

Community Update
October 12, 2021

- Good evening and welcome to the Roxbury Township Council meeting. On behalf of the Township Council, we hope everyone is well and safe.

COVID

- Let's jump right into our COVID report. Quite frankly, it is not good. Since our last Council meeting on September 28, the number of confirmed COVID cases in Roxbury has jumped from 2,906 to 2,986 – that's 80 new cases in just two weeks.
- These are the highest increases in confirmed cases that Roxbury has ever experienced throughout the pandemic.
- This news should be concerning to everyone. But we also know that it is very frustrating. It is frustrating to us.
- After months and months of social distancing, mask wearing, and vaccinations, Roxbury, like the rest of the state and country, is experiencing surges in confirmed cases that in some cases are the highest they have been during the pandemic.
- For perspective and context, I looked back one year ago to see where we were in the pandemic. At that time, we had 350 confirmed cases in town – an increase of 17 people from the previous report.
- I called the increase significant. I also said no one should be complacent or satisfied with those numbers.

- I would like to repeat those words tonight. We must stop being complacent and satisfied with the increases in confirmed cases. Some reports say that we have reached the peak of this surge and that it is tapering down. I hope that is true.
- For now, the Township continues to advise people to follow social distancing and mask-wearing recommendations, especially indoors and in large crowds.
- We also continue to encourage everyone who is eligible to get vaccinated, including the booster shot and the annual flu shot.
- Roxbury has proven its resilience during the pandemic. Our community worked hard to beat back COVID and to help all our neighbors get through these challenging times.
- We need to keep up that strength and commitment for just a little bit longer so that we can return to normal again.

Mooney Street Blade

- I would like to devote the remainder of this report to an event that is taking place this Saturday at 11 a.m., at Mooney Mountain Park.
- We are dedicating a Street Blade to Hugh W. Mooney, a Roxbury resident who fought in the hedgerows of Normandy and was killed on July 17, 1944, near St. Lo, by enemy shell fire.
- Mr. Mooney was nominated by his niece, Sue Ellen (Mooney) LaBelle, to receive the honor of a Street Blade in Roxbury.

- She told us her uncle was born at home at what is now 139 Landing Road on September 11, 1923. He was a graduate of Roxbury High School and was employed by Hercules Powder Company in Kenvil.
- Mr. Mooney volunteered to join the army in the fall of 1942 and was in the 117th regiment of the 30th Infantry Division. He landed on Omaha Beach on June 11, 1944, 5 days after D-Day.
- After the war his parents, Louis H. Mooney, and Flossie McElroy Mooney, brought his body back to be interred at the First Presbyterian Church of Succasunna.
- The Township previously recognized Mr. Mooney's sacrifice by including his name on a plaque at the beautiful Roxbury Veterans Memorial, along with all the names of our residents who gave their lives to protect our country.
- Deputy Mayor Fred Hall will preside over Saturday's ceremony. On behalf of the Township Council, I would like to extend the Township's deep gratitude to Mr. Mooney and his family for his selfless sacrifice so that we may live in freedom.
- Thank you. Now, back to our agenda.

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