

# Roxbury Environmental Commission (REC)

March 13, 2014

## Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:40 p.m.

### Pledge of Allegiance

### Attendance:

**Present:** Linda Alnemy, Bill Benkendorf, Sonja Boon, Tricia Fragale, Michael Smith, Jackie Vitiello

**Absent:** Martin Schmidt

**Public:** Jean Airdino, Roxbury; Dave Los, Succasunna; Steve Lakowski, student

### Roxbury High School Environmental Club

None

### Review of meeting minutes

Minutes from the January 9, 2014 were submitted by Jackie Vitello. Note that the February, 2014 meeting was canceled due to inclement weather.

### Matters Presented by the RHS Environmental Club

None

### Matters Presented by Commissioners

- **Website-**T Fragale advised that the EC website would be converted to the town website. An expected launch date has not been determined at this time. A new email address of [roxburygarden@gmail.com](mailto:roxburygarden@gmail.com) will be posted on the site for correspondence to the garden contact (T Fragale).
- **Fenimore Update**  
M. Schmidt was not in attendance at the EC meeting due to travel, therefore T Fragale provided a brief synopsis of the Roxbury Town Council meeting that occurred on 3/12/2014 at Roxbury High School. She indicated that the DEP presented three options for repair of the landfill. The first option was presented as not viable. The second option presented involves a sixteen month plan to cap the property and filter the H<sub>2</sub>S through series of wells inserted throughout the landfill. The DEP stated their intent to move forward with this plan. Opposition to this plan was voiced by multiple residents and members of the community during the course of the town council meeting.

Trucking out the landfill was presented at the town council meeting as the third option.

J Vitiello indicated that while the DEP intended to move forward with the second option—capping the property, it was not definitive that this will occur.

- **Trails Update**
  - J. Vitiello indicated a hike and guided trail walk will take place at Veteran's Park on March 15.
  - J. Vitiello will inform high school advisors for community service
  
- **NJ Tree Recovery Program**
  - The NJ Tree Recovery Program has teamed with the Recreation Department and Public Works to replace trees from storms in Roxbury
    - Various tree saplings will available to the public at the Fishing Derby and possibly the Easter Egg Hunt
    - The trees must be distributed by April 19
    - Advertisement will happen the week of April 5
    - Roxbury Boy Scouts will be assisting with the distribution
    - The department of Public Works will be transporting the trees to the community events for distribution

### **Planning Board Liaison**

- T. Fragale provided the following update:
  - TGIF is currently revamping their look
  - Shop Rite (located behind the Outback) is updating their storefront
  - Burger King on Route 10 is remodeling
  - The former IGA building will be converted to a commercial building housing multiple business including a gym and other businesses.
  - The KPM building on Frontage Rd is being updated to accommodate warehousing and office space

### **Administrative Projects**

- **Garden**
  - Registration forms were distributed to gardeners via email, and are also available at the Recreation Dept
  - Currently, there is a short waiting list for additional plots, but there is not a waiting list for new gardeners. In the next several weeks and in the early part of the summer, an evaluation of available and unattended plots will allow for distribution to those interested
  - Five Year Celebration and opening day
    - April 5 will mark the opening of the 2014 garden season, the 5<sup>th</sup> year the community garden has been in existence
    - Special activities were discussed to celebrate the day
      - Coffee and donuts- T. Fragale to investigate
      - Community work day- Send out email to gardeners to request volunteers
      - Seed swap- Include in flier
      - Bee hive building- M. Smith to coordinate
      - L. Anemy will advertise the Rain Barrel and Garden Planning Class through a flier on opening day

- L. Alnemy will develop a flier announcing the activities
  - The following items should be addressed before opening day:
    - Supply wood chips- B. Benkendorf
    - Turn compost, including front and back corner- B. Benkendorf
    - Turn water on (weather permitting)- B Benkendorf
    - An inventory of tools and list of needed tools should be submitted. L. Alnemy to provide to T. Fragale
    - M. Smith will check the rototiller
  - Planning Your Garden Session is happening April 8. L. Alnemy to forward information to T. Fragale
  - L. Alnemy to follow-up on Enforced Community Assistance to create a schedule for garden clean up
- **Rain Barrels**
  - Rain barrels were purchased from Pickle King at approximately \$20 per barrel
  - A class will be held in later April or early May. Date TBD
  - Advertisement will occur at opening day at garden
- **Bees, Bats & Monofilament Bins**
  - **Bees**
    - Bees are on order, and gardeners will need to pick them up from the supplier in Flemington, NJ
    - Disassembled bee hives will be purchased the first week of April
    - M. Smith requested a small shed be provided for bee keepers to store their equipment. Smaller than 8x8 would be adequate. M. Smith to investigate
    - M. Smith will take an inventory of current equipment, and let T. Fragale know what additional equipment is needed
    - It was decided be hive making would take place on opening day. J. Vitiello and M Smith volunteered to assist
    - Tracy Young has volunteered to be a back-up beekeeper for Roxbury
    - Rich for Morris/Somerset has offered to mentor new beekeepers
    - T. Fragale will request the generator from public works for hive building on opening day
    - Guidelines are being developed for apiary members.
      - Actions around lapse in care of hive need to be added
      - Sign-in requirements need to be specified—every 2 weeks at a minimum, if longer than 4 weeks, hive becomes property of the REC
    - Jean Ardino, a resident in attendance at the meeting, expressed interest in joining the Apiary Club
  - **Bats**
    - M. Smith indicated an additional bat house was mounted on the compost bin at the garden
  - **Monofilament Bins**
    - M. Smith to get final totals for 2013 before Fishing Derby Day. J. Vitiello advised Bins have been previously requested at Black River and Conklin Pond, popular fishing areas. T. Fragale will try to see if Mt. Arlington wants bins and/or a presentation and invite to Bee Class.

- **RHA Stream Clean up**
  - Date set for April 26, 2014 at Black River. Boy Scouts will be assisting with this clean-up. It was suggested that the high school be made aware of the activity, as many students are seeking community service hours. T. Fragale will reach out to the Environmental Club at RHS

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

- Steve Lakowski presented information on a Permaculture Pollinator Garden as an option to fill/compliment the apiary garden. T. Fragale to investigate Open Space Committee for potential funding and Steve Lakowski will develop a preliminary plan broken out by stages. Phase I may consist of clover fixing.
  - B. Benkendorf will collect a soil sample for testing
  - T. Fragale will approach additional organizations within Roxbury for assistance when/if implemented
  - T. Fragale to share the presentation with M. Schmidt to share with the council
- Steve Los, resident of Roxbury discussed the fact that he owns a company that conducts soil testing. He was invited to provide a flier to distribute on opening day for the garden

### **Community Outreach**

- **Soap Making Class**-Pending M. Smith working on getting details from instructor
- **Earth Day Event**-RHA stream Clean UP-April 26, 2014
- **Rain Barrel Class**- Barrels have been purchased. Date of class TBD
- **Suckasunny Day**- REC to have a booth. Details to follow

### **Matters Presented by Commissioners**

J Vitiello reviewed points covered during a Community Garden class held at Frelinghusen Arboretum

### **Next Meeting**

April 10, 2014.

### **Adjourn**

9:40 Motion by J. Vitiello 2<sup>nd</sup> by S. Boon