The regular meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on January 13, 2016 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 Councilpersons present were: Councilpersons Dave Firn, Bob Giorgianni, Al Meyer, Stephanie Middleton and Bob Siwicki; Mayor Tim Plummer, Treasurer Jennifer Rimerman, Controller John Nielson, Solicitor G. Guy Smith and Secretary Paula Healy.

Councilperson Penny Sass was absent.

A guest attending the meeting was Sari Steuber from Transition Town Media.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the January 4, 2016 Reorganization Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

Mr. Hale recognized guest Sari Steuber. Ms. Steuber is a member of Transition Town Media which is conducting workshops on solarizing homes within a 5 mile radius of Media, Pa. They are offering a bulk-purchase residential solar program that is only available until 5/12/16. She is spreading the word and would like Council to approve distribution of informational material to Rose Valley Residents. Transition Town Media is partnering with the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, the Delaware County Planning Department, and the Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union on this program. Council agreed to send out information via email to our residents.

PLANNING

Rose Valley Borough is primarily zoned for single family dwellings with the exceptions being Institutional and Open Space Districts, the Traymore Planned Residential Development, and certain grandfathered uses. These grandfathered uses are legally non-conforming because they were in existence prior to the enactment of the Borough's first Zoning Ordinance on May 12, 1954. Those properties that are grandfathered to allow multiple units in one structure are: 12 Chestnut Lane (Log House); 146 W. Rose Valley Road (Hedgerow House); 45 W. Rose Valley Road (Thunderbird Lodge) and 26 Vernon Lane (Good Intent). Those properties that are grandfathered to allow two single family dwelling units on one lot are: 15-17 Prices Lane; 101-103 W. Rose Valley Road (across from Borough Parking Lot); and 60 Rose Valley Road (Quarry House).

Mr. Meyer asked if the Borough is notified of renter changes. Paula replied that Borough notification is not required.
ENVIRONMENT & EAC

Mr. Firn reported that hopefully the hunter responsible for installation of the deer bait stations will complete this task in the near future. The deer hunt ends January 23, 2016. The bamboo has been removed from the Borough property donated by Alex Ewing along Ridley Creek.

HIGHWAYS

Mr. Meyer informed Council that he is planning on conducting the 2016 Road Inspection as soon as the bad winter weather ends to start planning the 2016 road work program. Delcora has been surveying Long Point Lane as part of their preliminary engineering for the sewer line project associated with the closing of the Rose Valley Sewer Treatment Plant. Al indicated it would be wise to delay repaving Long Point Lane until this project is completed.

LIBRARY

Mr. Siwicki reported that the Library has completed their annual appeal, which brought in approximately $46,000. Plans for 2016 are to improve some of the Library’s interior spaces.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Giorgianni reviewed the Police and Fire Reports. The Police Report cited the following incidents: 3 false alarms. The Fire Report showed responses to a report of a gas smell at Ridley Creek Road and Manchester Ave on 12/12/15 and a CO detector activation at 55 Todmorden Drive on 12/24/15.

Town Watch is now using the new procedure of calling into the Borough Office to report patrols. So far, this is working well. Unfortunately it has been discovered that the magnetic Town Watch signs do not stick to the composites and aluminum that are now being used on some new cars and trucks. An alternative method for signage display will have to be found.

The speed device is working well.

FINANCES

Mr. Siwicki reviewed the income reports for December, 2015, and the Status of Funds for the end of 2015 and the beginning of 2016.

Ms. Rimerman went over the Bills for Approval and answered questions. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the bills in the amount of $14,199.83 were approved.

GENERAL

Mr. Giorgianni asked Mrs. Healy to find out from Delcora their time schedule for the sewer line project and then to let the Long Point Lane residents know.
MAYOR’S REPORT

Mr. Plummer presented the 2016 State of the Borough Address as presented below:

**Mayor’s State of the Borough Address**

Submitted to Borough Council, January 13, 2016

As we begin our 93rd year as a Borough, only seven 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 2015. Highlights of the outstanding work of Borough Council are outlined below. In addition, the remarkable achievements of the Rose Valley Gardeners, the Rose Valley Museum and Historical Society, and the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation are also summarized. An brief update on DELCORA sewer authority is also provided.

