COUNCIL MEETING

January 10, 2018

The monthly meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on January 10, 2018 in the Borough Office, 9 Old Mill Lane, Rose Valley, Pa. President of Council Bill Hale called the meeting to order at 8:00 pm. Council members present were: Councilpersons Debra DeMasi, Dave Firn, Stephanie Middleton, Bob Siwicki and Vippy Yee; Mayor Tim Plummer; Controller John Neilson; Solicitor G. Guy Smith and Secretary Paula Healy. Councilperson Judy Voet and Treasurer Joe Hare were absent.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the December 13, 2017 Council Meeting and the Minutes of the January 2, 2018 Reorganization Meeting were approved on motions made, seconded and unanimously passed.

ENVIRONMENT & EAC

Mr. Firn reported that one more deer has been taken since the last Council meeting. The hunt will end on January 26, 2018. The streambank stabilization work in the Saul Wildlife Sanctuary funded by the Growing Greener Grant will hopefully be able to be done in February. The Borough will be able to count this work toward fulfilling its MS-4 stormwater obligations. Volunteers will be needed for this project. Dave met with Meghan Lockman, Program Manager, from Chester-Ridley-Crum Watersheds Association to discuss the project and walk the area.

HIGHWAYS

Borough Engineer Matt Houtmann prepared a report for the 2018 road work estimating it would cost $95,000 to repave all of Longpoint Lane and perform patching on other roads in the Borough. After some discussion, Council authorized Mr. Houtmann to proceed with preparing the bid package for this work, and the Borough secretary to advertise the request for bids in the newspapers, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed. Bids will hopefully be opened in March.

Ms. Yee would like to investigate reducing wear and tear on the Borough roads caused by the various trash haulers that currently provide service to our residents. At present, household trash pickup is arranged and paid for individually by each homeowner. She would like to develop a survey that the Borough could send out to residents to collect information on this subject. It was suggested that Ms. Yee prepare a draft survey for presentation to Council.

J. P. Mascaro has started weekly recycling pickup and Mrs. Healy is working with them to make sure all recycling is picked up.
LIBRARY

Mr. Siwicki reported that the Library’s Board of Directors is turning over this month. The Book-It! 5K Walk/Run Fundraising event is planned for Saturday, April 7th. The Library received an anonymous donation of $5,000 which will be used to help fund ongoing operations and projects.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mrs. DeMasi reviewed the Police and Fire Reports. The Police Report cited the following incidents: 3 false alarms; a vehicle repossession at 507 W. Brookhaven Road on 12/4/17; a fatal car accident at 44 Rose Valley Road on 12/19/17; and a lost animal at 38 S. Long Point Lane on 12/24/17. The Fire Report showed that the Fire Company responded to the car accident on 12/19/17, as well as a CO detector malfunction at 5 Roylencroft on 12/20/17 and a medical assistance call at 7 Porter Lane on 12/25/17.

Mrs. DeMasi has been in touch with Fire Marshall Jim Ortoleva. Mr. Ortoleva would like to attend a Council Meeting in the future. Council would be happy to have Jim attend any meeting that fits his schedule.

The Town Watch program is progressing as usual. Mrs. DeMasi recently took over as Captain in Todmorden following Mrs. Mina Varney’s retirement from this position. Many thanks to Mrs. Varney for her many years of service in the Town Watch program. Mrs. DeMasi reported that new guidelines were included with the January Town Watch calendars. She would also like to develop a recruitment letter to be sent out to residents.

Delcora continues to work on the conversion of the sewage treatment plant to a pumping station and the installation of the force main under Longpoint and Knowlton Roads. They are also working on the sewer lines in the Vernon Run valley near the Rose Valley Swimming Pool.

FINANCES

Mr. Siwicki reviewed the December 2017 Status of Funds report and a January 1st, 2018 Status of Funds report showing the beginning of the year transfers and loans. The January 1st report showed the end-of-year balance of $11,707.53 in General Fund Checking was transferred to Capital Reserve and then a loan of $30,000 was transferred from Capital Reserve to General Fund Checking. This resulted in an actual net transfer of $18,292.47 from Capital Reserve to General Fund Checking. The report also showed the end-of-year balance of $25,906.86 in General Fund Savings was transferred to Capital Reserve and then a loan of $40,000 was transferred from Capital Reserve to General Fund Savings. This resulted in an actual net transfer of $14,093.14 from Capital Reserve to General Fund Savings.

The total end-of-year General Fund balance of $37,614.39 transferred to Capital Reserve is equal to the excess of revenue over expenses in 2017, except for some minor adjustments due to the timing of uncleared checks and electronic payments. The total loan amount of $70,000 was made to cover Borough expenses until sufficient Borough real estate taxes are received.
Mr. Siwicki reviewed the Income Reports for the month of December, 2017. Mr. Neilson reviewed the January, 2018 Bills for Approval and answered questions. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Bills in the amount of $33,466.83 were approved.

