

March 29, 2012

A Neighborhood Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Roxbury was held on March 29, 2012 at 7:00 PM in the Roxbury Performing Arts Center located at 72 Eyland Avenue in Succasunna, New Jersey. This meeting was held for the purpose of general discussion with Township residents.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Boy Scout, Spencer Scalamoni, 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 19, 2011, 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): Councilman Gary Behrens
Councilman Mark Crowley
Deputy Mayor Kathy DeFillippo
Councilman Martin Schmidt
Councilman Richard Zoschak
Mayor Fred Hall

Absent: Councilman Jim Rilee

Also Present: Rick Blood, Acting Township Manager / DPW Director
Amy Rhead, Acting Township Clerk
Kathy Florio, Administrative Aide

Staff: Dave Stierli, Director of Recreation

Public: approximately ten (10) members of the public

OPENING REMARKS – Mayor Fred Hall

Mayor Hall recognized Dave Stierli, Director of Recreation for the outstanding job he and his staff have done which in part led to the Township of Roxbury winning the “100 Best Communities for Young People” award for 2012.

Introduction of Council Members

Mayor Hall introduced members of the Council.

Introduction of Staff

Mayor Hall introduced the Acting Township Manager/Director of Public Works, Acting Township Clerk, Director of Recreation and Administrative Staff.

Deputy Mayor Kathy DeFillippo announced that the Economic Development Committee and the Chamber of Commerce would be hosting a Meet & Greet event for businesses on March 30, 2012 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Junction 46.

Councilman Behrens stated that he would like to retract a statement he previously made concerning a family in Roxbury that provides services free of charge to families in need. Councilman Behrens stated that the services are not free of charge, but are provided on a “pay what you can” basis.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION – RECREATIONAL FACILITY UPDATE

Mayor Hall presented a PowerPoint slide show outlining a general overview of the history, goals, and projects of the Recreation Department. The following issues were identified by the Recreation Committee:

Safety

- Growing demands for availability of fields
- Rescheduling
- Need for more volunteers
- Financial challenges
- Demand for out of town facilities
- Field maintenance

Action plans/challenges to address

- Reorganizing facilities
- Sharing of facilities with the schools

Accomplishments

- Upgrades to parks
- Turf Field at High School; provides a site for sports, as well as other activities, including band competitions

Goals

- Rebuild/repair Kiwanis Park, which was severely damaged by the severe weather and storms of 2011
- Horseshoe Lake Bikeway extension to be opened on National Trails Day; June 2, 2012
- Landing Road Recreational facility; preliminary plans include two baseball fields, a walking path, and a playground facility

RECREATION PROGRAM UPDATE

Dave Stierli, Director of Recreation, spoke about the following:

- Coaches Appreciation Dinner; over 100 coaches were recognized
- Community Easter Egg Hunt at Horseshoe Lake; approximately 600 children attended
- Make A Difference Day; all thirteen parks within the Township are scheduled to be cleaned up
- Community Pass; online registration, 50% utilization
- Acknowledgement and appreciation to volunteers from Home Depot who worked on the Island at Horseshoe Lake

FACILITY UPDATE

Mr. Blood, Acting Township Manager/Director of Public Works, discussed the following:

- Park Upgrades
- Installation of FIFA Soccer Field donated from Giants Stadium

QUESTIONS – PUBLIC PORTION

Discussion took place regarding various topics which included:

- Kiwanis Park tennis courts
- Bridge painting on Patricia Drive
- Former Fenimore Landfill site and the NJDEP hosting a public meeting on April 17, 2012 at the Lincoln Roosevelt School
- LaFerrara Farms property bordering Roxbury and Mt. Olive Townships
- Temporary placement of clothing bins for a fundraising event
- Flooding on South Hillside Avenue near entrance to High School

Boy Scout, Spencer Scalamoni stated that he was working on earning his citizenship badge and asked permission to address the council. All council members agreed to answer his questions. Spencer asked Council members to answer the following questions:

- Why did you want to become a council member?
- Is it hard to do your job?
- What else do you do during the day?

Council members responded individually to the questions, pointing out the commitment to community involvement which also includes serving on various other committees, boards and volunteering. Council members spoke about the job being challenging, rewarding and time consuming and stressed the importance of finding a balance between family, home, professional and community involvement.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:40PM, Councilman Zoschak made a motion to adjourn the Neighborhood Meeting. Councilman Schmidt seconded the motion.

Voice Vote: All in Favor – Yes

Motion carried 6 to 0.

Submitted By:

Amy E. Rhead
Acting Township Clerk

MINUTES APPROVED BY COUNCIL

DATE: October 9, 2012

ROLL CALL: Councilman Behrens – Yes
Councilman Crowley – Yes
Councilman Schmidt – Yes
Councilman Zoschak – Yes
Mayor Hall – Yes