Sadly, two of our former leaders passed away during the year: past Mayor Gerry Perry and Borough Council Finance Chair, Mike Josbena. Gerry Perry became Treasurer in 1978, a member of Council in 1984, served as President of Council from 1993 to 2002 and served as Mayor from 2002 to 2008. Mike Josbena became Treasurer in 2006 and served as a member of Council from 2008 until his sudden death from a heart attack on February 27, 2015.

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: (rosevalleyborough@concast.net)
Bill Hale (President), Dave Fim (Vice President), Bob Siwicki (Finance), Bob Giorgianni (Public Safety), Stephanie Middleton (Planning), Al Meyer (Highways, Insurance and Cablevision), Penny Sass (Library), John Neilson (Controller), Jennifer Rimerman (Treasurer) and Borough Manager Paula Healy.

Environment and Environmental Advisory Council (Dave Fim, Chair; Roger Latham, EAC Chair)

2015 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, 2015 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 2016 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.

**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. Herbicide was applied to 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:** Funding was put in place for a $50,000 Outdoor Recreation, Park and Open Space Study to be 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. This project is being 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. One public workshop was held on May 27, 2015 and another workshop will be held in 2016.

**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. Rose 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 will address the MS4 regulatory reporting and control requirements.

**Streambank Grant:** The EAC has applied for 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.

**Mini-Grant:** The EAC was 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 progress of the deer population control efforts.

**2016 Goals:**
- 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 maintenance hunting is again deemed necessary.
during the 2016/17 deer season.

- 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.

- Continue spot-treatments of invasive Japanese knotweed in the Saul and Long Point Wildlife Sanctuaries. Provide a follow-up application of herbicide to the stand of invasive running bamboo through the northern side of the Todmorden Woods.

- 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 map out 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.

Planning and Planning Commission (Stephanie Middleton Chair):

-Thunderbird Lodge: On November 5, 2015 the Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend to Council approval of a request by the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation to rezone the “Thunderbird Lodge” property at 41 W. Rose Valley Road, consisting of two lots totaling 2.5 acres, from Residential Zone A to Institutional, and to consolidate the two lots into one via a reverse subdivision. The Delaware County Planning Commission had previously recommended approval of the reverse subdivision and rezoning. Following a public hearing on November 11, 2015, Borough Council considered the request and unanimously approved the reverse subdivision and change to Institutional zoning.

This is a rather dry way of describing a wonderful thing that happened in Rose Valley this year. Thunderbird Lodge is one of Rose Valley’s most significant buildings. Architect Will Price started a utopian community of artists and artisans in this former mill town in 1901, setting up a workshop for craftsmen in a former mill and renovating existing millworkers' housing in the Arts and Crafts style. In 1904, Price converted an existing 1791 “bank” barn on Rose Valley Road into two large art studios for Alice Barber Stephens, a successful illustrator and artist, and Charles H. Stephens, a painter and collector of Native American art. Price constructed a fieldstone and stucco appendage to the barn to serve as the Stephens’ home. A fireplace in the shape of a Thunderbird in Mr. Stephen’s studio and the same Thunderbird design in Mercer tile on the stone wall facing Rose Valley Road gave the Lodge its name. After the death of the Stephens, Thunderbird Lodge became the home of Allen and Mildred Scott Olmsted. Mildred was the sister of Adele Saul, who lived with her husband Maurice Saul on the property that is now home to Traymore. Mildred and Adele were nationally recognized activists for peace, women’s rights and civil rights. When Mildred Olmsted died in 1990 at age 99, her will provided that if her descendants no longer wanted to live in the house, her trust would offer the
Lodge as a gift to a charitable nonprofit organization that would maintain it as an historical landmark in perpetuity. The family offered the property to the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation, which accepted the gift. So far the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation has stabilized the structure, cleaned up the grounds and selected two live-in caretakers to maintain the house and property. The longer term plan is for Thunderbird Lodge to be the center for the celebration of Rose Valley’s culture and a permanent home for the Rose Valley Museum and Historical Society. They got off to a great start with their first event and fundraiser, an historic walking tour of six private homes ending with an exhibition and reception at Thunderbird Lodge attended by more than 400 people on October 18.