PLANNING

Ms. Middleton reported that we are awaiting the written reports from the University of Pennsylvania PennDesign students. Mr. Hale distributed his annual summary for 2017 of all real estate transfers in Rose Valley.

GENERAL

The Borough Received a letter from Michael Rinaldi resigning his position as the Borough's representative to the Helen Kate Furness Library Board, and a letter from Daniel Sheehan resigning his positions as Borough Emergency Planning Coordinator and as a Borough Planning Commission member. Thanks to Mike and Dan for their over ten years of service each to the residents of Rose Valley in these positions.

The following Resolutions were then approved on motions made, seconded and unanimously passed:

Resolution 1 – 2018 – Appointing Robert Healy to the Vacancy Board
Resolution 2 – 2018 – Appointing Robert Sammel as Emergency Planning Coordinator
Resolution 3 – 2018 – Appointing Priscilla Sass as Representative to the HKF Library Board
Resolution 4 – 2018 – Appointing Ron Ploeg to the Planning Commission

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Mr. Smith delivered the recorded Deed for the land recently donated to the Borough by Rowan siblings Molly and Robert, and Ewing siblings Alexander, Anne and John. Council is very grateful to the Rowans and Ewings for donating this beautiful wooded lot along Ridley Creek to the Borough. Council also thanked Mr. Smith and Mr. Hale for all the work they have done in facilitating this donation.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor’s State of the Borough Address
Submitted to Borough Council, January 10, 2018
by Mayor Tim Plummer

As we begin our 95th year as a Borough, only five 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 2017. 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 DELCORLA sewer authority's progress in closing the sewer plant and converting it into a pump station is also provided in 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 during 2017:
Bill Hale (President), Dave Firn (Vice President), Bob Siwicki (Finance), Bob Giorgianni (Public Safety), Stephanie Middleton (Planning), Al Meyer/John Neilson (Highways), Penny Sass (Library), John Neilson/Beth Noto (Controller), Joe Hare (Treasurer), Tim Plummer (Mayor), Paula Healy (Borough Manager) and G. Guy Smith (Solicitor). During the summer Al Meyer moved out of the Borough and had to resign from Council. Controller John Neilson was appointed to fill Al Meyer's Council seat, and Beth Noto was appointed Controller.

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

November Election Results:
Bill Hale and Bob Siwicki were re-elected to Council and Debra Demasi and Vippy Yee were newly elected to Council for four year terms. Judy Voet was elected to fill out the remaining two years of Al Meyer's term. John Nielson was elected to his old Controller position and Tim Plummer was re-elected Mayor, both unopposed. These elected officials were sworn in on January 2nd, 2018 at the biennial Reorganization Meeting and Bill Hale was elected President of Council, Dave Firn Vice President and Bob Siwicki President Pro Tem.

Environment and Environmental Advisory Council (Dave Firn, Chair)
EAC Members during 2017: Monica Gagliardi (Chair), Roger Latham (Vice Chair), Chris Bourke, Leonard Busby, Mary Beth Decrescenzo, Margery Howe and Ron Ploeg.

2017 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, 2017, Todmorden Woods and Long Point were opened to limited bow hunting by experienced volunteer hunters. The Saul Wildlife Sanctuary was not included in order to lessen the impact on the public's use of the Saul Sanctuary trails. After the holiday break in December, the bow hunt will continue through January of 2018 and will also include the rear part of the Saul Sanctuary. The positive effects of the deer population control efforts are now being shown by the regeneration of oaks and other native tree species in the Saul Wildlife Sanctuary for the first time in several decades.

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. Follow-up applications of herbicide were accomplished for the dwarf running bamboo infestation in the Todmorden Woods, the Japanese knotweed infestation in Long Point, and to prepare the deer impact monitoring plots at Long Point for planting in the Spring of 2018. 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. In addition, “Weed Watch” postings in the sanctuaries, prepared by the EAC, appear to have been highly effective in encouraging visitors to remove the featured invasive plants.

Outdoor Recreation, Park and Open Space Study: A Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation, Park and Open Space (CORPOS) plan, prepared by Natural Lands (NL) for the four
municipalities in the Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan, i.e., Rose Valley, Nether Providence, Swarthmore and Rutledge, is nearing completion. This project was 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 NL. Comments were provided by Rose Valley EAC representatives and a public meeting was held in June.

**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. Borough Engineer Matt Houtman prepared and submitted the Borough’s initial permit application and identified actions to meet the Borough’s requirement to reduce stream sediment loading, as discussed below.

