

# Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

October 7, 2015 – 7 pm Meeting

Chairman Keady called the meeting to order. He read the notice satisfying the Open Public Meeting Act. All stood for the pledge of allegiance. All were reminded to turn off their cell phones or put them in silent mode.

Members Present: Jerry Bowers, Henry Gore, Ted Harwick, Chairman Michael Keady, Dwight Pederson, Richard Schrack, Robert Thurgarland, and Secretary Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Absent: N/A

Township Committee Liaison Present: Ray Krov

Let the record show we have a quorum.

Minutes: After reading the minutes, a motion was made by Jerry Bowers and seconded by Ted Harwick to approve the minutes of September 2, 2015. Motion carried.

Proposed Penn East Natural Gas Line through Holland Township – Update of the Pipeline Subcommittee (Dan Bush, Larry LaFevre, Mike Keady and Ken Vogel). PennEast filed the application on September 24, 2015. The clock starts ticking and you have 20 days to file as an intervener. Discussion took place on who should file and if the Environmental Commission should file. By filing it gives you some legal standing. Holland Township will file as an intervener per Mayor Krov. It is his suggestion that the different township organizations act in an advisory capacity and that they should be reporting to the Township Committee so that the Township Committee can be the spokesperson for the township. It promotes consistency of our message.. More discussion took place on setting up a separate email message for this project and letting the clerk filter what is received and send it out but that is something that Mayor Krov will work out with Attorney Cushing.

A motion was made by Henry Gore and seconded by Robert Thurgarland to support the Township filing as an intervener with the EC acting in its advisory capacity to send info to the TC as support. All present were in favor. Motion carried.

Ted Harwick mentioned that although he does not oppose the pipeline, he would like people to understand that not everyone is against it and that it does not necessarily destroy our community. He mentioned that crops can still grow on top of it once the line is installed and that animals can still graze on top of it. His concerns lie in the amount of taxpayer dollars being spent to oppose this project and proposed that the Environmental Commission send a memo to the Township Committee asking them to consider a cap on spending for this project. Not one person present was in support of this motion and in fact supports the Township in its spending and further trusts that the Township Committee will make reasonable judgments. Holland Township has opposed the pipeline the least and has spent the least amount of money in comparison to other New Jersey townships. Robert Thurgarland reminded everyone that litigations fall under the direction of the Township Committee. Jerry Bowers reminded everyone that if the EC does not send a memo then residents themselves can attend a township meeting and make the same request at the meeting. Henry Gore expressed that he believed a memo like that is sending the township committee a negative message. Chairmen Keady reminded everyone that they need to be looking at the submitted documents and outline concerns, false statements etc. Chairman Keady will send out the comments of Kingwood Township as they are a good example of the best approach to the review of the submitted documents.

Sub-Committees:

Stormwater Education – Mike Keady, Robert Thurgarland and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak as Secretary Kozak. Nothing to report at this time. Secretary Kozak worked on an update.

TO: Township Engineer Richard Roseberry  
CC: The 2015 Environmental Commission  
FROM: Maria Elena Jennette Kozak  
Environmental Commission Secretary  
DATE: October 6, 2015  
RE: 2014 Tier B Municipal Stormwater General Permit Points  
Annual Points needed: 10 Total Points 13 for 2015

