COUNCIL MEETING

January 11, 2017

The monthly meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on January 11, 2017 in the Borough Office, 9 Old Mill Lane, Rose Valley, Pa. President of Council Bill Hale called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. Other Council members present were: Dave Firn, Bob Giorgianni, Al Meyer, Stephanie Middleton and Bob Siwicki; Mayor Tim Plummer, Treasurer Joe Hare, Controller John Neilson, Solicitor G. Guy Smith and Secretary Paula Healy. Councilperson Penny Sass was absent.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the December 14, 2016 meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

PLANNING

Ms. Middleton had nothing new to report.

ENVIRONMENT AND EAC

Mr. Firn reported that the deer hunt will be running until January 28. Six deer have been taken so far this season.

Mr. Firn reported that we can simply be reimbursed for payments we make regarding the Growing Greener Grant, so we will probably not need to open a separate bank account for the grant money.

HIGHWAYS

Mr. Meyer noted that he plans to get this year's road work bids out as soon as possible.

Mrs. Healy reported that the replacement stop signs have been ordered and that arrangements have been made to put them up when they arrive.

LIBRARY

Mr. Siwicki reported that the Library finalized their 2017 Budget. Nether Providence Township increased their contribution by $5000, which everyone greatly appreciates. The Book It! 5K Walk/Run from the Helen Kate Furness Library to Swarthmore Public Library scheduled for April 1 is being planned.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Giorgianni reviewed the Police and Fire Reports for December. The Police report cited the following incidents: 2 false alarms; and 3 responses to incidents on 12/7/16, 12/15/16 and 12/26/16. The Fire report showed that the fire company responded to an accident on 12/15/16.
and a suspected natural gas leak inside a home on 12/21/16. Mr. Giorgianni reported that there were an average of 2.5 false alarms per month in 2016 which was lower than in previous years.

Town Watch Appreciation Night is being planned for the end of April.

FINANCES

Mr. Hare reviewed the Status of Funds as of 12/31/16 and as of 1/1/17. These reports show that at the end of the year, all the monies in the General Fund, specifically $178,885.64, was transferred to the Capital Reserve Fund and then a loan in the amount of $70,000 was made from the Capital Reserve Fund to the General Fund to cover Borough expenses until sufficient Borough real estate taxes are received. Mr. Siwicki went over the Income reports for the month of December and Mr. Neilson reviewed the Bills for Approval and answered questions. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Bills in the amount of $18,130.90 were approved. Mr. Hale thanked Mr. Hare for his diligent work preparing the end-of-the-year Status of Funds reports.

GENERAL

On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, Resolution 1 – 2017 appointing Robert M. Healy to the Vacancy Board was approved.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

The Borough received a request from a new resident for a street light to be installed in the cul-de-sac at the end of Brookview Road in the Todmorden development. In general, the Borough has street lights on connector roads such as Possum Hollow, Rose Valley Road and Brookhaven Road but not on residential streets. For example, by design there are no street lights within the large Todmorden or Long Point developments. It was also noted that all the electric utilities in the Todmorden development are underground so there are no utility poles. Mr. Smith will write to the new resident explaining the Borough's guidelines for providing street lights.

R. C. Marland, the Borough’s current snowplower, would like to change the name of his company. The solicitor advised and Council agreed that the Borough’s contract for the 2016-2017 snow plowing season must remain in the name of R. C. Marland.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor’s State of the Borough Address
Submitted to Borough Council, January 11, 2017
by Mayor Tim Plummer

As we begin our 94th year as a Borough, only six short years away from our Centennial Year, we should pause to reflect on our many gifts and our many accomplishments. Our goal as the elected and appointed officials of Rose Valley Borough and as members of key volunteer organizations has always been, and will always be, the improvement of our community now and in the future.
We have made remarkable progress toward achieving the goals we set for ourselves at the beginning of 2016. Highlights of the outstanding work of Borough Council are outlined below. In addition, the remarkable achievements of the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation, the Rose Valley Museum and Historical Society, and the Rose Valley Gardeners are also summarized. An update on DELCOR’s sewer authority’s plans for closing the Rose Valley Treatment Plant and converting it into a pump station is also provided under the Planning section below.

On behalf of all my predecessors and myself, as Mayor of this wonderful Borough, I am honored to present to you my annual State of the Borough Address.

