

Community Update  
June 15, 2021

- Welcome to tonight's meeting of the Roxbury Township Council. I am Mayor Bob DeFillippo and tonight, for the first time since March of last year – 15 months ago – the Roxbury Township Council is meeting in person. I want to welcome my fellow Councilmembers back. It is nice to be together again.
- Starting at our next meeting on June 29, we will once again open our doors to the public – also something we have not done in 15 months. This is possible because the state has lifted the Covid restrictions on capacity and social distancing for these types of meetings, and because you have been vigilant.
- The public will not be required to wear masks or to socially distance at our June 29 meeting. However, people who have not yet been vaccinated are strongly encouraged to wear masks – their choice.
- Also, remote access to our Council meetings on Zoom will continue for the foreseeable future, given that there are those among us who may still feel uncomfortable in public.
- I would like to stress that we should all be respectful of others concerning mask wearing and social distancing in stores, parks, and other public places. Incidents of confrontations over mask wearing are completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated in Roxbury.
- That said, I know I speak for the Council when I say that we are incredibly happy to return to our normal in-person Council meeting.

## **COVID**

- Which brings us once again to the Covid update, and once again, I have good news. The rate of infection in Roxbury has dropped again, reaching levels lower than anything we have seen in a while, and that's great.
- Since our last update two weeks ago, the number of people in town who have contracted Covid went from 2,532 to 2,544 – just 12 new cases. In fact, there were several days last week when there were no new cases.
- On behalf of the Council, I would like to thank everyone in town for their cooperation and patience during these very challenging times. We are beating the pandemic because we are strong as a community, and we help each other.

## **Girls' Softball**

- Next, I am proud to report that the Roxbury High School Girls' Softball team on Saturday won its first state sectional title in 29 years by dominating the four-seed Passaic Valley Hornets.
- The game, played at home, saw the Gaels beat the Hornets, 5-1, winning the Gaels the North Jersey Section 1 Group 3 title.
- I know that Deputy Mayor Fred Hall will have more to say about this.

## **First Responder Volleyball Tournament**

- I would like to give a quick shout out to twin brothers Christian and Jon Licciardi, who own A GRADE Property Restoration here in town. This past Sunday, A Grade organized the 1st Annual Volleyball ROX Charity Tournament at Horseshoe Lake.
- The event was well attended and was sponsored by our incredibly supportive business community.

- All proceeds from this event are going to help purchase life-saving equipment for the ROXBURY Volunteer Fire Department.
- Nice job, guys.

### **Stand Against Anti-Semitism**

- On Sunday, June 6, I attended an event to take a stand against anti-Semitism that was arranged by Rabbi Inna of the Temple Shalom here in Roxbury and others in the religious community.
- Held in Parsippany, the event drew nearly 300 people who heard local religious and political leaders denounce anti-Semitism, hate, and discrimination of any kind in our communities.
- I was proud to see so many local religious and political leaders at the event, including our own State Sen. Tony Bucco.

### **High School Habitat House**

- I was also honored to represent the Township Council on Monday in congratulating the students and teachers involved the school district's Structural Design & Fabrication Program at the High School.
- Students in the program are building a Habitat for Humanity House that will be located on property on Edith Drive donated by the Township. Joining me was Councilwoman Jaki Albrecht and Councilmen Shawn Potillo and Jim Rilee.
- The "Sign a Wall Stud" ceremony certainly reflected what can be accomplished when the school district, Habitat for Humanity, and Roxbury collaborate.

## **Marijuana Law**

- Finally, we have on the agenda tonight a proposed ordinance that would prohibit the distribution and production of marijuana in Roxbury. In considering this ordinance, it is important to know that it is a placeholder for now.
- By that I mean state regulations governing marijuana distribution and production have not been fully developed. Also, unless we act now locally, we may lose the ability to make decisions about distribution and production in our town.
- At some future date, we can always go back and amend or change our ordinance once we better understand the state regulations.
- Recently, Township Manager John Shepherd and I met with mayors and administrators from several surrounding towns. All indicated they agreed with this approach to distribution and production. They also provided interesting insight about the marijuana business. All agreed they did not want their communities to be among the first to test the new marijuana law.
- With that, thank you again for joining us tonight and I look forward to seeing some of you at our next in person Council meeting.
- On behalf of the Township Council, stay well and be safe.
- Now, back to our agenda.

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