**Growing Greener Streambank Grant:** The Borough has received a $39,000 grant to stabilize 165 feet of streambank in the Saul Wildlife Sanctuary and to restore the riparian buffer in the Long Point Wildlife Sanctuary. Weather conditions permitting in February 2018, Land Stewards Ecological Landscape Design, in Quakertown, will install dogwood fascines and willow brush mattresses in Saul and advise the EAC on the use of bioengineering approaches to stabilize problem areas on Borough-owned sections of the Ridley Creek stream bank. Completion of this deliverable will satisfy the Borough’s requirement to reduce stream sediment loading by 10 percent over a five year period under its MS4 permit. In addition, the grant will fund native plantings in the riparian buffer in Long Point in an area previously infested with Japanese knotweed. The Borough has entered into an agreement with the Chester-Ridley-Crum Watersheds Association to provide engineering and administrative oversight for this grant.

**Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) TreeVitalize Grant:** The EAC completed the TreeVitalize grant in 2017 with the help of many community volunteers, and especially the Rose Valley Boy Scout Troop. In the Spring, native oak trees were planted in Saul and Long Point. In the Fall, the project was completed with the planting of native perennials in Long Point.

**2018 Goals:**
- Continue to evaluate the results from two deer impact monitoring plots, one of which is protected from deer browsing by a fence 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 re-planting of native perennials and shrubs inside and outside the exclosure later in the year. Evaluate whether baiting stations should be used again if permitted by State law and if maintenance hunting is again deemed necessary during the 2018/19 deer season. Additionally, the EAC will determine if a cull (the first since 2010) should be performed after the hunting season closes in January 2018.
- Continue to sponsor Invasive Plants/Native Planting Workshops. Continue working with Delcora and the Rose Valley Swimming Pool to ensure that the portions of the wetlands adversely affected by the planned sewer line work in the Vernon Run valley will be remediated with plantings of native shrubs and trees using funds provided by Delcora.
- 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 eastern 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 wrap up their work with the consultants on the CORPOS plan to finalize a blueprint for improvements and begin work on implementation.
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. In particular, the EAC will work with Professor of Conservation Biology Elizabeth Nichols regarding student research projects that could be done in Rose Valley under her supervision that would be of interest to herself and her students and that would also provide the EAC with more insight and understanding into our ongoing efforts to restore and maintain native plants and wildlife.
- The EAC will solicit and coordinate volunteers for the in-kind grant contribution to the streambank stabilization and restoration projects to be performed in 2018. The Saul streambank stabilization work under the Growing Greener grant will be performed (weather conditions permitting) in February and the native plantings in Long Point will be performed in the Spring of 2018.
- The EAC will continue to disseminate 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 during 2017: Andy Detterline, Lynn Kelley, Al Meyer, Dan Sheehan and Hope Thurlow.

2017 Accomplishments:
DELCORA: After a meeting with residents, the Rose Valley Borough Planning Commission recommended Borough Council approve the 2016 Sewage Facilities Plan under Pennsylvania Act 537. The Plan calls for 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 piping system to DELCORAs’s Chester Creek Pumping Station and ultimately to DELCORAs’s Western Regional Treatment Plant in Chester on the Delaware River. The project is now well underway. DELCORAs is using horizontal drilling to install the force main piping under Long Point Lane and Knowlton Road, and PECO has installed new 3 phase power lines to supply the new sewage transfer pumps. DELCORAs has rebuilt the lower portion of the road to the plant to allow the delivery of large components and is in the process of installing the new pumps, the intake and discharge piping and valves and a new emergency generator to provide backup power. DELCORAs has also begun work on relining the sewer pipes along Vernon Run near the Rose Valley Swimming Pool and will soon begin work on rebuilding the Ridley Creek force main crossing downstream of the Old Mill.

Thunderbird Lodge: The Rose Valley Museum at Thunderbird Lodge opened in October 2017. The property had previously been rezoned from Residential to Institutional. The subsequent building preservation, landscaping improvements and special events have been a huge undertaking. While there is much work yet to be done, it is hard to overstate the importance of this addition to the life and history of Rose Valley.

2018 Goals:
The Rose Valley Centennial Foundation agreed to allow graduate students in the PennDesign Historic Preservation Program at the University of Pennsylvania to spend a semester studying Rose Valley. The students analyzed Rose Valley’s strengths, weaknesses, threats, challenges and opportunities to preserve the character of our Arts and Crafts community, improve our
natural environment, and increase the sense of community among all residents. The students made many suggestions, some of which relate to our walking trails, building facades and possible changes to our Zoning Code. The Planning Commission looks forward to reviewing and discussing the Penn students’ reports in 2018.

