

TOWN OF ROXBURY
PLANNING BOARD
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Joe Farleigh, Chairman
David Cowan, Vice Chairman
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MINUTES FOR JANUARY 18, 2012

PRESENT: Joe Farleigh, Phil Zorda, Dave Cowan, Jean D'Antoni, Jean Stone,
Dave Zambri, Robert Cole and Duncan Martin from the Delaware County Planning Board.

OPEN MEETING: Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Chairman Farleigh. Minutes of November 2011 were motioned for approval by Phil Zorda, seconded by Jean Stone, all in favor, motion carried.

Duncan Martin presented four Land Acquisitions to review.

Property ID	4087	38.1 acres	agricultural district
	7448	50.0 acres	"
	2240	26.5 acres	"
	8312	3 lots, 3.9 acres, 1.9 acres	22.36 acres all agricultural, Need for subdivision and check frontage.

Nan Stolzenburg continued with the Roxbury Comprehensive Planning Survey Analysis. Road maps were edited by Diane Pickett. There were several road names omitted in the reports and Diane was able to insert the road names. Water district maps were not available right now, but Dave Cowan will be able to supply the maps for the water district. Also ag assessment maps will be supplied by Duncan Martin.

Nan introduced Adam Yagelski a SUNY graduate student who helped Nan input the survey information. Survey results: 2900 post cards were sent out. 397 surveys have been posted to date. 1300 out of town and out of Roxbury zip codes and 1600 drop mailing current residence. Returns out of the 2900 were received about 14% returns. Household returns were at a higher rate of return 1044 households as of 2010 census. The returns were about 50/50 for part time home owners and locals.

Each question and responses were reviewed. It showed that most people's concern was to maintain small town and rural atmosphere, natural environment, community character including peace and quiet. Lack of parking in both Grand Gorge and Roxbury was an issue, mostly Grand Gorge. Also high taxes and property maintenance was an issue. More emphasis on promoting main street business, jobs should be addressed, improving technology (cell and internet).

In answer to the question do you expect to be living in the Town of Roxbury or Grand Gorge five years from now, 70.3% answered yes, which shows most people are committed to staying in town. The question did you move to Roxbury from somewhere else had a large response, 73.9% answered yes. This shows the change in the face of the community. The next question was why you chose Roxbury 71.6% answered attractive rural setting, clean air/water, safer environment, affordable property/housing at time of purchase.

The question how important is agriculture and agricultural land to you 42.5% answered very important, and 42.8% said important. Would you be interested in buying more locally grown agricultural products 87.1% answered yes which shows a need to focus on more agricultural products and support.

The question do you feel Roxbury's farms and agricultural resources are adequately protected from other forms of development, 49.7% answered no, and 32.1% answered no opinion. This shows opportunity to educate people as to what is being done or what isn't being done.

Of the potential economic activities listed which three do you feel are the most important to promote the Town of Roxbury and Hamlet of Grand Gorge, the first choice was tourism, second, development of agriculture, retail business, the second choice was development of agriculture, retail business, tourism, the third choice was retail business, development of agricultural and tourism.

Question are you a part time or full- time resident, 47.9% answered part-time, 44.6% were full-time. In the age category the highest responses were people aged 45 yrs old to 75 yrs old. Do you have any school-aged children living in your household, 17.8% answered yes, 82.2% answered no.

The very low returns were in the younger generation. It was suggested that Nan and members of the Planning Board contact Superintendent of Schools, Thomas J. O'Brien see if there is any other way we can involve some of the young people in learning what they think is good/bad and desired in the future for the Town. One idea was to give the seniors a survey, or to work with Mrs. Mattice in class or after school (maybe for extra credit) for a short mini-workshop with her students to explore with them what they think are the strengths weaknesses, and future vision for the town. The Planning Board is particularly interested in knowing what types of things they would like to see that would keep them in the area.

At our February meeting we will finalize our vision and goals and our strategies to go forward. A public workshop will be held on a Saturday sometime in March so that working and second home owners could attend.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm by Chairman Farleigh, seconded by Jean D'Antoni, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by:
Jean D'Antoni