**Hedgerow House:** At its November 5th meeting, the Planning Commission also discussed a request by Hedgerow Theatre that its Hedgerow House property, located at 146 W. Rose Valley Road, be rezoned from Residential Zone A to Institutional. Following the discussion, Hedgerow withdrew its zoning change request. Hedgerow subsequently indicated it intends to pursue a variance request before the Zoning Hearing Board to obtain any relief necessary for additional construction on the Hedgerow House property.

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

**2015 Accomplishments:**

- **Town Watch:** The Rose Valley Town Watch held its biannual Town Watch Appreciation Night on April 21, 2015 at the Old Mill. The featured speaker was the new Commander of the Media Barracks, Pennsylvania State Police, Lieutenant Eric J. Turk. The affair was well attended with some fifty volunteers and residents. Lt. Turk gave a presentation on the value of Town Watch and how our community's incident rates compare with non-Town Watch communities. He emphasized that Town Watch was an effective deterrent to criminal mischief and other crimes. Lt. Turk opened the floor to questions from the attendees. The ensuing discussions were very interesting and well received. The Mayor and President of Council thanked Lt. Turk and the volunteers for their commitment to Town Watch and their efforts to help keep Rose Valley a safe place to live.

  Town Watch is undergoing a transformation in its modus operandi. Beginning in January 2016, cell phones will replace radios and patrollers will communicate directly with emergency agencies. Base stations will be eliminated. Patrollers now will leave electronic messages confirming patrols accomplished, and any incidents reported, on the Borough answering system. Patrollers will continue to be scheduled by three area captains and will continue to display the magnetic Town Watch signs or wear the Town Watch vests on walking patrols, as the visibility of patrols is key to the effectiveness of the program.

- **Traffic Calming:** The three way stop signs installed at the intersection of Forest View Road and Todmorden Drive as recommended by the Highway Chairperson, have had a calming effect on the speed of the traffic, in particular the speed of delivery vans and service vehicles such as
trash and recycling trucks. The speed alert sign, showing drivers their speed, continues to be an effective tool in calming the speed on Rose Valley Road.

**Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services (EMS):** Nether Providence Township continues to provide Rose Valley's fire protection through their two fire companies; South Media Fire Co. covers most of the Borough while Garden City Fire Co. handles the Todmorden area and houses along Brookhaven Road south of Rose Valley Road. Middletown Fire Co. provides fire protection for the Long Point Lane area. EMS is provided by the companies supporting each fire company. Media Ambulance is on first call for areas served by South Media Fire Co. while Parkside ambulance is on first call in the Garden City area.

**New Fire Truck:** In November, the South Media Fire Company replaced its twenty year old pumper with a new state of the art pumper costing about $560,000. As a result of this capital expenditure, Rose Valley's contribution to Nether Providence for fire protection will increase by roughly $4,000 per year. The increase is manageable as the cost of the equipment is financed over its expected life of twenty years and Rose Valley's share of the cost with Nether Providence is about 10 percent.

**Police:** The Borough's police force continues to be the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP). They have performed admirably. The State Police encourage everyone to call them in the event of any suspicious activity. Dial 911 for emergencies, however the Media Barracks can be contacted directly at 848-840-1000.

**Emergency and Information Notification System:** The system the Borough implemented in 2012 and continues operating is now known as Code Red. New residents (2015) are encouraged to enroll in the system. Enrollment procedures were provided in the November Borough Newsletter.

**2016 Goals:**
- Continue efforts to increase participation in the Town Watch Program.
- Closely monitor Town Watch activity as regards to the changed procedures and modify/upgrade the procedures as required.

**Library (Penny Sass, Chair):**
Penny Sass and Mike Rinaldi continue to serve as the Borough’s representatives on the Helen Kate Furness Free Library Board. Many new activities have been instituted by the Library’s Director, Jennifer Stock.

