

**Roxbury Environmental Commission
Meeting Minutes
May 2018**

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:49 pm.

Attendees:

Present: Fred Hall, Linda Alnemy, Anne Gale, Jackie Vitiello, Sonja Boon, Tricia Fragale

Absent: Dave Los, Bill Benkendorf

Public: None

Matters presented by the public: None

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

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. J. Vitiello contacted Chatham Township since their numbers are so high. They have a “pay to throw” program – special collection basket; residents paying for special cans tend to be more conscientious about using their recycling cans since they are paying for it.
- J. Vitiello discussed Stream Monitoring Report; noted we never received a revision or final copy. Forwarding draft to all; R. Blood will be discussing at next meeting.
- F. Hall was asked about status of draft ordinance; this was previously discussed and a plan is in action.
- Rotating Secretary – Next meeting (June) – A. Gale.
- F. Hall reported that the Canal Society is seeking to purchase a buy the Old School House Property in Berkshire Valley (current football storage house). This is good news for the Township and may save the building as Township did not have funds to maintain.

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: No update.

Fenimore Update: F. Hall visited the site last week and met with all parties involved. Summary – inquired about the status of the site. Location is reported as 75% better than the worst case at the core of the landfill. Results are stabilizing somewhat; no significant changes since last year. Anticipated that scrubbers will stay on-line for another 2 years before they can switch over to iron sponge technology. Looking at an install timeframe for new technology of spring 2019. All piping will need to be diverted to introduce the new system. Of the 28 vapor wells on-site, only 14 are in use as 14 wells are no longer pulling vapor/landfill gases anymore due to low levels in those areas.

After significant power outages in the area of the landfill (the large generator was down for 7 days due to the last storm), F. Hall sent info to the Township Manager to have the Fenimore site added to the JCP&L hit list for sites that need to be made priority in those situations to ensure that the monitoring equipment is fully functioning.

Water testing was done at the site last fall; Township has not seen the results. No status reports have been provided for a year.

Five monitoring units around the complex; replacement has been discussed. ASTDR recommended a different type of monitor; upgrades never implemented, but they are prepared to start installing new monitors now. New units to be placed next to old units to test them.

State spending \$175/month on operating costs; seeking ways to cut costs. Discussion about removing some monitors. F. Hall asked for EC thoughts on removal; S. Boon and J. Vitiello would like to keep all the monitoring locations.

F. Hall seeking a meeting with new NJDEP commissioner.

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 account set up; unit should be delivered shortly
 - o Critter fencing project underway; lots of volunteers helping. Will be needing more supplies for additional fencing from Home Depot
 - 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 Community Garden Meeting was held at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum on 4/29/18 for all gardens by NJ Garden Association. Randolph is opening a garden; L. Alnemy has invited them to visit our garden for a tour.
 - 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 Plan is to work at the back end first due to water concerns (closet to water source)

- Once plans are in place, EC can start applying for grants for additional actions with the permaculture area
- Community Apiary:
 - New bees and new boxes in the apiary (5-6 hives in place)
 - Need a swarm catcher

Close of Meeting – 9:17 pm (T. Fragale motioned; A. Gale seconded the motion)

Next Meeting – July 12, 2018