**Rose Valley Borough Council:**
Bill Hale (President), Dave Firn (Vice President), Bob Siwicki (Finance), Bob Giorgianni (Public Safety), Stephanie Middleton (Planning), Al Meyer (Highways, Insurance and Cable TV), Penny Sass (Library), John Neilson (Controller), Joe Hare (Treasurer), Tim Plummer (Mayor), Paula Healy (Borough Manager) and G. Guy Smith, Esq. (Solicitor).

Website: www.rosevalleyborough.org   Email: rosevalleyborough@comcast.net

**Environment and Environmental Advisory Council (Dave Firn, Chair)**
EAC Members: Roger Latham (Chair), Monica Gagliardi (Vice Chair), Leonard Busby, Don Detterline, Margery Howe and Ron Ploeg.

2016 Accomplishments:

- **Deer Control:** The Borough continued to implement its long-range plan to reduce and stabilize the burgeoning deer population in the Borough’s parklands. In October, 2016 Todmorden Woods and Long Point were opened to limited bow hunting by experienced volunteer hunters. The Saul Wildlife Sanctuary was not included so as to lessen the impact on public use of the Saul Sanctuary trails. After the holiday break in December, the bow hunt will continue through January of 2017 and will include the rear part of the Saul Sanctuary. The Borough has obtained special Deer Attractant permits which allow more effective hunting through the use of baiting stations. The first baiting station was installed in Todmorden Woods. The positive effects of the deer population control efforts are now being shown by the regeneration of oaks in the Saul Wildlife Sanctuary.

- **Invasive Plants:** Volunteers under the supervision of the EAC continued to remove numerous invasive plants from our parklands and replace them with native species purchased with funds raised from previous plant sales. The Spring workshop included a native plant sale in conjunction with the Gardeners of Rose Valley. A follow-up application of herbicide is planned in December for the dwarf running bamboo infestation in the Todmorden Woods. A fall workshop was also held that resulted in many trash bags being filled with invasive plants that had been removed from the Saul Wildlife Sanctuary.

- **Outdoor Recreation, Park and Open Space Study:** A comprehensive Outdoor Recreation, Park and Open Space Study, performed by Natural Lands Trust (NLT) for the four municipalities in the Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan, i.e., Rose Valley, Nether Providence, Swarthmore and Rutledge, is nearing completion. This project is funded by a $25,000 grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), a $20,000 matching grant from PECO and a $5,000 contribution in kind from NLT.

- **MS4:** Due to declining stream health in southeastern Pennsylvania, Rose Valley lost its exemption from having to meet the requirements of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection’s Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit.
Valley must now implement a Borough-wide storm water management program that meets a set of stringent requirements. Rose Valley has joined the Chester-Ridley-Crum Watershed Association’s MS4 Partnership which, along with the EAC, will help to develop programs to meet the public education and outreach requirements of the MS4 permit. Borough Engineer Matt Houtman is addressing the MS4 regulatory reporting and control requirements.

- **Streambank Grant:** The EAC has received a grant to facilitate the hiring of Land Stewards Ecological Landscape Design, in Quakertown, to advise us on where and how to start using bioengineering approaches to stabilize problem areas on Borough-owned sections of the Ridley Creek stream bank.

- **Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) TreeVitalize Grant:** The EAC has applied to PHS for a grant for the purchase of oak trees, native shrubs and perennials and related supplies to facilitate the restoration of our riparian buffers.

- **Mini-Grant:** The EAC was again awarded a Delaware County Conservation District mini-grant of $500. These funds will help to purchase native plantings for the Borough’s parklands, to replace the invasive plants removed, and will also provide native plantings for the deer exclosure area so that the EAC can monitor the extent of the damage done by deer.

**2017 Goals:**

- **Deer Control:** Continue to evaluate the results from the deer exclosure erected in 2013 and continue to implement, or revise as warranted, the Borough's long-range plan for deer management. Apply pre-emergence herbicide in the spring to the area of the exclosure to facilitate the evaluation of the native plantings inside and outside the exclosure. Evaluate whether baiting stations should be used again if permitted by law and if maintenance hunting is again deemed necessary during the 2017/18 deer season.