**2015 Accomplishments:**
- Jennifer has instituted programs that have increased children and adult attendance. She has held “Tea with Jen” sessions to discover new authors and review programs at the library. Craft programs for children and adults are held frequently. Children are gaining confidence in their reading skills by reading to dogs with the PAWS program. In addition to book clubs, several noted authors have made presentations. Circulation has increased across the board. The library is well used by the Rose Valley community.
- The Rose Valley Borough financial support of the library continues to be well above the Delaware County 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. This is definitely a “working board” with much interaction with Jennifer Stock.
-When Jennifer applied for a grant from the Ethel Sergeant Clark Smith Memorial Fund to upgrade the Chadwick Auditorium, a significant contribution was made by a Rose Valley resident to provide the matching funds. The library is used extensively by outside groups and the Auditorium now provides a state of the art projector and audio-visual facilities, new chairs, new tables and a very warm enjoyable room.
-A pro bono Facilities Improvement Plan was conducted by a graduate of the Moore College of Art and has given us a great deal of information to make upgrades to what we offer to library users and the community.
-A wealth of information concerning the library’s activities is available at www.hkflibrary.org. We would encourage the community to visit the site for hours of operation, programs and to request and renew library material.
-Many in the Rose Valley community support the library not only financially, but also through their time and talents by serving on the Board and/or as Volunteers. Interested persons should contact Library Director Jennifer Stock.
-With the closure of the Media Library for re-construction, our library has seen a significant increase in usage. The staff has admirably been able to meet the additional demands.

2016 Goals:
- Continue to increase the circulation.
- As financially feasible, continue to add to the collection.
- Provide interesting and informative children and adult programs.
- Develop fundraising programs that are fun, interesting and supported by the community.
- Keep the web site current with frequent updates.
- Continue to support the clients of the Media Library until their library re-opens.
- Implement the Facilities Improvement Plan.

Highways (Al Meyer, Chair):
Rose Valley is crisscrossed by many public and private roads that range in scale and activity from the very busy state-owned Rose Valley Road to the sleepy tree shrouded lanes that flow off of the main arteries in our Borough. The Borough is responsible for paving, patching, plowing, and salting the Borough-owned roads, drives, and lanes. Private lanes are the responsibility of the owners whose property fronts these lanes.

2015 Accomplishments:
-Snowplowing: During 2015, the Borough spent over $64,000 plowing and salting our roads. This expense is something that is mandatory and, under the direction of the Borough Manager, a private contractor, selected as a result of a competitive bidding process, plows and salts the Borough-owned roads. The total cost of this work varies from year to year and is a purely a function of the weather. While the Borough pays the contractor a fixed price for the work per hour for the equipment used and per ton for the salting mix that is used, the more severe the weather, the more the Borough will have to pay.
-Roadwork: Another major expense each year is the patching and paving of Borough-owned roads. As early as possible each Spring, the Borough Manager, the Borough Engineer, and the Borough Council member responsible for Highways perform a survey of Borough-owned roads, drives, and lanes. This survey enables the Borough Engineer to determine the condition of our
roads and recommend actions ranging from simple pothole fixes, to patching larger areas, to significant road milling and repaving. During 2015, the Borough spent more than $65,000 on the care and repair of our roads, drives, and lanes. Locust Lane was completely repaved and patching was performed on other roads including Todmorden Drive, Possum Hollow and Long Point Lane.

2016 Goals:
- In 2016 and for the foreseeable future, we will continue our systematic program to survey, monitor, repair, and maintain our Borough-owned roads at an appropriate level. We contemplate a number of substantial repaving projects over the next few years.

Finances (Bob Siwicki, Chair; John Neilson, Controller; Jennifer Rimerman, Treasurer)

2015 Accomplishments
2015 was unfortunately and unexpectedly a transitional year with the sudden passing of former Finance Chair, Mike Josbena in February. Current Borough Council members, as well as former Finance Chair Lynn Kelley, helped smooth the learning curve for the new Finance Chair. The Council-approved 2016 budget reflects a 2% cut in the millage rate, made possible in large part by increased Borough real estate transfer tax receipts that are expected to continue into the future.

