

April 19, 2022

A Neighborhood Meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Roxbury was held on April 19, 2022, at 7:00PM at The Lake Hopatcong Foundation located at 125 Landing Road, Landing, 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 (*Mayor Rilee announced that Councilman Carey was feeling under the weather and sends his regrets for being absent*).

Also Present: Amy Rhead, Township Clerk

Staff: Roxbury Chief of Police, Dean Adone; Lt. Dan Murray, Roxbury Police Department; Robert Hackett, Director of Emergency Management; Richard Blood, Director of Public Works; and Kellie Ann Keyes, Assistant General Supervisor, Public Works

Public: approximately one hundred (100) members of the public were in attendance

OPENING REMARKS

Introduction of Council Members

Mayor Rilee introduced members of the Council.

Introduction of Staff

Mayor Rilee introduced staff members who were in attendance.

Mayor Rilee also recognized Morris County Commissioner Kathy DeFillippo as being in attendance.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Lake Hopatcong Foundation update

Marty Kane, Colleen Lyons, Kyle Richter, and Lee Moreau presented a PowerPoint with updates on the Lake Hopatcong Foundation and Lake Hopatcong Commission. The presentation included matters such as weed harvesting, funding efforts, and collaboration with homeowners and lake advocates from other communities. Discussion also occurred regarding goose management and water quality. An overview of safety initiatives included an announcement that there will be an increased presence of police patrols on Lake Hopatcong during the upcoming season. Mr. Kane spoke about educational opportunities associated with the Floating Classroom, adding that over 1,300 students have reservations to attend over the next few months. He also noted that the Floating Classroom will be available to the public on Mondays in July and August.

Additional updates included:

- Native Plant Sale – sale is scheduled for April 28th; the pick-up date will be May 7, 2022
- Lake Hopatcong Block Party – scheduled for May 21, 2022 (*NOTE: New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission staff will be available to process new boat registrations*)
- Lake Hopatcong Foundation 10th Anniversary Gala – event scheduled for July 28, 2022
- State and federal funding initiatives – a review was provided of successful awards and grants, and the submission of the NJDEP 319 Grant application; projects include Roxbury stormwater basin retrofit, Jefferson large-scale rain garden, and aeration efforts
- Miss Lotta Veteran’s Cruise – event to take place on June 25, 2022

Floating Wetland Islands for Landing Channel

Discussion occurred regarding plans for the floating wetlands island for Landing Channel. Stormwater solutions are being explored by both the County of Morris and the NJ Highlands Council.

Public Works update

Mr. Blood provided an overview of current and upcoming Public Works projects including street sweeping and paving projects scheduled for Landing/Port Morris. Mr. Blood reported that necessary repairs have been completed at all the parks.

Shippenport Road update

Mr. Blood advised that a portion of Shippenport Road will be paved on May 16th through May 18th. The sidewalk extension will take place after JCP&L relocates the utility poles that are in the way.

Landing Road Bridge Update

Councilman Crowley and Morris County Commissioner DeFillippo reported that the County is in the process of finishing acquisitions and application submissions to establish the bridge as a historical landmark. Construction is projected to begin around the summer of 2024 and expected to take approximately twenty months to complete. Review of potential environmental issues is ongoing.

Area News

Additional topics of conversation included the following:

- Long-term goals for the Gateway to Lake include sidewalk and bikeway connections throughout Landing.
- Need for additional lifeguards at Lake Hopatcong State Park – Efforts to address the situation with state officials are ongoing; attempting to negotiate ways to keep park open when admittance numbers reach the limits for lifeguards so people who are not swimming can still be admitted to the park.

Questions – Public Portion

Members of the public spoke/had questions on various topics, including:

- Tractor trailers and flat beds making U-turns in parking lot across from the Lake Hopatcong Foundation building.
- Sidewalks – Mr. Blood will check if construction plans included sidewalk installation at location across from marina.
- Landing – target point for revitalization
- Port Morris Playground/Perfetti Park – upgrades scheduled for this year include new fencing and gate, multipurpose field, backstop removal. A resident mentioned that rain saturates the fields, rendering them unusable. Mr. Blood will investigate and check if the fields are comprised of clay or topsoil.
- Neighborhood Meetings – Even though the neighborhood meetings are held in different areas of the Township, all Roxbury residents are welcome to attend any of the neighborhood meetings.
- Resident concerns/issues – Residents are encouraged to contact a council member or administration with any questions or concerns.
- Speeding – residents requested increased police patrols on various streets where speeding seems to be a frequent occurrence (Center Street, Washington Street, and Rogers Drive); residents encouraged to report complaints to Township Manager for review by Traffic Committee (study protocol, possible traffic calming methods available to deter/alleviate speeding); traffic cameras not a viable option and not enforceable
- Sidewalk maintenance, repair, and improvements – concerns about sidewalk safety at bus stops
- Snow removal from sidewalks/responsible parties – enforcement

- Pathmark Shopping Center – no known plans; Township will continue reaching out to property owner for any updates.
- Remote Council Meetings – Residents expressed appreciation for having Zoom access to Council Meetings.
- Lake Rogerene – concerns about mud infiltrating the Landing Channel. Mayor Rilee advised that the Morris County Soil Conservation District is responsible for overseeing the disturbance.
- Parking on snow-covered streets/blocking plow line – Chief Adone encouraged residents to call the police when this occurs so officers can be dispatched to address the situation.
- Bertrand Island – roadways/paths
- Kingsland – Styrofoam beads washing up on shorelines; resident contacted the NJDEP. Mr. Kane asked resident to contact him directly with the details and he will get to the underlying cause of the issue and ensure it is taken care of.
- Landing Park – Residents credited the hard work of Recreation and DPW staff for keeping the park clean and beautiful.
- Hopatcong State Park Closures and Route 80 Exit Ramp – no change
- Shippenport Road Paving Announcements – Mr. Blood will try to increase frequency of alerts.
- Smart 911.com – Mr. Blood encouraged residents to sign-up for notifications and alerts. Morris County Commissioner DeFillippo pointed out that location services are also available with Smart911.
- Wires/Fiber Optics – being installed everywhere
- Verizon/FIOS – Verizon does not seem to have any intention of offering FIOS to residents in Roxbury and does not plan to replace the copper lines/expand landline capabilities.
- Residents expressed appreciation to Public Works and Road Department staff for keeping roadways clear during the snowy season.
- Tree maintenance replacement inquiry – Mr. Blood replied that there has been a concentration on removal of ash trees over the past few years; this year will address some ash trees that are still a threat (funding was recently approved for trees already marked for removal). Beginning in 2023, a multi-year replacement plan will be implemented.
- Road project – Residents inquired as to whether gas lines or public sewer will be available when the County starts the Landing Road Bridge project. Mr. Blood said that NJNG has not given a definitive answer.
- Free seedlings – Councilman Hall announced that seedlings will be available to residents at the Horseshoe Lake Recreation Center on Eyland Avenue on Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (*additional details available at www.roxburynj.us*)

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:25PM, Deputy Mayor Albrecht made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Crowley 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