- **Workshops:** Continue to sponsor Invasive Plants/Native Planting Workshops. Continue working with DELCORA and the Rose Valley Swimming Pool to ensure that the recent plantings of native shrubs and trees in the wetlands likely to be adversely affected by the planned sewer line work will be rescued or compensated for by new plantings funded by DELCORA, and that the site restoration work is done in a thorough and ecologically sound manner.

- **Plant Sale:** Make native milkweed plants available at the EAC's 2017 Spring Native Plant Sale. Native milkweed plants are an indispensable part of monarch butterfly survival because the monarch butterfly relies exclusively on milkweed plants for food during its caterpillar stage. Also available at the Plant Sale will be an informational handout for people who are interested in planting milkweed plants for monarch butterflies.

- **Spot Treatments:** Continue spot-treatments of invasive Japanese knotweed in the Saul and Long Point Wildlife Sanctuaries and provide spot-treatments to the stand of invasive running bamboo through the northern side of the Todmorden Woods, each on an as-needed basis.

- **EAC:**
  - Members and other representatives of Rose Valley, Nether Providence, Swarthmore and Rutledge will continue working with the consultants on the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation, Park and Open Space Plan to perform the inventory and analysis and finalize a blueprint for improvements.
  - The EAC will continue to support and expand recycling efforts at area schools, including at high school sports events.
  - The EAC will continue to search for grant opportunities to improve the quality of our parklands.
- The EAC will continue to explore collaborative projects with Swarthmore College to benefit Rose Valley’s parklands.
- The EAC will solicit and coordinate volunteers for the in-kind grant contribution to the streambank stabilization and restoration projects to be performed in 2017.
- The EAC will develop Invasive Plant Information, such as timely “Weed Watch” postings in the sanctuaries to aid in the identification of invasive plants through pictures and descriptions with suggested removal and disposal techniques.

**Planning and Planning Commission (Stephanie Middleton, Chair)**
Other Planning Commission Members: Andy Detterline, Lynn Kelley, Al Meyer, Dan Sheehan, and Hope Thurlow.

**2016 Accomplishments:**
On October 6, 2016, the Rose Valley Borough Planning Commission held a meeting to discuss the 2016 Sewage Facilities Plan Update prepared by DELCORa under Pennsylvania Act 537 and to vote on a recommendation to Borough Council. The Plan Update provides details on closing the existing Rose Valley Treatment Plant and constructing a new pump station and force main to convey sewage through the Middletown Township Sewer Authority’s pipe system to DELCORa’s Chester Creek Pump Station and ultimately to DELCORa’s Western Regional Treatment plant in Chester on the Delaware River. This Plan will prevent contamination of waters and environmental health hazards and conforms to applicable zoning, subdivision and other ordinances. Rose Valley Borough sold the entire Rose Valley Sewer System to DELCORa (a non-profit municipal authority created under the Municipal Authority Act) in 2009 for a nominal dollar, but the Borough still is required to maintain an Official Act 537 Plan. The Borough last updated its Act 537 Plan in 2004. Many Borough residents attended the meeting, heard explanations by DELCORa officials, and asked questions about costs, timing, and location of the new pump station and force main. The new force main sewer pipe will run up the driveway from the current Treatment Plant, out South Longpoint Lane and then east on Knowlton Road about 1000 feet to tie into an existing Middletown Township line. The approximate annual cost per household is estimated to increase by approximately $300 per year (from $571 to $871). Because operating costs under the new system will be much lower, these savings will reduce the effective capital costs borne by Rose Valley residents from around $4.3 million to approximately $2.26 million.

**2017 Goals:**
Convene the Planning Commission on an as needed basis to deal with planning issues in a timely fashion and make recommendations regarding these issues to Borough Council.

**Public Safety (Bob Giorgianni, Chair)**

**2016 Accomplishments:**
-Town Watch: Town Watch continues to be a significant force in the safety and security of Rose Valley. Town Watch has undergone a major transformation in its method of operation. On January 1, 2016, cell phones replaced radios as the primary means of communication and patrollers were authorized to communicate directly with emergency and service providing agencies. Base stations have been eliminated. Patrollers now leave electronic messages on the Borough answering machine confirming patrols accomplished and conveying information about any incidents reported to outside agencies. Patrollers are scheduled by the three area captains and continue to display the magnetic Town Watch signs on their automobiles or wear the Town Watch Vests on walking patrols. The signs and vests are passive deterrents to speeding vehicles
Traffic Calming: The three way stop sign installed at the intersection of Forest View Road and Todmorden Drive, recommended by the Highway Chairperson, has had a calming effect on the speed of traffic, particularly the speed of delivery vans and trash trucks. Thanks also to the efforts of the President of Council, who changes out the battery and alternates the Speed Sign location on Rose Valley Road each week, speeds on this heavily trafficked road are being reduced.

Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services (EMS): Nether Providence Township provides fire protection through their two fire companies, South Media Fire Co. and Garden City Fire Co. South Media covers most of the Borough while Garden City handles the Todmorden area. Middletown Fire Co. provides fire protection for the Longpoint Lane area. EMS services are provided for most of the Borough by Media Ambulance while Parkside Ambulance covers the Todmorden area.

New Pumper: A new pumper truck was “housed” at a traditional ceremony at the South Media Fire Company on October 8, 2016. The Mayor, Council President, Borough Manager, members of Council and a number of Rose Valley residents participated in the ceremony along with fire companies from the surrounding areas.

Fire Marshall: James J. Ortoleva serves as Fire Marshal for the Borough of Rose Valley. In 2016 he completed a number of fire inspections and follow-ups on various institutional structures in the Borough and gave classes on safety and fire protection to the students at the School in Rose Valley.

Police: The Pennsylvania State Police act as the Borough's Police force. They perform admirably and continue to encourage residents to notify them in the event they observe any suspicious activity. The State Police have also provided the Borough with their direct phone number (484-840-1000) which may be used for police emergencies in lieu of 911.

Emergency and Information Notification System: A system known as "Code Red" provides the Borough the capability to communicate emergency information to all of Rose Valley or to tailor notifications to specific target areas. New residents who have moved to Rose Valley are encouraged to sign up for this program.

2017 Goals:
- Continue efforts to increase participation in the Town Watch Program.
- Plan and Hold a Town Watch Appreciation event.
- Continue liaison with first responders who provide services to Rose Valley.

Library (Penny Sass, Chair)
2016 Accomplishments:
Penny Sass and Mike Rinaldi continue to serve as the Borough’s representatives on the Helen Kate Furness Free Library (HKF) Board. Many Rose Valley residents support this gem in our community not only financially, but also through their time and talents as volunteers or by serving on the Board. Interested persons should contact Library Director Jennifer Stock. In addition, half of the HKF Investment Committee is comprised of Rose Valley residents who provide financial guidance and expertise. The Borough’s financial support of the library continues to be well above the Delaware County per capita average. A significant portion of the budget is generated by fund-raising activities of the Board, such as the Annual Appeal, May Fair, Well-Red Community parties and extensive book sales. The Board is also working on a joint project for next year, the Book It! 5K Walk/Run on April 1 from HKF to Swarthmore Public Library. We hope Rose Valley residents will support and participate in this new activity.
wealth of additional information concerning the Library is available at www.hkflibrary.org.

**2017 Goals:**
- Continue to increase the circulation.
- Add to the collection at or above the Del. Co. Library's recommendation of 12% of budget.
- Provide interesting and informative children and adult programs.
- Develop fundraising programs that are fun, interesting and supported by the community.
- Hold the Book It! 5K Walk/Run from HKF Library to Swarthmore Library on April 1, 2017.
- Keep the web site current with frequent updates.
- Implement the Facilities Improvement Plan.
- Provide meeting facilities for community activities.

**Highways, Insurance, and Cable TV (Al Meyer, Chair)**

**2016 Accomplishments:**

- **Snowplowing:** During 2016, the Borough budgeted $65,000 for plowing and salting our roads. This amount is a best estimate and is entirely a function of the amount of snow and ice we receive during the year. The Borough pays a contractor to be available throughout the season. The contractor is paid on a time and materials basis for the equipment and treatment materials used. We are literally at the mercy of the elements during the winter season. The more hours spent by the contractor to plow and treat our roads, the more it impacts our budget. We have a duty to do our best to keep the roads passable. Because the roads which the Borough owns are a mix of pavements of various widths, including some that are quite narrow, the equipment used is smaller than you’ll find used by PennDOT and some of the larger surrounding municipalities. This influences the number of responses the Borough receives to the competitive bidding process we follow. Each autumn, the Borough solicits competitive bids for the plowing and salting. This process of vendor selection is transparent. It is subject to a public notice run in a local newspaper. The resulting sealed bids received are opened at a public meeting of the Borough Council. Bids received are examined for conformity to the bid specifications and the winner is announced.

