Road be approved with the same condition as the ZHB approval. On a motion duly made and seconded, Council unanimously approved the

subdivision plan with this condition. Mr. Smith reminded the applicant that the subdivision plan must now be recorded with Delaware County.

2) Improving the Walkability of Rose Valley Road:

Ms. Middleton reported that Corey Brown, Senior Transportation Planner with the Delaware County Planning Department, had attended the Planning Commission meeting and discussed the availability of grant money to fund projects to improve pedestrian access to train stations. He noted the PA Dept. of Community and Economic Development (DCED) has Multi-Modal Program Grants to fund construction of projects over \$100,000 and PennDOT has similar Multi-Modal Program Grants for construction which are tied to often-stricter PennDOT requirements. He pointed out that in the context of these grants, multi-modal means trains, vehicles and pedestrians. PA DCED also has Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program (GTRP) Grants which will fund feasibility, design and engineering costs. These grants can be applied for in February. Corey noted DCPD maintains a Transportation Improvements Inventory (TII) of proposed municipal transportation projects which includes pathways and sidewalks and is updated every other year. He recommended Rose Valley Borough submit the proposed pathway along Rose Valley Road to the TII before the September 30 closing deadline. He also said he would try to get someone from PennDOT District 6 to help provide advice on the project. It was pointed out that a portion of the pathway would probably be in Nether Providence which would make it a multi-municipal project. Corey noted this was an advantage in obtaining grant funding.

Stephanie also reported that after much discussion, the Planning Commission unanimously voted to recommend to Borough Council that a phase I feasibility study be performed for a 3' - 4' wide pathway along Rose Valley Road from Possum Hollow Road to the Moylan/Rose Valley Train Station and that Mr. Hale enter the proposed pathway on the Delaware County Planning Department's Transportation Improvements Inventory. She also noted that the August 2020 Conceptual Study for a Rose Valley Road Pathway prepared by Robert Thomas of Campbell Thomas & Co. was posted on the Borough website along with the June 2018 Multi-municipal Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Plan for Nether Providence Township and the Boroughs of Swarthmore, Rutledge and Rose Valley.

Alan Gee objected that the "phase I" wording implied that there would be a later study for a pathway between Possum Hollow Road and Brookhaven Road. It was agreed that this terminology would be dropped. In response to a question if there was significant opposition to the pathway, Sally Jenkins noted she and her neighbors were very concerned about the loss of trees along the road, dealing with steep embankments, drainage, increased liability, and the question of who would be responsible for maintaining the pathway and removing snow and ice. It was noted that projects that are expected to cost under \$10,000 may be awarded to a qualified vendor without bidding.

Stephanie proposed that Council engage Robert Thomas as a consultant to assist in the preparation of the feasibility study on a time and expenses basis for up to \$6,000. Dave Firm suggested that the cap be increased to under \$10,000. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, Council approved engaging Robert Thomas of Campbell & Thomas Co. as a consultant on a time and expenses basis to assist in the preparation of a feasibility study for a

3' - 4' wide pathway along Rose Valley Road from Possum Hollow Road to the Moylan/Rose Valley Train Station at a cost of under \$10,000. Council also authorized Mr. Hale to enter the proposed pathway on the Delaware County Planning Department's Transportation Improvements Inventory on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

FINANCES

Mr. Hale informed Council that the Wharton Esherick 1934 Actors Dining Table from Hedgerow House had been purchased by the Borough from Hedgerow Theatre. In March, Council approved the expenditure of \$50,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund in light of the Rose Valley Folk's generous offer to forgive rent for the Borough Office at \$350/month for 10 years, which works out to \$42,000.

Mr. Hare went over the Status of Funds and Income Report for August. Mr. Neilson reviewed the Bills for Approval for September and answered questions. The Bills for Approval in the amounts of \$48,665.22 from the General Fund, and \$50,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund were approved on motions made, seconded and unanimously passed.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mrs. Healy reported that the Delaware County Board of Elections will install a Ballot Drop Box in the Hedgerow Theatre parking lot for the upcoming election. The Drop Box will be monitored by the Delaware County Park Police, and security camera will be installed, and ballots will be picked up every day.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Plummer complimented Borough Council and all the residents who attended tonight's meeting for their concern and professionalism discussing the subjects at hand.

Mayor Plummer reminded everyone that 2023 will be the 100th Anniversary of Rose Valley becoming a Borough. He would like a committee to be formed to work on a celebration.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Smith noted that pending House Bill 1069 would require Public Meeting Agendas to be posted no later than 24 hours before the start of the meeting. Council will not be allowed to act on official items not on the agenda without a separate vote to do so.

He also reminded everyone of the requirements for bidding. Council must bid any project that is expected to cost \$18,500 or more. The project must be advertised in a newspaper of general circulation at least twice, once not more than 45 days before the bids are opened and again not less than 10 days before bid opening. Telephone bids are required for any project that is expected to cost \$10,000 or more but less than \$18,500. You must contact at least three qualified bidders and ask them to bid on the contract. No bids of any kind are required for projects that are expected to cost less than \$10,000.

Mr. Hale announced that Council needed to go into Executive Session to discuss Old Mill Lane and correspondence the Borough received from an attorney about the care and maintenance of the lane. The public was excused, and Council went into Executive Session at 9:50 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 10:52 p.m. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:53 p.m. on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

Paula W. Healy, Secretary