

# ROXBURY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

## Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2014

### **Attendees:**

**Present:** Martin Schmidt, Linda Alnemy, Tricia Fragale, Jackie Vitiello, Mike Smith, Sonja Boon

**Public:** Stan Nathanson, Steve Letkowski, Dave Los, Ken Stagg, Richard Vedder

**Roxbury High School Environmental Club:**

**Absent:** Mary Miner, Bill Benkendorf

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**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 7:40 PM

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Administrative Projects**

### ***Highlands Report***

Russell Stern, Township Planner, presented the Highlands Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI) which documents environmental and natural resources in Roxbury, and provides the base source for resource conservation and the development of natural resource ordinances.

This inventory was prepared by the State of New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Council in order to bring Roxbury Township into conformance with the Regional Master Plan (RMP) for land that falls within the Highlands Preservation Area. As a township that falls within the Highlands region, the Roxbury Environmental Commission must review and decline or approve this document.

In 2008 Plan requirements were created to conserve natural resources of Highlands region. Communities within the regions are required to comply. In 2013 Roxbury submitted to Highlands Council for plan conformance. There are fifty-two communities in the Highlands Council

It was noted that the Hercules area is being assessed for redevelopment. This area is a Brownsfield area and development of the tract may be restricted by sewer and water limitations.

J Vitiello asked Russel Stern if there were any areas of concern for the Commission to be aware of. Russell commented that the document is a statement of fact, and reflects the natural resources in Roxbury.

All of the commissioners had an opportunity to review the document prior to the meeting; upon completion of Mr. Stern's presentation and a question & answer session, M Smith made a motion to approve the document. S Boon seconded the motion.

The document was approved unanimously by those commissioners present at the meeting.

**Planning Board Update**

- T Fragale provided an update on the planning board.
- Town Toyota is providing overflow parking in the Tree King property on Lenel Rd.
- Bensi received approval for outdoor dining. No alcohol and beverage may be served outdoors, as this is considered public space. No heaters, no planters and no barriers may be placed outside.
- Advanced Auto Parts came before planning board for a preliminary hearing to gain insight as to what the town might be looking for them to do with regards to a proposal for a new site on Route 46, across from Auto Zone.
- JM Gulick applied for a major soil moving permit and preliminary site plan approval for steep slope disturbance. The Environmental Commission is to provide any comments for feedback to the planning board.
- MedExpress Urgent Care has requested approval for new signage.

**Budget Update**

T. Fragale reported on the current budget. The budget includes:

<b>Account</b>	<b>Budget for 2014</b>	<b>Balance</b>
EC Operating Budget	\$2000	\$1046.01
Community Garden	\$3,000	\$1401.98
Bee Keeping Program	\$300	\$20.23
Bat Box Program	\$100	\$100
Education/Public Outreach	\$600	\$600
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6000</b>	<b>\$3,168.22</b>

### ***Eagle Scout Project***

\$250 from our outreach budget and \$250 from general operating budget was approved unanimously for use in an Eagle Scout Project to be completed by Griffin Williams that would provide the building of an archway entrance for the Permaculture Garden.

### ***Fennimore Update***

An update was provided by M Schmidt. Grading is in at the landfill. The impermeable barrier installation is complete, and the detention basin has been installed. A new ceramic scrubber is expected next.

### ***ANJEC Grant Close-Out***

M Smith to provide close out of expenditures this week to T Fragale. Electronic copies of receipts will be forwarded to her.

### ***Matters Presented by Public***

Dave Los requested that the dates and times for the meetings be added to the website, as they are not currently posted.

### ***Matters Presented by the Roxbury High School Environmental Club***

None

### ***Matters Presented by the Commissioners***

- J Vitiello announced that the REC will participate in the Hackensack River Tour on Saturday, October 4. REC will charter a boat for \$300. This tour will be extended to Council, Russell Stern and Chris Raths. Invited to be extended to Trails Committee if open seats remain after council invite. T Fragale requested that J Vitiello send out an invitation to the above, and provide an email reminder for the check to be cut.
- S Boon inquired about opportunities for a Girl Scout Gold Award project through the Garden or Apiary. She would have more information after the next meeting.
- S Boon provided grant opportunities to the REC via email. Commissioners should review and provide feedback at the next meeting.

### **Projects**

#### ***Public Outreach/Education***

- **Apiary-** M Smith requested a letter thanking Tim Shuler and Alex W, state apiarists for inspecting the hives.
- **Succasunny Day-** M Smith donated \$120 from the Roxbury Environmental Commission resulting from the sale of honey donated by resident beekeepers. Five additional people signed up for the garden. There was significant amount of interest in the mushroom exhibit.

- **Fall Educational Class-** Ideas were discussed for a fall educational class. Maple syrup tapping was suggested. M Smith will investigate tapping tools. Stan suggested contacting National Garden Association in Vermont.

### ***Streams/Waterways***

- **Monitoring-** Stream testing numbers will be announced at the end of this month. Roxbury received 18 out of 30 in the past. Monitoring is an indication of the health of the stream. Raritan Headwaters Association leads these testing efforts in June of each year.
- **Monofilament Project-** Separation of garbage from fishing line needs to be completed. M Schmidt, R Vedders and M Smith to clean-up on September 27.

### ***Community Garden***

- T Fragale requested that L Alnemy provide a list of necessary tools, and expenses through the end of the year, as pricing is needed to have a PO created by finance for purchase
- 24 people showed on the most recent presentation from the Library.
- Rob from the SLAP program will be contacted by L Alnemy for volunteer work
- 10 new people have signed up for the community garden
- Renewal registration will occur earlier this year and is set for the fall.
- Registration will be opened to the town in February through an invitation that will go out to the town.
- The mower is currently being repaired.

### ***Community Apiary***

- M Smith introduced Ken Stagg. Ken has been approved to assist as a mentor at the apiary.
- The apiary group met on Tuesday, Sept. 9.
- The group was advised that honey supers should be put on hives this coming weekend, and winterizing recommendations were discussed.
- Morris Somerset Beekeepers Assoc. is having their meeting on September 26.

### ***Permaculture/Pollinator Garden***

Steve Letkowski discussed purchasing some plants and shrubs such as blueberry bushes, currants and possibly aronia, now, while prices are low. Steve will provide a plan with plants and estimated prices. Ken Stagg volunteered to assist with landscape design. Clover took very well in the permaculture garden. The property was mowed once, six weeks ago.

**Next Meeting**

October 9, 2014

**Adjournment**

Mike Smith moved to adjourn the meeting, and L Alnemy seconded motion. The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 PM.