- **Roadwork:** Each Spring, the Borough Engineer, the Borough Manager, and the Chair of the Council’s Highway Committee perform a complete survey of the Borough-owned roads. Every foot of road is inspected and graded as to condition. This process is the basis for the Borough’s annual patching and paving program. As noted in the discussion of snowplowing, above, the Borough’s roads range in dimension from standard modern subdivision widths downward. In addition, while some of our roads were built to modern standards others were not. Finally, some of our roads are exposed to the sun for much of the day and dry quickly while others are in the shade and dry slowly. This, plus traffic volume, impacts the condition of the pavement and is reflected in the rate of decay. In 2016, the Borough solicited bids for roadwork recommended by the Borough Engineer. The result of this process was unsatisfactory from a cost perspective. On the advice of the Borough Engineer, the Borough Council rejected the bids received and decided to rebid a larger volume of work to be performed in 2017. In the meantime, the Borough performed patching and pothole filling on an as needed basis.

**2017 Goals:**
The Borough will perform the spring inspection of Borough-owned roads as soon in the New Year as the weather permits. Based on the results of this inspection, the Borough Engineer will make recommendations for road repair priorities.
Finances (Bob Siwicki, Chair), John Neilson, Controller; Joe Hare, Treasurer

2016 Accomplishments:
The Borough operated well within its budget in 2016, and the 2017 budget approved by Council in December reflects a 6% decrease in the millage rate from 2.37 to 2.23 mills. This follows a 2% reduction in the 2016 budget. These decreases were possible primarily because of steadily increasing real estate transfer tax receipts over the past six years. The Borough received $113,500 in real estate transfer tax in 2016 compared to the budgeted $55,000. This figure represents 39 transfers valued at approximately $23.2 million, including 30 sales of existing homes and nine sales of new units in the Traymore development.

-New Treasurer: Joe Hare replaced Jennifer Rimmerman, who moved out of the Borough, as Treasurer. The Borough is very appreciative of Jennifer's long and dedicated service to the Borough.

-IT Support: The Borough retained the services of SqrCom Technologies to provide support of the Borough's IT system, including its back-up and on-going system maintenance.

2017 Goals:
-Balanced Budget: We will continue to operate under the principles of a balance budget in 2017, with expenditures not exceeding revenues. Budgetary efforts will continue to focus on expected multi-year road re-surfacing of various Borough roads. This includes coordinating with the Borough's Highways Committee regarding the road work master plan and setting aside funds for anticipated re-paving costs.

2016 Resolutions and Ordinances
- Resolution 1 - Appointment of Bob Healy to the Vacancy Board
- Resolution 2 - Appointment of Joe Hare as Treasurer of Borough Council
- Resolution 3 - Letter of Support to the Helen Kate Furness Library for Keystone Grant
- Resolution 4 - Revised Official Sewage Facilities Plan
- Resolution 5 - Appointment of R.C. Marland as Snowplower
- Resolution 6 - Setting 2017 Salaries and Benefits
- Resolution 7 - Appointment of Fischer Cunnane as Auditors
- Resolution 8 - Setting 2017 Fees
- Resolution 9 - Appointment of HopeThurlow to the Planning Commission
- Resolution 10 - Appointment of Monica Gagliardi to the EAC
- Resolution 11 - Appointment of Ron Ploeg to the EAC
- Resolution 12 - Appointment of Bill Keffer to the Zoning Hearing Board
- Resolution 13 - Appointment of Dan Sheehan to the Planning Commission
- Resolution 14 - A Resolution Expressing Grave Concern About the Proposed High Pressure Hazardous Liquids Pipeline Projects Which Have the Potential to Jeopardize the Health, Safety and Welfare of Rose Valley Residents.