- Web postings - 1 point
  - Please look at the web site. [http://www.hollandtownship.org/Home\\_Page.php](http://www.hollandtownship.org/Home_Page.php)
  - Some information is available on the home page of the web site as suggested by the past township engineer. If anyone has suggestions please let us know so we can work with our web administrator Melissa Tigar.
  - Exhibit 1 - screen shot -will be provided with year-end report
- Created Committee (CSAC) - 2 points
  - 2014 Members: Michael Keady, Robert Thurgarland, and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak (as secretary)
  - Exhibit 2 - screen shot - will be provided with year-end report
  - Members listed on website -updated yearly.  
[http://www.hollandtownship.org/Environmental\\_Commission.html](http://www.hollandtownship.org/Environmental_Commission.html)
- Stormwater Display - 2 points
  - Community Day - September 13, 2015 - the Stormwater education fishing project was used. This was the same as last year. The "Don't Pollute Stream" bracelet and pens were used as the promo for the kids who participated.
  - Exhibit 3 - pictures showing the event - will be in year-end report
  - Display at Municipal Building -
  - Exhibit 4 - pictures
    - Posters obtained by State (like TIP cards)
    - Mounted in Black frames
    - Displayed on the lower level of the building
- Partnership Agreement/Local Event - 3 points
  - A cleanup of the River Musconetcong Watershed Association 04-2015 - details should come in about cleanup - I will work on this!!!!.
  - Road clean ups. All approved by Al Turdo - Maria Elena will work with Mr. Turdo on listing the groups that receive a donation for roadside cleanup..
  - Exhibit 5 - requisitions attached - will be in year-end report
- Mass mailing - 3 points
  - The Stormwater information sheet will be mailed with the 2015 recycling /dumpster cards package distributed to residents in December.
  - Exhibit 6 - the "Solutions to Stormwater Pollution" flyer - will be in year-end report
- Stormwater message on distribution to Holland Township School - 2 points
  - cost comes out of grant money!
  - Doing a water bottle created with "Don't Pollute Streams" on it.
  - Delivered to the school 2015
  - Exhibit 7 - picture of the water bottle and quotation-will be in year-end report

Secretary Kozak will work with Mayor Krov on the recycling/dumpster project for 2016. She will also work on obtaining the list from the assessor.

Community Day – September 13, 2015 – Sunday. Dwight Pederson had the fishing project ready. Chairman Keady sent out some pictures of the day. Robert Thurgarland helped with set up and Mike Keady and Dwight Pederson closed the event. The Arsenic expert Prof. Onstott from Princeton University was present and was impressive. The Concerned Citizens Against the Pipeline were present and all went well with them. The Rain Barrel was well received and the teacher (Stephanie) who runs that program was enthusiastic in educating all those who stopped by. Although the event turned out well and we had the room we do need to remind those in charge of the event of our requirements. The EC tries to educate and this education also enables us to satisfy some point requirements with the State of NJ. It's a dual purpose for us and does require some additional space to accommodate what we have been doing. The kids love the casting project and the posters also help get the message across. Next year we need to work more with the DJ to have more announcements of things going on at the EC booth. The Fire Department was nice enough to fill our pools. There was some discussion on moving the rain date till the next scheduled Saturday as attendance is down when the rain date is held on a Sunday.

Trails – Ted Harwick (chair), Robert Thurgarland and Richard Schrack. Richard Schrack sent out information on a HART Grant., as noted below:

**Please describe the project or strategy that you will implement. Indicate why this is a good project for your community and what you think the benefits of successfully implementing it will be. How would you define a successful project? \***

Work or activities to be performed as a result of this grant would be to produce mass mailing of our present overall trails and walking opportunities, an information kiosk and planning maps of overall town trails both present and potentially in the future.

**How do you plan to evaluate the project and its success? \***

The Environmental Commission will draw upon the tools and resources developed under the project to post on the Holland Township website a user-friendly map—plus descriptive narrative—of all existing trails and easements in the community. Moreover, the Township EC would devote at least one of its monthly committee meetings to introduce this information and tools to the community, with the objective of promoting increased public utilization and enjoyment of these open spaces.

**Please provide information on the budget for this project. How will you use the resources (materials, staff, etc. Cash (grant funds):**

- Kiosk = (2 @ \$750.00 ea.) \$1,500

- Mass Mailings = \$780.00

- Partial Commission Member Comp. = (EC member, 10 hr. @ \$22.00/hr.) \$220.00 - staff members to prepare mailings, oversee kiosk construction and trail map creation.

Total: \$2,500.00

**Please provide a brief description and history of the organization and its advocacy work. \***

Holland Township was one of the first municipalities in the Highlands Region to accede to the Highlands Regional Master Plan, and has an active “Green Team” which won a Bronze certification from Sustainable New Jersey in 2014.