- 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)**
Town Watch Captains in 2017: Mina Varney, Todmorden; Pat Edmondson, Central Rose Valley; Cy Beeman and Mike Rinaldi, Long Point.

**2017 Accomplishments:**

**Town Watch:** The Town Watch Program remains an important force in keeping Rose Valley Borough a safe and secure place to live. The patrols accomplished by our volunteers on a daily basis, at random times, serve as a significant deterrent to individuals seeking to engage in any forms of undesirable or illegal activities. The Pennsylvania State Police attribute the Borough’s low crime rate to the vigilance of the Town Watch program and the signs displayed on our patrol vehicles. They note that similar municipalities without Town/Neighborhood watch programs experience higher crime rates. Rose Valley Borough held its biennial Town Watch Appreciation Night on April 25, 2017 at the Old Mill in Rose Valley. The Commander of the State Police Media Barracks and his Community Services Officer were the guest speakers and provided the attendees with insight into the activities of the Police and their very positive views of the Town Watch Program. The event was well attended.

**Traffic Calming:** The speed monitoring sign continues to have a calming effect on the speed of vehicles transiting the area. The sign is currently moved from side to side of Rose Valley Road approaching the Hedgerow curve with the battery changed out on a weekly basis by the President of Council. The Mayor is looking into the possibility of permanently installing two speed monitoring signs supplied with power from the overhead electric lines in order to eliminate the re-positioning and battery charging and changing requirements.

**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. In addition, 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.

**Fire Marshall:** Our Fire Marshall, James J. Ortoleva, has been proactive in providing advice and assistance to Borough residents and institutions and in inspecting renovations to public access buildings. He has also been active in providing fire prevention classes to the students at the School in Rose Valley.

**Police:** The Borough’s police force is the Pennsylvania State Police, who responded to an average of 13 calls per month in 2017. The most significant of these calls were 1 burglary, 2 thefts and 2 criminal mischief. The balance of their responses included traffic accidents and numerous false alarms. The State Police continue to support the Town Watch Program and have encouraged other municipalities to pattern their Town Watch Programs after Rose Valley's.

**Emergency and Information Notification System:** Code Red is the Borough’s system to notify our residents of emergencies and important information from the Borough. It may be used to communicate to the entire Borough or to target specific areas regarding a localized situation. All residents are encouraged to sign up for this program.
2018 Goals:
-Increase participation in the Town Watch Program.
-Continue liaison with first responders who provide services to Rose Valley.
-Determine the feasibility of purchasing and installing electrified traffic calming speed signs.

Library (Penny Sass, Chair)
2017 Accomplishments:
General: Penny Sass and Mike Rinaldi continued to serve as the Borough’s representatives on the Helen Kate Furness Free Library (HKF) Board in 2017. 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. Bob Siwicki has also been responsible for maintaining the financial interactions with Vanguard. 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. A joint project, the Book It! 5K Walk/Run on April 1 from HKF to Swarthmore Public Library was extremely successful and has been scheduled again for 2018. We said goodbye to library technical assistant Diana Daigle in the Spring and hello to technical services librarian Mari Ayala. We gained and lost volunteers, and continue to struggle to cover the complete shifts at the desks. A wealth of additional information concerning the library is available at www.hkflibrary.org.

New Hours: The most important change in 2017 came in September, when we “closed the gap” by changing our operating hours on Monday - Thursday to 10:00 am - 8:00 pm. Previously the library closed from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm and then re-opened from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. While we had some grumbling about the change (mostly related to closing one hour earlier), everyone has adjusted well.

Adult Programming: For adults, the year started with the fourth annual Senior Technology Day on January 16th, Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Next, Knitting Neighbors participants knitted caps that they delivered to residents at Wallingford Manor Care Rehab, and an Afghan that they made for former employee Diana Daigle, who started the group. Front Room Fridays coloring program continued to be popular, and the ladies added a board game afternoon the first Friday of the month. The Spring lecture series, “Making Sense of Current Events” provided lectures on Islamic terrorism, the plight of the homeless, racial justice and civic engagement, and “fake news”. 76 persons attended the series. We hosted authors such as Lisa Barrickman, Danielle Shapiro, Annabel Liu and David Komarnicki. Before we ended the adult program year with our second-annual cookie exchange in December, there were art lectures, knitting classes, book clubs and cookbook clubs. It was a full year!

Children Programming: As always, children programming was a big draw for the Library. Storytimes, PAWS for Reading to dogs, LEGO Builders, SKOVZ, Hogwarts Halloween and Santa Saturday all saw increased participation in 2017. Tween-teen board gaming brought in many new faces, with upwards of 255 participants each session. Summer reading, with the Build a Better World theme, encouraged Ms. Lori and the kids to start a community garden, which provided us with beans, tomatoes, herbs and more. We hope to keep the garden growing next year.

