<u>Familiar Winners Merrick, Masopust Make</u> <u>Strides At Roxbury Lid-lifter</u>

ROXBURY – Five-time defending season champion Ken Merrick and 2016 female season runner-up Alison Masopust prevailed in their respective overall divisions Saturday, March 4, at the 2.4-mile opener for the 41st season of the Roxbury Road Races Club.

Merrick, 47, of New Fairfield placed first overall in 14-minutes, 56-seconds over the rolling layout, which included a trip up the steep hill on Chalybes Road.

Dave Harvey, 53, a former Bridgewater resident who annexed the 1984 and 1988 season titles in the Roxbury series, placed second overall in 15:31.

Masopust, 32, of Morris easily captured the female title and placed third overall in 15:53. She tallied 26 victories in the female division last year.

The series will resume Saturday, March 11, at 8:30 a.m. with a 3.52-mile run that will include a trip down the long hill on Hemlock Road.

The runners can either pay \$50 and sign a 2017 season waiver or submit \$5 and sign a weekly waiver.

The races, which are sanctioned by the Roxbury Recreation Commission, start and finish near the Everett Hurlburt Community Park at 18 Apple Lane.

For further information, contact Scott Benjamin, the race director, at ScottBenjaminWCSU2014@gmail.com. (860) 354-3521 or access www.roxburyraces.net.