2016 Goals
- We will continue to operate under the principles of a balanced budget in 2016, with expenditures not exceeding revenues.
- Budgetary efforts will focus on the expected needs for road resurfacing that the Borough is facing. Ideally, we can put together a multi-year road resurfacing time table, specific as to which roads will be resurfaced and when, with approximate dollar amounts by year.
- Attention will also be focused on the storm water runoff requirements which we are now required to meet.
- We will conduct a survey of neighboring townships and municipalities to verify that our schedule of fees for building permits is in line with prevailing rates in the surrounding communities.

2015 Resolutions and Ordinances
Res. 1: Reaffirming Approval of Traymore Plan for Units 48 – 52
Res. 2: Appt. of Robert Healy to Vacancy Board
Res. 3: Requesting a Growing Greener Grant from PA DEP
Res. 4: Authorizing acceptance of the Thunderbird Lodge property by the Borough from the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation should the Foundation cease to exist or become unable to fulfill its obligation to maintain the property as a historical landmark.
Res. 5: Appt. of Linda Doyle to the EAC
Res. 6: Appt. of Leonard Busby to EAC
Res. 7: Appt. of David Firm to EAC
Res. 8: Appt. of Al Meyer to Planning Comm
Res. 9: Appt. of Margery Howe to EAC
Res. 10: Appt. of Stephanie Middleton to Planning
Res. 11: Appt. of Karen Pholeric to Zoning Hearing Board
Res. 12: Appt. of Jack Quindlen to ZHB
Res. 13: Appt. of John Curtis as alternate to ZHB
Res. 14: Setting 2016 Fees
Res. 15: Appt. of Fischer Cunnane as Auditors
Res. 16: Setting 2016 Salaries and Benefits
Res. 17: Appt. of R. C. Marland as Snowplower
Res. 18: Appt. of Creative Waste Management as Recycler
Ordinance 343 – Setting 2016 Millage
Ordinance 344 – Real Estate Transfer Tax Ordinance

**Personnel:**

- **Bob Siwicki** was appointed to Council in March to complete the term of Mike Josbena, who suffered a fatal heart attack on February 27, and took over the vacant Finance Chair. Bob is a principal in a business which performs financial valuation services and also serves on the board of the Helen Kate Furness Free Library and works with aFewSteps.org to raise awareness of energy use and conservation.

- **John Neilson** was appointed Controller in July to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Cheryl Haze Leuhrs. John is an architect by training and works as a project manager for a large engineering company. He is involved in the management and design of highly specialized laboratory facilities.

- **Dave Firn, Al Meyer and Stephanie Middleton** were re-elected to Council in 2015.

**Eighteenth Annual Fourth of July Celebration: (Co-Chairs: Tim Plummer, Dan and Barbara Sheehan).**

It was a **GREAT DAY** in ROSE VALLEY!

- The 2015 18th Annual Fourth of July Parade and Picnic was a huge success.
- The event would not have been possible without the help of many people, first and foremost, Barbara and Dan Sheehan. Barbara and Dan took the reins from Tim and bought the food, called the volunteers, bought and distributed the balloons, directed the Pool staff, conducted the clean up and were at the event for the entire day. They deserve the most thanks.
- Tim Plummer came down in the morning bringing decorations and helped put them up. Thanks to the friends he brought with him – a fellow West Point alumni and his wife, and Tim’s brother, Brook visiting from Maine.
- Other People who participated and generously volunteered their time: Bill and Gail Hale, Kelly Caulfield, Gina Gibbs, Mike and Carol Dixon, Lynn Kelley and Jim Castellan, Margaret Christensen, Aaron Shaver, Marty and Janet Goldstein, Lynn and Alan Gee, Fran and Mike Vartanian, Martin and Linda Doyle, Cheryl and Tom Weir, Mimi Hall, Karen Johnson, and Bob and Paula Healy.
- Thanks to Mike Dixon, Vince Deery, Chris Longworth, Lacey Nolan, Dan Gibbs, Marlon Gomez-Rodriguez and the rest of the Rose Valley Swimming Pool Staff for helping with the set up and clean up and keeping the swimmers safe.
Many thanks to Jim McGaffin and members of Rose Valley Boy Scout Troop 272 for marching in the parade, serving as the honor guard, and ceremoniously raising our National Colors.

