

Community Update  
May 25, 2021

- Good evening and welcome to tonight's meeting of the Roxbury Township Council. I am Mayor Bob DeFillippo, and on behalf of the Council, we hope everyone is well and safe, and enjoying the nice weather.

**COVID**

- I am very pleased to begin again tonight with more good news about COVID. The declining trend in COVID infections continues to drop dramatically in Roxbury, as it is around the state and the country. Since our last Council meeting, the number of confirmed COVID cases in town went from 2,509 to 2,532 – just 23 new cases.
- While even one new case should be a reminder that the disease is still present, there is certainly plenty of evidence that the pandemic is declining rapidly as more and more of us get vaccinated.
- Those who wish to get vaccinated can do so easily now at numerous locations. Please check the township's web site for more up-to-date information.
- We are certainly all very happy that the state is lifting the requirement that people wear masks outside and inside – just in time for the Memorial Day weekend. I know we are all looking forward to being with friends and family.

**State Mandates Lifted**

- Indoor Masks: The state announced yesterday that it is removing the statewide indoor mask mandate effective Friday, May 28th. However,

businesses and entities overseeing indoor spaces may continue requiring individuals to wear a face mask.

- Additionally, the state is requiring that individuals continue wearing a face mask in State offices, and worksites that are closed to the public such as warehousing and manufacturing facilities. Further, individuals should continue wearing a face mask in healthcare settings, prisons, homeless shelters, airplanes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation as well as airports, train stations, and bus terminals.
- The state is also requiring that individuals continue wearing a face mask in childcare settings, youth summer camps, private and parochial preschool programs, and elementary and secondary schools. It is strongly encouraged that unvaccinated people continue wearing a face mask in any indoor public setting.
- The state is removing the requirement that individuals maintain six feet apart in indoor and outdoor settings effective Friday, May 28th. However, businesses may continue requiring individuals to maintain six feet of social distancing. It is also requiring people to maintain six feet of social distancing in all the above-noted locations where individuals must continue wearing a face mask. Again, it is strongly encouraged that unvaccinated individuals continue to maintain six feet of social distancing in any indoor public setting.
- All restrictions for dance floors and bars and restaurants and from ordering food and drinks while standing at bars and restaurants will be lifted effective Friday, May 28th.

- Finally, all capacity restrictions on indoor gatherings will be lifted on June 4th.

## **TOWN OFFICES**

- The Township's offices are now open again. Township Manager John Shepherd reports the reopening has gone smoothly for our residents and staff. Please remember that masks are still required until Friday, May 28. After that, we will recommend that unvaccinated people wear a mask – their choice - when in the township's buildings. More good news about returning to normal.
- Tonight, you may have noticed that in addition to Township Manager John Shepherd, Township Clerk Amy Rhead, and IT Director Rob Kuncken, I am joined in the Council chambers by Councilmen Jim Rilee, Mark Crowley, and Shawn Potillo. This is part of our easing back carefully to in-person Council meetings. We expect to soon invite members of the public to attend meetings in person. We will continue to offer both Zoom video and audio options.

## **State Championships**

- You also may have noticed that our Deputy Mayor Fred Hall is not with us tonight. He is happily excused because he is at Landing Park, where the Girl's High School Varsity Softball Team is playing Whippany for the Morris County Championship.
- This is especially exciting because our beautiful new park in Landing is the Home of the Girls' Softball Championship – an example of the township's strong commitment to youth sports, our fields, and our Recreational Facilities.

- The deputy mayor also asks that I announce that the Boys' High School Baseball Team is in the finals of the Morris County Championship. They play Saturday against Delbarton in Montvale for the title.
- Go Roxbury!

### **Hopatcong State Park Sewer**

- This morning I attended a press conference held by the NJDEP to celebrate connecting Hopatcong State Park to Roxbury's sewer system -- one of the most significant steps we have taken as a lake community to restoring and preserving the health of Lake Hopatcong.
- I would like to first thank former NJDEP Commissioner Catherine McCabe and the current NJDEP Acting Commissioner Shawn LaTourette. The project – which many said could not get done, especially during a pandemic – has been years in the planning stage.
- In Roxbury Township, special thanks to fellow Councilman Mark Crowley, a fierce advocate for the lake, as well as Township Manager John Shepherd and his staff; in particular, Township Engineer Mike Kobylarz.
- I also want to thank my fellow mayors from around the lake: Mayor Francis of Hopatcong, Mayor Wilsusen of Jefferson, and Mayor Stanzilis of Mt. Arlington. Working together, we made a pretty effective team with real results.
- Thanks also to Marty Kane – Lake Hopatcong's voice – for bringing the mayors together and for your devotion to the lake.

### **MEMORIAL DAY**

- As a reminder, our 2021 Memorial Day Ceremony will to be held on Monday, May 31, at 11 a.m. at the Veterans' Memorial on the island at

Horseshoe Lake, 72 Eyland Avenue, Succasunna. Roxbury Township and the Roxbury Veterans of Foreign War Post 2833 are hosting this ceremony of remembrance.

- All are invited to attend to honor the memory of those Veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our country.
- In the event of rain, the ceremony will take place at the nearby picnic pavilion. Current COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions will be in effect.
- For questions, please contact Michele O'Halloran in the manager's office.
- We hope to see everyone there.
- Finally, as we previously announced, due to the pandemic, we will not have a Memorial Day parade this year. I have heard from quite a few residents, and I know we are all frustrated and disappointed.
- So let me end on this positive note. Plans are currently in the works to bring back the ever-popular Beach Blast and Succasunny Day, and Home for the Holidays.
- This is in addition to most of our summer youth camps and sports programs, and our other recreational activities.
- And I am incredibly pleased to say, that our wonderful Horseshoe Lake Beach opens this Saturday. The beach will be open only on weekends until June 26 when it will be open daily.
- On behalf of the Township Council, thank you for your patience and cooperation as we bring Roxbury back to normal as quickly and as safely as possible.
  - Thank you again for joining us tonight. Now back to our agenda.