Facilities: Physically, the library saw changes in 2017. We successfully received a Keystone grant to update the HVAC equipment and install ADA-accessible doors to the main entrance,
although work has yet to begin. The original front door was repaired/repainted last year, and this year the outside brick steps were removed and replaced and now look fantastic.

**2018 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 to Swarthmore Library during April 2018.
- Keep website current with frequent updates.
- Continue to implement the Facilities Improvement Plan.
- Provide meeting facilities for community activities.

**Highways (John Neilson, Chair, taking over from Al Meyer mid year)**

**2017 Accomplishments:**

**Snow Removal:** For 2017, the Borough budgeted $65,000 for plowing and salting our roads, in line with the high end of prior years' experience. However, the actual expenditure is entirely a function of the amount of snow and ice we receive, since the contractor is paid on a time-and-materials basis for the equipment and treatment materials used. In 2017, the Borough spent $27,365 on this activity. For 2018, snow removal is budgeted at $45,000, more in line with average recent years experience. If the budget is exceeded, there are sufficient funds in Capital Reserve to cover any overage.

**Roadwork:** Each Spring, the Borough Engineer, the Borough Manager, and the Council Highways Chair perform an inspection of all Borough-owned roads and grade their condition. Based on this inspection, the Borough Engineer makes recommendations as to what roads should be repaved or patched. In 2017, following a competitive bidding process, Rabbit Run, Hilltop Road and North Orchard Lane were repaved and Possum Hollow was patched. The Borough also filled potholes on an as needed basis. In 2017, the Borough spent $80,617 on roadwork activity, primarily utilizing monies in our State Highway Aid Fund.

**2018 Goals:**
- The Borough will perform the inspection of Borough-owned roads for 2018 road work as soon as possible. Based on the results of this inspection, the Borough Engineer will make recommendations regarding road repaving and repair. For 2018, it is expected that the Borough will repave all of Longpoint Lane after Delcora has completed its sewer plant conversion and force main installation work there.

**Finance (Bob Siwicki, Chair)**

**2017 Accomplishments:**

**Budgeting:** In 2017, Council approved a 2018 Budget with a reduction of 8.7% in the millage rate largely made possible by reduced snowplowing and salting expenses in recent years. The 2018 budget also calls for appropriating $10,000 from Capital Reserve for operating expenses. This will lower the amount of money in Capital Reserve, which our Solicitor has advised is approaching the upper range of what is reasonable. The planned budget also includes a new expenditure line item for the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation, to contribute to that organization's Capital Campaign to raise funds for the renovation of Thunderbird Lodge so it can be a suitable home for the Rose Valley Museum.
Temporary Controller: Beth Noto was appointed to temporarily serve in the Controller’s position until January 2018 after Controller John Neilson was appointed to fill Al Meyer’s seat on Council after Al moved out of the Borough. The Borough is very appreciative of Beth’s willingness to take on this role on a temporary basis.

Technology: The Borough office IT system was networked by SqrCom Technologies, so that Paula and Lisa can now simultaneously access files kept on our server. Continuing efforts were made to keep our system data backed-up and secure.

2018 Goals:
- Continue to try to balance expenditures with revenues and to maintain appropriate levels of Capital Reserves.
- Monitor any budgetary demands that may present themselves such as compliance with MS4 stormwater run-off requirements, possible charges for State Police, and potential capital projects the Borough may elect to pursue in the future.

2017 Resolutions and Ordinances:
Resolution 1 - Appointment of Robert Healy to the Vacancy Board
Resolution 2 - Adopting the Delaware County 2016 Hazard Mitigation Plan
Resolution 3 - Setting Tax Collector Fees
Resolution 4 - Endorsing Redistricting Reform Legislation
Resolution 5 - Appointing R. C. Marland as Snowplower
Resolution 6 - Appointing J. P. Mascaro as Recycler
Resolution 7 - Appointing of Fischer Cunnane as Auditors
Resolution 8 - Setting 2018 Fees
Resolution 9 - Setting 2018 Salaries and Benefits
Ordinance 347 - Setting 2018 Millage at 2.04 Mils

The Rose Valley Centennial Foundation (Tim Plummer, President)
Officers and Board Members: Tim Plummer, President; Andy Detterline, Vice President for Operations; Geoff Shepard, Vice President for Administration; Mary Attig, Secretary; Lynn Kelley, Treasurer; Jim Harrison; Bill Keffer; Jack Reohr; Gena Scanlon; Paul Shregel and Bruce Hunt. The By Laws have been amended to allow up to three members of the Board to be non-residents of Rose Valley. The Board had to accept the resignations of Chip Essick and Margaret Christensen, two founding members who made great contributions to building the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation.