Ordinance 345 - Solid Waste Ordinance
Ordinance 346 - Setting 2017 Millage at 2.23 Mils

Rose Valley Centennial Foundation (Tim Plummer, President)
Other Board Members: Andy Detterline (Vice President), Mary Attig (Secretary), Lynn Kelley (Treasurer), Margaret Christensen, Jim Harrison, Bill Keffer, Jack Reohr, Gena Scanlon, Paul Shregel and Geoff Shepard.  Website: www.rosevalley100.org
2016 Accomplishments:
-Thunderbird Lodge: Over the past year, the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation’s main focus has been on Thunderbird Lodge. The Foundation accepted the gift of the Thunderbird Lodge property at 41 Rose Valley Road in September of 2015 under the terms of the Will of Mildred Scott Olmsted, which required it to be maintained as an historical landmark in perpetuity. The Lodge was designed and built by William L. Price in 1904 and contains two large studios and a residential living space together totaling over 5,000 square feet. The property encompasses 2.5 acres of land along Rose Valley Road between the entrance to the Traymore development and School Lane. Thunderbird Lodge is considered Will Price's crowning achievement and generally recognized as one of the ten most important Arts and Crafts buildings in the Country. It is at the center of Rose Valley's Historic District, which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the US Department of the Interior in 2010 and contains over 100 buildings. The Lodge itself was individually listed on the National Historic Register in 1989.
-Landscaping Improvements: The year began with Thunderbird’s great unveiling as truckloads of dead or undesirable trees and invasives were removed from the property. Suddenly, the residents of Rose Valley discovered our Borough’s most fabled building. Unfortunately a tree branch smashed the tile roof on the springhouse shortly thereafter, requiring an emergency roof replacement on that iconic structure. This spurred another round of work to remove trees that threatened the property's buildings. The results are the new sweeping views from Rose Valley Road and Traymore Lane which seem to have elicited universally positive comments.
-Building Improvements: Partitions, closets, kitchens and one bath were removed and historically authentic lighting was hung in the studios. The Foundation engaged Seiler and Drury architects, who specialize in historic commercial buildings, to advise us on appropriate plans to meet necessary building codes and ADA and public safety requirements. Doug Seiler donated his own time to this project, billing us only for his employees' work. We identified the most critical items, met with the Rose Valley Fire Marshal, and are in the process of raising the funds and doing the work required to allow the Rose Valley Museum to open in 2017. We have also applied for a grant to assist us in that endeavor.
-County Recognition: In May, the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation received the Heritage Commission of Delaware County’s Preservation Planning Award from the Delaware County Council.
-Ice Cream Social: In June, the Foundation held an Ice Cream Social for new residents of Rose Valley to introduce them to Rose Valley’s many volunteer organizations.
-Tax Exempt Status: In August, the tax appeal filed by the Foundation regarding Thunderbird Lodge was finally settled making the property tax exempt.
-Rose Valley Museum: The Foundation signed a lease and license agreement with the Rose Valley Museum and Historical Society, which will allow RVMHS to use the Upper Studio space to house its permanent collection and share use of the Lower Studio for functions, starting September 1. RVMHS brought various new programming and people to the property, including the Masquerade! gala costume party and fundraising auction in October, as discussed below.

2017 Goals:
- Repair, restore and preserve critical components of the building.
- Address accessibility, safety, security, and climate control issues.
- Prepare for the Rose Valley Museum to open in the fall.
- Install the former Traymore development sign structure along Rose Valley Road and provide signage to identify the property.
- Hire a professional fund raiser.
- Complete applications for grants.
- Make alliances with university architecture departments and faculty.
- Obtain Rose Valley heirlooms that have been removed from the Valley.
- Undertake other smaller projects, such as rebuilding the roof of the bus stop shelter on Brookhaven Road near Rose Valley Road and clearing Borough trails with the assistance of an Eagle Scout candidate.

**Rose Valley Museum and Historical Society (Morrис Potter, President)**
Other Board Members: Ryan Berley (Curator), Margaret Christensen (At-Large); Marge Firn (Treasurer), Paula Healy (Secretary) and Sue Keilbaugh (Membership & Program).

**Website:** [www.rosevalleymuseum.org](http://www.rosevalleymuseum.org)

**2016 Accomplishments:**
- **Thunderbird Lodge:** Since last year, when the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation offered RVMHS space at Thunderbird Lodge for a museum, all our focus has been on getting into that building, expanding awareness of our existence, and getting up to speed with our changed situation. In January we held our first members business meeting at the Old Mill. Thanks to the tireless restoration efforts of the Centennial Foundation, we are now able to have all our meetings at Thunderbird Lodge. We signed an official lease starting September 1 which will allow us to use the Upper Studio space to house our permanent collection. The Lower Studio space, with its ground level accessibility avoiding the spiral stairs leading to the Upper Studio, is a wonderful venue for mid-sized groups and will be shared, via a license agreement, with the Centennial Foundation as scheduling between the two entities permits.

