

May 17, 2022

A Neighborhood Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Roxbury was held on May 17, 2022, at 7:00PM at the Horseshoe Lake Senior Center located at 72 Eyland Avenue, Succasunna, New Jersey. This meeting was held for the purpose of general discussion with Township residents.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Rilee led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING STATEMENT

Adequate notice of this Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Roxbury was given as required by the Open Public Meetings Act as follows: On December 28, 2021, notice was faxed to the Daily Record, the Newark Star Ledger, The Roxbury Register and published in the Daily Record; notice shall also remain posted throughout the year on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the Municipal Building.

ROLL CALL (Present): Deputy Mayor Jaki Albrecht, Councilman Mark Crowley, Councilman Robert DeFillippo, Councilman Fred Hall, Councilman Shawn Potillo, Mayor Jim Rilee; **Absent:** Councilman Thomas Carey

Also Present: John Shepherd, Township Manager; Amy Rhead, Township Clerk

Staff: Richard Blood, Public Works Director; Dean Adone, Chief of Police

Public: six (6) members of the public; Fred Aun, Reporter for TAPinto Roxbury

OPENING REMARKS

Mayor Rilee welcomed everyone to the Neighborhood Meeting.

- **Introduction of Council Members**

Mayor Rilee introduced members of the Council.

- **Introduction of Staff**

Mayor Rilee introduced staff members who were in attendance.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- **Public Works update- current/upcoming projects**

Recreation/Fields

Mr. Blood provided an update on paving and other projects, including the completion of Horseshoe Lake restroom upgrades. The facility is heated so it is available throughout the year. A remote/unmanned locking system has also been installed, which eliminates the cost of an employee being on site to manually secure the doors. A general overview of upcoming funded recreation-related projects included the purchase and installation of a digital sign at Horseshoe Lake, Perfetti Park playground project, and field improvements at Righter Road and Field #11 (HSL).

Sidewalk Program

Mr. Blood and Councilman DeFillippo spoke about the availability of partial reimbursement of costs associated with sidewalk repairs through the Sidewalk Program. Residents should contact the DPW for additional details.

Sidewalk Projects

Scheduled – Righter Road between Hillside Avenue and Eyland Avenue

Paving

Roxbury has allocated approximately 1.5 million dollars (amount includes grant monies) for paving in 2022. Approximately ten miles of paving is expected to be completed by the end of the year. (NOTE: Mr. Blood advised that there is a total of about 114 miles of roadway in Roxbury.)

Horseshoe Lake

Beach/Sand Cart – available for people who need assistance maneuvering on the beach or in the water (NOTE: The township currently has only one cart available.)

Councilman Pottillo inquired about the expected timeframe for turf field improvements. Mr. Blood explained that the project will not be completed this season because of delays caused by supply chain issues.

Digital Sign

General Council discussion occurred regarding the location, height, and angle of the proposed digital sign at Horseshoe Lake. Mr. Blood explained that the details are still being worked out, but the current plan is to be able to modify/amend the background illumination of the sign so as not to be disruptive to the neighborhood/area residents. Mr. Blood also noted that the sign will be operated remotely by cell or computer to ensure timely and accurate information updates. Mr. Blood mentioned that all outdoor lighting will eventually have remote operating capabilities.

- **Area News**

Councilman Hall thanked Councilman Crowley for his recommendations and efforts associated with the HSL restroom heating and renovations project.

Councilman Hall asked if supply chain issues and unexpected price increase will delay plans for field improvement, netting, fencing, backstops, dugouts, and drainage work. Mr. Blood replied that all projects are currently on schedule.

QUESTION – PUBLIC PORTION

A resident asked for additional details regarding the criteria used to determine locations for sidewalk repairs. Mr. Blood explained and added that there are increased costs associated with removing trees from sidewalks. He also noted that the 2022 Budget included additional funds for sidewalk repairs. Mr. Blood and Councilman DeFillippo reminded residents of the Sidewalk Reimbursement program opportunities.

A resident asked if the restrooms by the beach are scheduled to be updated any time soon. Mr. Blood said that there are not any plans at this time.

A resident spoke about drainage issues on Righter Road that cause yard and basement flooding for Robinson Avenue and Walker Avenue property owners. Mr. Blood noted that the grade of the parcels, pitch of the pipes, and water table contribute to the water issues in that area.

A resident asked about First Aid/Ambulance coverage in Roxbury. Mayor Rilee stated that Morris County or Atlantic Health is generally dispatched during the daytime and the local volunteer squads respond on evenings and weekends. Mayor Rilee spoke about a decrease in firefighter volunteerism hours, as well as mandatory EMT training and expectations.

A resident suggested looking into sharing services firefighting apparatus and vehicles with other area municipalities.

Councilman Hall noted that the decrease in volunteerism is not limited to Roxbury. He said it has been increasingly challenging to fill positions for volunteer coaches, referees, etc.

Deputy Mayor Albrecht announced that the Habitat for Humanity house built by Roxbury High School students is being transported to Landing at 7:00 a.m.

Councilman Hall announced Morris County Softball Tournament Finals are scheduled for Friday night at Landing Park.

Councilman Pottillo reminded everyone of the following upcoming events:

- Fishing Derby at Horseshoe Lake – Saturday, May 21, 2022
- Lake Hopatcong Block Party – Saturday, May 21, 2022
- Roxbury High School Interact Club Color Fun Run – Sunday, May 22, 2022

A resident from Mechanic Street asked the Council to fly Gay Pride Month and Hometown Hero flags on Main Street and/or on municipal flagpoles. Mayor Rilee and Mr. Shepherd spoke about the restrictions and challenges faced by public entities and potential of unintentionally appearing to exclude a group if permitting certain others to hang flags/banners on public buildings, for example. Mayor Rilee encouraged residents to fly flags on their private property to express support for their individual beliefs and causes. Councilman DeFillippo noted that he will be the Moderator

for the Roxbury Public Library event entitled, “LGBTQ+ Acronyms and Pronouns 101 - Virtual Program – Inclusivity means creating a safe space for everyone”, on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, from 7:00PM to 8:30PM. Please visit <https://www.roxburylibrary.org/> for additional details.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:50PM, Deputy Mayor Albrecht made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman DeFillippo seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: All in Favor – Yes; Motion carried unanimously, 6 to 0.

Submitted by:

Amy E. Rhead, RMC
Township Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED BY COUNCIL:

DATE: June 28, 2022

ROLL CALL: Deputy Mayor Albrecht - Yes
Councilman Carey - Abstain
Councilman Crowley - Yes
Councilman DeFillippo - Yes
Councilman Hall - Yes
Councilman Pottillo - Yes
Mayor Rilee - Yes