

Community Update  
February 23, 2021

- Good evening and thank you for joining us for tonight's meeting of the Roxbury Township Council. We hope everyone is well and safe.
- First, let me thank everyone for their condolences for the recent passing of my wife Kathy's mother, Ann Cederle. Your notes and calls have been comforting to Kathy, me, and our family.
- Thanks also to Deputy Mayor Fred Hall for standing in during our last meeting.

**COVID**

- For the first time in quite some time, our COVID-19 report is somewhat optimistic. Since our last Council meeting on February 9, confirmed cases of COVID in Roxbury went from 1634 to 1733, just under 100 cases. While still unacceptably high, it does appear that the pace of COVID increase in town is slowing. I say this with fingers crossed on both hands.
- We continue to urge everyone to wear masks and socially distance. If we continue to work together, we will get through this thing.

**Vaccine**

- No doubt, the increasing number of people being vaccinated has only helped the situation. Yet, for so many of us, getting vaccinated is a needlessly frustrating experience.
- We urge you to continue to get vaccinated. And to help with that effort, the Township recently updated its website with information about vaccination centers.

- We are also continuing our efforts to help those people who do not have access to the internet or a computer to obtain the vaccine.

**Information on the Township’s website includes:**

- The NJ Department of Health – 24/7 COVID-19 Vaccine Call Center phone number-- 1-855-568-0545 – for scheduling assistance for the vaccine.
- A link to register with the Morris County Megasite (Rockaway Townsquare Mall, 301 Mt. Hope Avenue, Rockaway). When appointments become available, you will receive an email message from Atlantic Health. Register as soon as possible after receiving the email notification because the limited time slots fill quickly.
- A link to ShopRite to check for available appointments or you can call the stores listed on the township site.
- Select CVS Pharmacies will be administering the vaccine. Visit [www.CVS.com/Coronavirus](http://www.CVS.com/Coronavirus) for information and scheduling. If you do not have a computer, you can call CVS at 1-800-746-7287, press “1” for vaccine info, listen to the whole message, then stay on the line and a “virtual agent” will ask how they can help you -- then press “0” to get transferred to a live person who can help you get an appointment for a vaccine.
- Rite Aid: Use the link on our website to verify eligibility and to register for an appointment. Appointment availability is updated daily.
- **Please note:**
  - Roxbury Township has no control over vaccine scheduling or distribution. This information is being provided to assist residents in obtaining a vaccine.

- The information on this sheet is subject to change. As of the date of printing/posting, the information is believed to be accurate.
- There are many other vaccination locations within New Jersey. We have provided information concerning the vaccination locations which are in close proximity to Roxbury Township.
- In addition, please consider pre-registering for the COVID-19 vaccine at the NJ Department of Health. A link to that site can also be found on the township's website.
- As always, if you have questions, please call the Roxbury Township Manager's office at (973) 448-2000 or the Roxbury Health Department: (973) 448-2028.

### **Walking Trails**

- We heard you. We heard how many people rely on our walking trails for exercise or just to get out of the house safely – especially during this pandemic.
- We are pleased to report that the walking trail through Horseshoe Lake parking area, which leads to the Island parking area, is open and being maintained regularly.
- I am asked to remind walkers to pick-up after their dogs. We continue to have an issue with this. Given the stress and pain caused by the pandemic, I am at a loss to understand why some pet owners would add this to our general shared misery right now. Please, be kind to your neighbors.

### **DPW and Snow**

- No one needs to tell you that the back-to-back snowstorms that have hit our area have been challenging.
- Here are a few metrics that illustrate how difficult this winter has been.

- Typically, based on a 10-year average, Roxbury gets about 50 inches of snow. This season so far, we have gotten 57 inches.
- Typically, we use 3,722 tons of salt – using that 10-year average. This season, we have already used 3,734 tons of salt.
- During a typical snow event, the Township utilizes 30 plows including 10 contracted trucks to clear 114 miles of roadway, 134 cul-de-sacs, 420 named streets and more than 800 intersections.
- Typically, it takes three hours to salt all our roads, using 14 spreaders and 6 hours to plow the 275 lane miles of roadway. And it usually takes about eight hours to do the final clean up after the snow stops.
- Over the past two weeks the Road Department has had 5 machines working daily to open cul-de-sacs, fire hydrants and push back intersections to clear sight lines for vehicles.
- Clearing the snow has been a monumental task. On behalf to the Township Council, I want to thank the members of the Road Department, Rick Blood, and John Shepherd for getting us through yet another challenge layered on top of the continuing COVID situation.

### **Volunteers**

- I want to also take a minute to thank all the residents, volunteers, religious institutions, and service organizations for stepping up during the pandemic. Their help in proving food and PPE supplies has been invaluable and greatly appreciated.
- But I want to focus on a group in town that week-in and week-out provides a safety net of food, clothing, and shelter to those most vulnerable in our

community. And they do it with little fanfare or publicity. I am referring to Roxbury's Social Services Department.

### **Social Services**

- Here are just a few facts about the impact they have on Roxbury.
  - They regularly serve about 500 families in our town, and about 98 percent of those families live in Roxbury.
  - They provide everything from food to housing to warm coats. They never turn anyone away and they are always there.
- That is largely due to the efforts of a handful of volunteers led by our township staff Janet Wald and Eva Scartozzi. On behalf of the Council, I want to thank Janet and Eva for the service they provide and for their dedication and hard work.
- I would also like to mention the volunteers who make it possible to provide this critical service to our community. They are:
  - Carol Loff
  - Sue Piserchio
  - Susana Garay
  - Carol Lazor
  - Sandy Vorhees
  - Kim Beers
  - Stacy Brown
  - Roger Nitto
  - Bobby List
  - Irene Pruess
  - Sue Helgenberger
  - Chris Perrin
  - Lynn Cali
  - James Suitt

- I apologize if I missed anyone. I happen to know that several members of the Council and their family members regularly volunteer. Again, on behalf of the Council and the township, thank you all for what you do and for your dedicated and selfless services to our community.
- I know we have gone over this before, but it bears repeating. The weekly hours for Social Services are: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday - 8 am - 12 pm.
  - Food Pantry & Social Services is located at 72 Eyland Avenue in Succasunna – at Horseshoe Lake Park. Their phone number is: 973-448-2026.
  - Right now, they need :
    - Shampoo – Regular size
    - Conditioner - Regular size
    - Cooking Oil – Small size
    - Mac N Cheese – Cups
    - Paper Towels
    - Adult Wipes
    - Dish Soap - Regular size
    - Laundry Detergent
- Finally, I would like to remind everyone that the Council is meeting every other week right now to review the 2021 proposed operating and capital budget. The days and times for those meetings can be found on the Township’s website. The public is welcome to join us in those public meetings.
- Now, let us return to tonight’s agenda, which includes several important resolutions concerning zoning for warehouses and affordable housing.
- Thank you.