Website: www.rosevalley100.org

2017 Accomplishments:
Thunderbird Lodge: Over the past year, the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation’s main focus has been on Thunderbird Lodge and preparing it for the opening of the Rose Valley Museum. The Museum Opening the weekend of October 27-29 was a decades-long dream in this Borough, and the reality has far exceeded the dream. We are proud that Thunderbird Lodge was made ready to accept the treasures of the Rose Valley Museum and Historical Society in just 2 years, including the impressive collection contributed by Jim Harrison this year.

Fundraising: The Rose Valley Centennial Foundation retained Dawn George of Copperbeech Consulting to assess needs and implement a fund raising capital campaign. That campaign officially began in late October at the Museum’s opening and has already quietly raised over $250,000 in contributions and pledges over several years, thanks, in part, to the generosity of the Foundation's Board. The Fundraising Committee is made up of Tim Plummer, Mary Attig,
Bruce Hunt, Geoff Shepard, Gena Scanlon and Lynn Kelley from the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation, and Morris Potter and Paula Healy from the Rose Valley Museum and Historical Society. There will be much more to come from this Committee as the Capital Campaign moves into its next phase of widely soliciting donations from Rose Valley residents and the general public. The building has come such a long way since the Foundation acquired it in September 2015, but we have miles to go to stabilize and improve it.

**Improvements:** The restoration process has sometimes been one step forward and two back. When the second floor bathroom was removed in preparation for permanent exhibits, damage from a decades-long leak set us back considerably. Later, several pieces of the plaster ceiling fell down revealing damaged roof timbers. Our old world craftsman extraordinaire, Bill Birney of Hiraeth Restorations, replaced the damaged ceiling using the same process that Will Price employed. In addition, we have been so fortunate to have our caretakers, particularly the ever-resourceful Jim Reed, living at Thunderbird Lodge. Jim has been able to repair leaks, plumbing and heating issues that have arisen over the year. Rob Berley, who was refurbishing the original window moldings, found some were badly rotted and spent countless volunteer hours repairing the windows and also the hardwood floors. We are also working on safety and security issues, such as locks and emergency lighting, that match the period of the building. Thanks to a grant from The Ethel Sergeant Clark Smith Foundation, Thunderbird Lodge has an ADA compliant walkway from the driveway to the studio doors. The walk is true to Will Price’s aesthetic sense. The concrete was brushed before curing to age it and to expose the Ridley Creek stones used in the mix and even some local arrowheads and 1904 (the year the Lodge was built) coins embedded in its surface. Working with Historic Restoration Architect Doug Seiler of Seiler & Drury, the Board is preparing plans for more work on accessibility, fireplaces, porches and improvements that will improve the Rose Valley Museum’s new home in the year ahead.

**Landscaping:** More trees and brush were removed along Rose Valley Road to make room for the beautiful new signage on the property. A hand-carved sign now hangs from the former Traymore entrance sign structure and has attracted new interest in both Thunderbird Lodge and the Museum. An energetic Landscape Committee made up of Marjorie Howe, Mary Ellen Reed, Maggie Dee, Morris Potter, Rob Berley and Gena Scanlon has been restoring the landscape bed and the Foundation continues its war on bamboo and knotweed.

**Long Range Planning:** Early in the year, a long range plan for the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation was created by Geoff Shepard and Paul Shregel with assistance from Tim Plummer. One goal for the year ahead is to find effective ways to reach out to the many new residents of Rose Valley and introduce them to the Magic that this Foundation was founded to sustain.

**PennDesign Studio:** This Fall, PennDesign selected Thunderbird Lodge for one of their Historic Preservation Studios. Ten second-year graduate students soon discovered Thunderbird Lodge was the center of a much more important preservation, Rose Valley itself. They expanded their research, met with Rose Valley’s many volunteers and created recommendations for how to preserve Rose Valley’s magic. They made their initial presentation at the Old Mill in December and will be preparing final written reports early in 2018.

**Eagle Scout Projects:** The bus stop at Brookhaven and Rose Valley Roads was collapsing when Eagle Scout candidate Will Swartzentruber agreed to take on turning it to an entrance marker for Rose Valley. Thanks to help from Bill Hale and the expert assistance of Jim Reed and Ricky Rieck, this structure has been renovated with new cedar posts and roof framing, and a signature Rose Valley red tile roof. Gavin Woodward is also currently working on his Eagle Scout project providing steps between the studio and tower entrances at Thunderbird Lodge as well as other
landscaping improvements on the property, including a small bridge that will improve walking trail connections from Traymore.

