

**Roxbury Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes- Draft
June 2018**

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

Attendees:

Present: Jackie Vitiello, Anne Gale, Sonja Boon, Tricia Fragale, Bill Benkendorf, Rick Blood

Absent: Dave Los, Linda Alnemy

Public: None

Matters presented by the public: None

Matters presented by the Roxbury High School Environmental Club: No members present.

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Guest:

R. Blood presented Princeton Hydro water testing report on stream/surface waters, impact on Drake's Brook for commissioners' review. There were no concerning findings. Recommend finalizing report.

R. Blood to approach Highlands Board about ongoing funding for testing, also council about proposal to re-test at same time next year to establish seasonal parameters.

Matters presented by the Commissioners:

- T. Fragale shared facts about stone paper (paper made from stone dust).
 - Question arose about the date of the last Environmental/Natural Resource Inventory conducted by the Township. Last update for Natural Resource Inventory was March 2002. EC recommended that the 2002 NRI be updated; F. Hall to bring concern to Township Council and Planner.
 - Follow up on previous discussions about Township recycling stats. Observations made re:resident knowledge of acceptable materials, recycling center availability Suggested preparing a tri-fold brochure regarding reduce-reuse-recycle Proposed actions: Field trip to recycling center or presentation from Director of Waste Management Dept.
 - Dam on Musconetcong River at Willow St. – There are no objections to breaching to restore stream flow and reduce flooding risk. Anne will bring pictures to July mtg.
 - Rotating Secretary – Next meeting (July) – L. Almeny.
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Budget Update: The Roxbury Township budget for 2018-2019 passed in the spring. All receipts and purchase order requests should be provided to T. Fragale for submission to finance. Information sent to port-o-potty company to set up EC account for garden site.

Planning Board Update:

Wendy's redoing signage – no comments needed.

Merry Heart Expansion – previously approved

Apartments on King's Highway – previously approved

Fenimore Update: No additional update, see Guest for Stream report

Ongoing Projects

- Public Outreach/Education – no report
- Owl boxes – L. Alnemy to be ordering soon
- Streams/Waterways:
 - o Stream Clean Up 2018 at Black River Park was successful. Collected ~27 bags of trash and ~26 bags of recyclables. Most interesting item found this year – old metal milk crate. Scouts assisted and Ramsey Outdoor provided assistance via canoes.
 - o Stream monitoring for June to be set up (estimated last two weeks of the month); 2 sites to be monitored.
 - o RHA news – our past representative (Angela) has moved on to a new position so we will have a new representative from RHA moving forward.
- Monofilament bins – no report
- Community Garden:
 - o Port-o-Potty in place, a
 - o Critter fencing project underway; lots of volunteers helping.
 - o L. Alnemy to order stone from County Concrete under open PO that was established December 2017
 - o By-laws (existing and L. Alnemy's proposed guidelines/changes) provided; all commissioners should review and redline the existing by-laws for comment.
 - o Open Gate July 14. T. Fragale looking for musicians.
 - o More mulch has been dropped off.
- Permaculture Garden:
 - o Bill (last name?) and Brian (last name?; a gardener/horticulturalist) visited the garden; looking to assist
 - o Brian noted shape of permaculture garden is a teardrop
 - o Bill has weeded and will till the back area. Will donate some buddleia for butterfly attractions.
 - o Once plans are in place, EC can start applying for grants for additional actions with the permaculture area
- Community Apiary:
 - o Electric Fence needs a new wire.
 - o Looking at putting pavers under the fence to reduce change of damaging wires while mowing/trimming.
 - o Work Day held June 9th.
 - o Reviewing mowing schedule
 - o Need a swarm catcher

Close of Meeting – 9:20 pm (T. Fragale motioned; B. Benkendorf seconded the motion)

Next Meeting – July 12, 2018