-Thanks to the South Media Fire Company who participated in the parade with 3 fire trucks and to the fire police who blocked off the parade route. All in all, despite a little rain in the morning, it was a great day!

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

**2015 Accomplishments:**

-The Gardeners of Rose Valley (GRV) continues to maintain its membership of 60 some individuals. Our membership spans the generations; a common thread is our interest in gardening and caring for the community. Our mission, as in past years, is three-fold: 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 decorating pillar and post with greens and creating May Baskets for worthy recipients. We embrace an informal motto: “Come when you can and do what you are able.”

-Last January, our 10th Annual Winter Community Lecture welcomed gardener and author, David Culp, renowned for his “layered gardening” techniques at his beloved two-acre Brandywine Cottage property.

-During the lingering winter months, most of our activities were curtailed as gardeners perused seed catalogs and enjoyed other pursuits. Over a kitchen table, a nominating committee that had been created at the September 2014 Annual Meeting continued to fine-tune organizational guidelines for the Gardeners and finalize the transition to new leadership as directed at that same annual meeting. In April, the Gardeners made a visit to the beautiful and tranquil Mt. Cuba Center in northern Delaware to see their large trillium collection, spring ephemerals, and inspired woodland garden. GRV partnered with the EAC for the 8th year of offering native plants for sale to community members and for planting in Rose Valley’s Saul Preserve.

-Also in the mix of spring activities were clean-ups of Pew Park and the Moylan-Rose Valley Train Station gardens. Additionally, a majority of our members played a part in one aspect or another of creating May Baskets for 40 plus recipients in Rose Valley. And per another tradition, members replenished their own gardens with a trip to Groff’s Nursery.

-In June, twenty-five Gardeners enjoyed an outing to see David Culp’s creative handiwork at the Brandywine Cottage property. Later that month, one of the Gardeners of Rose Valley shared her experience in how to propagate plants in a hands-on workshop.

-The summer months brought out the loyal teams of GRV members who maintain Pew Park and the Train Station gardens.

-Our one-and-only Annual Meeting was held in mid-September to share the calendar for the coming year, greet new members, celebrate past accomplishments, and discuss any issues at hand. For ten years Susan Audley has led the Gardeners of Rose Valley with her gracious and steady hand. Building on the organization’s foundation laid by Susan Essick and Kelly Caulfield and inspired by past Rose Valley traditions, Susan created the organization that GRV is today.
At the annual meeting the Gardeners celebrated both Susan Audley and Sallie Seltzer (Treasurer for eight years) and welcomed Suzanne Barton as President, Linda Doyle as Vice President, and Ruth Boyle as Treasurer.

In October, a group of Gardeners and spouses enjoyed another road trip to Mt. Cuba to see their meadows resplendent in fall color and enjoy the asters and other fall bloomers that play a crucial role for pollinators. Locally the Gardeners enjoyed an educational and relaxing tour of Charles Cresson’s Garden in Swarthmore. Fall blooming camellias were a highlight. Several fall garden clean-ups also filled the Gardener’s calendar.

By late November the greens were cut, wiltprufed (with assistance from Rose Valley Troop 272 Boy Scouts) and fashioned into 80 swags that were then hung with care and decorate pillar, post, and monuments throughout the Valley. And then it was time to relax, and what better adventure than to tour Mount Pleasant Mansion in Philadelphia as well as the Audubon to Warhol: The Art of the American Still Life show at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Sprinkled through the year were four Gardeners’ Night Out events hosted in members’ homes which provided an opportunity for all to enjoy plant exchanges, bow-making for the greens, tincan May Basket construction (the end product is actually quite pretty, despite the image conjured), comraderie, and sharing of garden information.

2016 Goals:

- In all, it was a very robust year of activities enjoyed by many Rose Valley residents. Looking to the new year, we look forward to seeing community members at our upcoming evening Winter Lecture on January 25 (at the Old Mill) featuring Eileen Boyle of Mt. Cuba Center speaking on “Tiny Birds with Big Attitudes.” Ms. Boyle will share stunning images of hummingbirds and discuss the role we can play in creating habitat for them.