- **National Arts and Crafts Conference:** For the past 30 years, the National Arts & Crafts Conference has convened in February in Ashville, N.C. Our curator, Ryan Berley, has attended several times, and this year Morry Potter and Sue Keilbaugh joined him, manning a table with RVMHS material. A few Arts & Crafts aficionados were thrilled with our presence; some people there had heard of Rose Valley; most people from our tri-state area wondered where Rose Valley was; and one woman had attended the School in Rose Valley. Ryan applied for, and got, a grant from the Arts & Crafts Conference for the digitization of Rose Valley materials housed at the Athenaeum of Philadelphia. The Athenaeum has been the repository for memorabilia from Will Price’s family, which includes a huge collection of photographs and correspondence regarding the community’s beginnings. The grant is for $2500, to be matched by an equal amount from the Athenaeum. This represents a major step forward in making Rose Valley’s Arts and Crafts history available for scholarship to a wider audience.

- **Corporate Matters:** The prospect of having an actual museum has not only required us to work on the physical space; it has also required us to get our corporate ship in order. Marge Firn doggedly pointed out to us that while good corporate housekeeping isn’t glamorous, it is necessary, and thanks to her efforts we now have updated Articles of Incorporation and modernized Bylaws, as well as Directors & Officers Insurance. This information was essential in our registering as a Pennsylvania charitable organization, which was necessary because our gross deposits exceeded the $25,000 threshold for the first time. Registration as a charitable organization also makes us much more attractive to potential donors.

- **Income and Programming:** Our income is from membership fees, donations and programming. While our membership has remained stable at around 60, monetary donations have increased with some money specified for an endowment fund. Our programming has also
expanded. We had two lectures in 2016: one on Alice Barber Stephens, for whom Thunderbird Lodge was designed, and the other on stained glass and the aesthetic controversy that erupted over ‘clear vs. opalescence.’ Clearly, Tiffany and Co. scored a victory with opalescence. New programming also included an architectural drawing class at Thunderbird Lodge on Tuesdays throughout June and July offered by the Wallingford Community Arts Center. In October the Community Arts Center came back, along with the Plastic Club of Philadelphia, for life drawing classes in both the Upper and Lower Studios. Every participant appreciated that they were in spaces designed specifically for artists. A “Night at the Theatre” collaboration with Hedgerow Theatre in September, allowed us to display some of our permanent collection along with a preview of our impending gala auction in the theatre's upper lobby. While all these events generated income, the main fund raising event was Masquerade!, a gala costume party/auction on October 29. With the able help of Harvey the Auctioneer, we managed to raise $10,000 net for the RVMHS and sell several high-end pieces on commission for two former Rose Valley families. Our programming will continue to expand in the coming years as we become a ‘real’ museum. The permanent collection will be on display and our doors open on a periodic basis starting in October of 2017. We look forward to welcoming Rose Valley to our new home!

**Rose Valley Gardeners (Suzanne Barton, President)**

**Mission:** The Gardeners of Rose Valley (GRV) has a three-fold mission: to join together to share and explore gardening pursuits; to maintain community garden spaces (Pew Park, the Moylan-Rose Valley Train Station perennial garden, and the Brookhaven Bus Stop); and to continue the Rose Valley traditions of creating May baskets for worthy recipients and decorating pillar and post with greens in December. We embrace an informal motto: “Come when you can and do what you are able.” Our membership of 65+ individuals (men and women) spans the generations; a common thread is our interest in gardening and caring for the community. In all, 2016 was a very robust year of activities enjoyed by many residents of Rose Valley and beyond.

**2016 Accomplishments:**

**-Field trips and learning opportunities:** These included a community-wide Winter lecture on local cavity nesting birds by Mike Coll from Natural Lands Trust; workshops on botanical drawing and plant propagation; outings to Woodlands Manor & Cemetery, the Barnes Arboretum and the Longwood Garden Meadow; and a tour of the property and gardens of community members Roger Latham and Rena & Sam Barnett. Additionally, four Gardeners’ Night Out events provided opportunities to work on projects such as prepping for May basket and holiday swag making, to discuss future activities, and to enjoy each other’s company.