**2018 Goals:**
- Continue the Capital Campaign to raise funds for the repair and renovation of Thunderbird Lodge so it can be a suitable home for the Rose Valley Museum.
- Continue to make repairs and renovations to Thunderbird Lodge and improvements to the landscaping and grounds in order to support the many activities of the Rose Valley Museum and Historical Society.
- Recruit younger members onto our Board of Directors and address leadership succession issues.

**Rose Valley Museum and Historical Society (Morris Potter, President)**
Other Board Members: Ryan Berley (Curator), Marge Firn (Treasurer), Paula Healy (Secretary) and Sue Keilbaugh (Membership & Program).

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

**2017 Accomplishments:**
2017 has been all about getting our beautiful new home ready for the opening of our Museum.

**New Walkway:** We’ve watched in awe as Bill Birney and his help tore out roots and laid the foundations for our ADA compliant entry path, only to rip it out and start again... more than once! Bill Birney is an artist and things have to be right. The path is right; it looks like it has always been there.

**New Sign:** We’ve watched as the former housing for the Traymore sign at Traymore Lane was moved up hill to Thunderbird and erected in full view of passing motorists, clearly announcing that something is coming. And then a beautifully constructed signboard was added, thanks to the craftsmanship of Aaron Shaver of Prices Lane. Next, an old-world church carver from Bucks County via Romania carved the cedar signboard with gilded Gothic lettering and the Tudor Rose seal of the Association, reminiscent of the Rose Valley Shops. It's amazing that Will Price needed to recruit European woodcarvers for the furniture shops and 116 years later, so did we.

**Landscaping:** As the entire neighborhood and daily commuters watched, we have seen Thunderbird Lodge emerge from behind its tangled screen of trees, vines and shrubbery. Jim Carney and crew blocked the road for a day and removed a literal wall of trees, thus revealing the Gothic windows and Mercer tile thunderbird on the side of the house for the first time in years. The performance by his bucket jockey up in the tree-tops with a chainsaw was pure ballet. And thanks to our tenant, Jim Reed, those felled trees are now a giant pile of firewood in waiting.

**Gardening:** We have a small group of gardeners contending with weeds, tree roots, men with boots and heavy equipment, deer that will eat anything, and making plans for when construction crews stop tramping around. Fortunately, we will be aided by the Boy Scouts, who have a project to clear up those crippling roots near our entrance. By next year at this time the view from Rose Valley Road should be considerably refined.

**Renovations:** These exciting changes are possible because of funding from our landlord, the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation. Less visible are the interior renovations and repairs necessary to shift from apartments to museum exhibition space. The Foundation has paid for roofing, rewiring, repair of a massive hole in the floor from a former bathroom, plastering of a ceiling that collapsed, and providing supplies for woodwork repair. Much of the labor has been volunteer, and here’s a special shout-out to Rob Berley, who spent almost the entire summer in
the upstairs studio repairing and refinishing woodwork. Not to mention washing plaster splatter off windows!

**Opening Weekend:** We needed all these projects finished by opening weekend, October 27-29, and they were! Our beautiful carved sign with its artful illumination clearly announced that we are here. Friday night 90 plus RVMHS members walked up that flat, safe walkway to our front door. Saturday Night saw revelers in entertaining and creative costumes; Tequila Mockingbird! Really? And Sunday welcomed a packed room for a lecture on three utopian communities: Rose Valley, Roycroft and Birdcliffe, by Tom Guiler of Winterthur Museum.

**Opening Ceremony:** But the best part of the weekend was the opening ceremony at Noon on Saturday, outdoors, so that passing cars could clearly see that something was going on. Tim the Mayor spoke, Morris the Pres spoke, Ryan the Curator spoke. And then Trinity Happy Dancing Feather Norwood, Tribal Princess of the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape of New Jersey gave an invocation calling on the Great Spirit to look kindly on our endeavor. This invocation idea harkens back 90 years to a dedication ceremony on the same property for a monument to the Minquas Trail that went through Rose Valley, carrying the beaver trade between the Minquas Indians (not always friends with the Lenni-Lenape) and the Swedes/Dutch on the Delaware.

**Ribbon Cutting:** And then a ribbon cutting with Morris and daughter Felicia, representing the Price architects; our Borough Manager Paula Healy and her niece holding an infant great great grandson of John Maene, foreman of the Rose Valley Furniture Shops, representing the crafts; and Loring Starr, who grew up on School Lane, down from New England with her son and representing the artists Charles and Alice Barber Stephens, her great grandparents, for whom Thunderbird Lodge was designed.

**Museum Shop:** We have a nascent Museum Shop that houses a collection of Arts & Crafts antiques for sale, along with period textiles, books, art pottery, metalwork and a fine grouping of etchings by Rose Valley artist, F. Townsend Morgan. In keeping with the mission of the RVMHS, we hope to be able to include work from current artists related to Rose Valley. A percentage of the purchase price of items sold in the shop goes to benefit the Museum's purse.