Interested in learning more about the Gardeners of Rose Valley? Please contact Suzanne Barton (sfbarton41@gmail.com or 610-565-4082) or Linda Doyle (lindafdoyle@verizon.net or 610-209-5660)

Rose Valley Museum and Historical Society (Morry Potter, Chair)

2015 Accomplishments:

- The current Board for the RVMHS is comprised of Ryan Berley, Margaret Christensen, Marge Firn, Paula Healy, Sue Keilbaugh, Karen Pholeric, Morris Potter and Meg Schroeder. In the past year several events have generated some exciting new possibilities for growth of our museum.

- First, we now have an official curator, Mr. Ryan Berley. Ryan is native to Media where his parents ran an antique shop (The Saturday Evening Experience). His experiences working there and road tripping with family to visit museums and collect antiques for the shop set him on the path to getting dual degrees in History and Entrepreneurship from Washington & Jefferson College. Following college, he worked as an auction specialist at Samuel T. Freeman & Company, heading the 20th Century Design Department. He has traveled to Arts & Crafts sites in England, Europe and the United States and attended a variety of Arts & Crafts conferences.

- In 2004, Ryan and his brother Eric opened The Franklin Fountain, a turn-of-the-century soda
fountain ice cream parlor in Old City, Philadelphia that has received international acclaim. In 2011, the Berley Brothers purchased and preserved nearby Shane Confectionery, the oldest candy shop in America and continue to hand-craft sweets onsite in the old world tradition. They have been featured in *Smithsonian Magazine*, *The New York Times*, *Food & Wine* and received preservation awards for their work.

- In April, Ryan gave a lecture at Hedgerow entitled “Romancing the Rose” in which he introduced the audience members to the English origins of the Arts and Crafts Movement, how it connected to the Tudor Rose and the influence it may have had on the founders of Rose Valley. This lecture paved the way for a follow-up visit to the Delaware Art Museum to view their Pre-Raphaelite Collection and an exhibit showcasing Aubrey Beardsley’s illustrations for Oscar Wilde’s *Salome* on April 26th.

- Our big news this year is of course Thunderbird Lodge. We have looked longingly at Thunderbird for at least 15 years. We even had a museum plan drawn up with that space in mind. So it was a welcome surprise this past summer when the newly formed Rose Valley Centennial Foundation told us the Olmsted heirs had offered them Thunderbird Lodge, and would we, the RV Museum and Historical Society, like to put a museum in the studio space? Dream come true! And we have a curator in place.

- Suddenly we were swept up into the "Once in a Lifetime Tour" of Rose Valley with a six-week lead-time. The effort was frenetic, but the reward was unbelievable. People gasped when they walked into the exhibit in the second floor studio. All the artifacts and memorabilia gathered from our own and promised collections were perfectly at home in the place and period from which they came.

- Our annual Members Tour and Tea followed the next week with a tour of four Price era houses that weren’t included in the "Once in a Lifetime Tour", in particular: The Studio, a W.L. Price gem in the form of a hunting lodge designed for Charles Schoen in 1910; the Forge, where Herbert Walton wrought all his iron work and stained glass; Camaredeil, W.L. Price’s family home; and ending at North Tower House for tea.

**2016 Goals:**

- We have two lectures planned for 2016. The first was inspired by our research into the origin of a stained glass window in Rose Valley that appears on our calendar for 2016. Mr. Rick Prigg of Sycamore Studio in Lansdowne will give us the history of glass production in general and the different techniques for producing decorative glass in particular. TBA April

- The second lecture, appropriately enough, is about Alice Barber Stephens, for whom Thunderbird Lodge was built. She and her husband, Charles Stephens, were both artists, but she was of almost celebrity status as an illustrator at the turn of the last century. Sue Keilbaugh will give us an overview of her life and work in the Fall, date to be announced.