**-Clean-ups:** The Gardeners held seasonal group clean-ups of Pew Park and the Moylan-Rose Valley Train Station garden. Additionally, Pew Park was maintained by dedicated weekly summer weeders. John Kelley of Hollywood Landscaping continues to generously volunteer time assisting with the restoration and rejuvenation of the park’s grass, spring mulching as well as other projects. GRV partnered with the EAC for a 9th year of offering native plants for sale to community members and for planting in Rose Valley’s Saul Preserve.

**-Traditions:** Two Traditions of the Gardeners of Rose Valley include making May baskets and in December decorating pillars, street signs, monuments, and iconic landmarks throughout the Valley. Many hands gathered to make the 40+ May baskets and the 80 holiday swags. Additionally, Boy Scouts from Rose Valley Troop 272 assisted with wiltprufing the greens. The Gardeners also sold hand-decorated wreaths at the Rose Valley Folk’s holiday party to generate funds for future gardening projects.
2017 Goals:
*Winter Lecture:* We look forward to seeing community members at our upcoming evening Winter Lecture on Monday, January 30 (at the Old Mill at 7:30 pm) featuring author and horticulturist Claudia West. Her talk is entitled “The Inspiration of the Wild: Native Plants in the Home Landscape – A New Optimism.” Refreshments will follow.

-New Members: We also continue to encourage new members to join us. Those interested should contact Suzanne Barton (sfbarton41@gmail.com or 610-565-4082) or Linda Doyle (lindafdoyle@verizon.net or 610-209-5660).

**Ninetieth Annual Fourth of July Celebration (Tim Plummer, Chair)**
Thank you for making our 2016 July 4th Celebration one of the Best Ever! Special thanks to Mike Dixon, Chair of the Rose Valley Swimming Pool Board; Paula Healy, Borough Manager; Bill Hale, President of Borough Council; and State Representative Leanne Krueger-Braneky who joined our parade. Thanks to Vince Deery and his staff who provided guards and had the pool in excellent shape. The pool was beautifully decorated before the parade by a loyal crew who turned the scene into a Red-White-and-Blue panorama. At the train station parade assembly site, Boy Scouts entertained bicyclers with an obstacle course. Balloons were delivered by Margee Hanford and Marie Russell. The parade, led by Boy Scouts from R.V. Troop 272 and Scoutmaster Derek Woodward, kicked off at 2 pm with a band organized by Andrew Spangler (the band rode in the back of a Hedgerow truck provided by Penny Reed and Zoran Kovcic). There were wailing fire engines from South Media; a singing mob from Hedgerow Theatre; antique cars driven by Marty Goldstein, Will Carr, and Joe Kanter; a forest of decorated bicycles, wagons, scooters and walkers. Rick Beeman zipped through the parade in his motorized chair with Mary Cahill in pursuit, and Jim Castellan wore his 1976 Olympics uniform. Over 250 stood for the Boy Scout flag raising, National Anthem (beautifully sung by Amanda Jacobson), and the Pledge of Allegiance. Uncle Sam provided a brief summary of the events leading up to the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. Our DJ, Bob Fowler, kept everyone in a holiday mood. Games in the pool, ably led by Lacey Nolan, were followed by a gorgeous picnic. Our faithful crew cooked and wrapped 17 dozen hamburgers and as many hot dogs. Guests formed two lines around tables overflowing with burgers and dogs, salads and desserts. The sense of community was felt by everyone as they enjoyed the neighborhood picnic that followed. Our list of loyal workers, many of who have served faithfully year after year, included Mike and Mary Vartanian, Tom, Sharon, and Sierra Plummer, Jim Castellan and Lynn Kelley, Dave Firn, Jane Miluski, Jim Thomas, Janet Goldstein, Bill and Gail Hale, Ann Reeves, Rick Cassel, Bob and Paula Healy, and a legion of others. Please plan to attend our July 4, 2017 celebration. All Rose Valley residents, Rose Valley Pool members and their guests are invited.

**In Summary:** Rose Valley is blessed to have so many talented volunteers serve in our Borough government and local organizations. We can be proud of our accomplishments in 2016 and look forward to another wonderful year in 2017.

Sincerely,

Tim Plummer
Mayor