**Jim Harrison Donation:** The major part of our permanent collection is due to the generosity of Jim Harrison, a founder of the RVMHS back in 1999. He has been collecting Rose Valley furniture and memorabilia for years, and this year officially donated them to us. Thanks to him, Rose Valley has the world’s most comprehensive collection of items crafted in Rose Valley, as it should.

**Other Activities:** The Arts & Crafts Research Fund grant we received in 2016 for $2,500 was matched by the Athenaeum of Philadelphia, for a total of $5,000. The purpose of the grant was to publish the digitized images and documents of the George Thomas Collection housed at the Athenaeum in order make them accessible to the public on the Rose Valley Museum website. That work has been completed and is available for viewing and research at [www.rosevalleymuseum.org](http://www.rosevalleymuseum.org); click on "Collections". We have also given tours to groups from Winterthur and Penn, and Swarthmore College is consulting us about a future exhibit.

**2018 Goals:**
-Our membership now stands at an amazing 237, up three-fold from January of 2015. From this group, volunteers have stepped up to meet the demands of an expanding program, from directing traffic, hauling furniture, manning the door, working the store and keeping people’s drinks and food off the exhibits. We hope to retain and increase our membership even more in 2018.
Going forward, it is our intention to be open one weekend per month, develop a team of docents steeped in the history of RV and continue to expand our programming. This will require us to rely more and more on our wonderful volunteers.

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

**Background:** 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 and the Moylan-Rose Valley Train Station perennial garden); and to continue the Rose Valley traditions of decorating pillar and post with greens in December and creating May baskets for worthy recipients. We embrace an informal motto: “Come when you can, and do what you are able.” Our membership of 70+ individuals (men and women) spans the generations; a common thread is our interest in gardening and caring for the community. In all, 2017 was a very robust year of activities enjoyed by many residents of Rose Valley, and beyond.

**2017 Accomplishments:**

**Activities:** Field trips and learning opportunities this year were aplenty and included: a community-wide winter lecture by Claudia West on the role of native plants in the landscape, a workshop on botanical drawing, an outing at Scott Arboretum, a mural arts tour and Powell House visit in Philadelphia, a guided walk at Natural Lands’ Hildacy Preserve in Media, and tours of the gardens of community member Joké Williams and Gail Hale. Additionally four Gardeners’ Night Out events provided opportunities to work on projects such as prepping for May basket and swag making, to discuss future activities, and enjoy each other’s company.

**Gardening:** A group of Gardeners worked on rejuvenating and beautifying the pillar bed at Pew Park. Additionally the Gardeners held seasonal group clean-ups of Pew Park and the Moylan-Rose Valley Train Station garden. Both gardens were also maintained by dedicated weekly summer weeders. John Kelley and Hollywood Landscaping continues to generously volunteer time assisting with the restoration and rejuvenation of Pew Park’s grass, spring mulching and fall clean-up, as well as other projects. GRV partnered with the EAC offering native plants for sale to community members and for planting in Rose Valley’s Saul Preserve.

**May Baskets & Holiday Swags:** 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.

**2018 Goals:**

- We look forward to seeing community members at our upcoming evening winter lecture on **Monday, January 29** (at the Old Mill at 7:30PM) featuring Chanticleer Garden horticulturist and photographer Lisa Roper. Her talk is entitled **“Chanticleer - The Art of the Garden.”** $10 GRV members/$15 non members/$5 students. Refreshments will follow. For inclement weather updates, please check the Borough website.
- 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).

**Twentieth Annual Fourth of July Celebration (Tim Plummer, Chair)**

Thank you for making our 2017 July 4th Celebration one of the Best Ever! Bill Hale filled in as Master of Ceremonies replacing Tim Plummer who was unable to attend because he had suffered a compression fracture of his L1 vertebrae while trying to navigate a huge container of
hamburger buns through his side door the night before. 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 and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. 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 Vippy Yee. The parade, led by Boy Scouts from Rose Valley Troop 272 and Scoutmaster Derek Woodward, kicked off at 2 pm. There were wailing fire engines from South Media Fire Company; 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. 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. There was a brief summary of the events leading up to the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. Our DJ 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 Fran Vartanian, Tom Plummer, Jim Castellan and Lynn Kelley, Mary Cahill, Stu Ockman, Margee Hanford, Jane Miluski, 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 Fourth, 2018 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 2017 and look forward to another wonderful year in the Valley during 2018.

Sincerely,

Tim Plummer
Mayor

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 10:55 p.m.

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Paula W. Healy, Secretary