- As of the New Year we intend to conduct our monthly meetings in one of the studios at Thunderbird Lodge. We would very much like to hold our other functions there, if feasible, so expect to join us there for the upcoming lectures.
Rose Valley Centennial Foundation (RVCF) <rosevalley100.org>

2015 Accomplishments:

-On September 2, 2015, after several months of due diligence and negotiations between the Trustees of the Mildred Olmsted Trust and the RVCF, the Foundation was gifted the deed to the Thunderbird Lodge property under the terms of the Will of Mildred Olmsted, which require it to be maintained as an historical landmark in perpetuity. The Lodge consists of two artist studios and residential living space totaling over 5,000 square feet designed in 1904 by William L. Price. The Lodge property encompasses 2.5 acres of land along Rose Valley Road between the entrance to the Traymore development and School Lane. Thunderbird Lodge is generally recognized as one of Will Price's most important buildings within the Rose Valley Arts and Crafts community that he founded. Please refer to the eloquent description and characterization of the Lodge written by Stephanie Middleton in the Planning section above.

-Should the RVCF cease to exist or become unable to fulfill its obligation to maintain the property as an historical landmark at some point in the future, the Borough of Rose Valley approved a resolution at its meeting on June 10, 2015 agreeing to take over ownership of the property and the obligation to maintain it as a historic landmark in perpetuity. This would essentially require the Borough to ensure that the building not be torn down. Municipalities are often designated as the recipient of an organization's property should it go out of business. For example, the Borough has previously been designated to take over the property of the Rose Valley Folk, Hedgerow Theatre and Rose Valley Swimming Pool should they cease to exist.

-On September 13, 2015, a Pennsylvania Historical Marker honoring Mildred Scott Olmsted was unveiled along Rose Valley Road at a ceremony where the marker was installed on the Thunderbird Lodge property, her former home. Mildred achieved national recognition in the causes of social justice, racial equality, women's rights, planned parenthood, social work and the international peace movement, serving as the United States Director of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom from 1922 to 1966. Media resident Robyn Young knew of Olmsted and did the research to have the marker placed at Thunderbird Lodge.

-On October 18, 2015, the RVCF in conjunction with the Rose Valley Museum and Historical Society sponsored the "Once in a Lifetime Tour", a self-guided walking tour of six private homes in Will Price’s 1901-1915 utopian community that included an exhibition of Rose Valley Arts and Crafts at Thunderbird Lodge. Over 400 people took part in the tour.

-The first phase of Thunderbird’s repairs was completed in late November. This phase focused upon making the Lodge watertight and secure, and moving two caretakers into part of the residential section.

2016 Goals:

- The next steps will be to achieve tax-exempt status for the Thunderbird Lodge property from the Delaware County Board of Assessments and Appeals and to focus on grant writing and fund raising.

- As soon as the tax issue is resolved, the emphasis will shift to preparing the upstairs studio for the creation of an Arts and Crafts Museum by the Rose Valley Museum and Historical Society.

DELCORA Update:

-Sewer Plant Closing: Since 2009, all the sanitary sewers in the Borough, the various pumping stations and the sewage treatment plant have been owned and operated by the Delaware County Regional Water Quality Control Authority (Delcora), which also sets the sewer usage fees. The
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has informed Delcora that it will not renew the permit for operation of the sewage treatment plant in Rose Valley. Delcora will therefore have to close the sewage treatment plant and construct a pipeline to pump the sewage to a line which leads to the Delcora sewage treatment plant next to the Delaware River in Chester, over the next few years. This will be an expensive undertaking and sewer fees are expected to increase substantially. Delcora is still in the process of determining the best pipeline route and will inform Rose Valley customers of the likely impact after its preliminary engineering and financial assessment studies are completed.

-Billing Change: Because the amortized capital cost of constructing the pipeline and converting the Rose Valley sewage treatment plant into a large pump station will largely determine future sewer bills, Delcora decided to change its billing methodology in 2015 from a hybrid rate with fixed cost and water usage components, to flat rate billing.

-Sewer Inspections: Residents planning on selling a house are reminded that they must have their sewer lateral inspected to obtain a Certificate of Occupancy prior to the sale or transfer of property stating that there are no known illegal storm water inflow connections to the sewer lateral and that laterals over 30 years old remain in satisfactory condition. This requirement addresses the problem of inflow and infiltration of storm water into the sanitary sewer system, which unnecessarily increases the cost of wastewater treatment for all Borough residents.

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 2015 and look forward to another wonderful year in 2016.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

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Paula W. Healy, Secretary