As described in its Environmental Resource Inventory (incorporated into the township’s Master Plan in 2014), Holland Township is richly endowed with natural and scenic resources. Indeed, the township and its public/private partners have allotted over \$7 million over the past several years to the acquisition of approximately 1800 acres of open and preserved space—probably one of the highest per capita investments of any municipality in the State. The community has two broad objectives to its acquisition of green/open spaces: 1) to protect fragile natural resources from development/permanent loss; and 2) to exercise responsible stewardship of those resources to ensure that they can be enjoyed by the very people (i.e., the taxpayers of the host community and partners) who funded their acquisition.

**Please provide a brief overview of the size and scope of the organization, including the number of full-time employees and other existing resources available to support this project. \***

Holland Township has a 7 member Environmental Commission. The commission works on many issues, including open space preservation, smart growth, wetlands and water resource protection, green infrastructure, recycling and litter, environmental cleanups, wildlife habitat, energy efficiency and conservation and transportation. In addition, the Holland Township municipal staff would be available for clerical support.

**Briefly describe your community, its demographics and a couple of key data points about the pedestrian activity or challenges faced by your residents. \***

Holland Township has been a leader in protecting fragile natural resources from development/permanent loss. Unfortunately, the township currently lacks a comprehensive network of trails—or even of a user-friendly map of trails—that would facilitate access to and enjoyment of the many green/open spaces. Absent those trails/map, township residents and visitors are reluctant to venture

into these areas. In addition, the township has no sidewalks. So walking on streets can be very dangerous. Trails far from the streets offer the only opportunity to walk without the danger of autos.

**Briefly describe your past walking advocacy efforts and assets available to implement this micro grant. \***

In April of 2015, Holland Township was awarded a grant by the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions. The purpose of this grant is to:

- Identify existing trails in Holland Township's green/open spaces
- Identify trail fragments in these spaces
- Identify easements that afford access to these green/open spaces
- Prepare a comprehensive map of these trails, trail fragments and easements
- Post a user-friendly map of these trails and access routes on the Holland Township website (<http://www.hollandtownship.org/>); and, on the basis of this information
- Prepare a Township-wide trails development and maintenance plan, with a special focus on 1) improving the marking of existing trails; 2) clearing debris and vegetative growth from existing trails; 3) marking and mapping proposed trails in areas where none exist; and 4) entering into informed negotiations with landowners to link, where possible, trail fragments in an effort to create a network of hiking trails in the Township.

A motion was made by Mike Keady and seconded by Henry Gore to authorize Richard Schrack to submit the grant. All present were in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

No update for the ANJEC Grant project in progress.

Web Page – Jerry Bowers, Dwight Pederson, and Rick Schrack –The new web design company is working on creating the new website. The Ridge is being worked on first. More information to follow.

Highlands Conformance – Jerry Bowers (chair), Mike Keady and Henry Gore. Another topic discussed was updating to the Zoning Maps. Maser Consulting is working on the zoning maps project. An update will follow.

Shade Tree and Community Forestry Plan Sub-Committee – Henry Gore, Robert Thurgarland, Dwight Pederson and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak as secretary. The revised plan has been mailed back to the State. We need to concentrate on Core Training. Henry Gore will let Secretary Kozak know if he can attend as he has to have eye surgery and is concerned with driving after having eye surgery and recuperating. The training is October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. It is being held at Bally's in Atlantic City. No one else was able to take the core training. The Bellis Road tree cutting project was also discussed.

Public Comment: No comments.

Hunterdon County Meeting with DEP Representative Cindy Randazzo. Nothing to report. Henry Gore submitted questions to Secretary Kozak and they were forwarded to Ms. Randazzo.

**From:** Maria Elena Kozak  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2015 8:14 AM  
**To:** 'Page Stiger'  
**Cc:** Ken Vogel (Holland)  
**Subject:** Holland Township Comments

Hello Paige:

Sorry for the delay. I was waiting to see if there were any other comments from our board members. What I received is as follows:

"1. Pipeline - Emphasis that the preserved and environmentally sensitive lands of Western New Jersey are vitally important to all residents of NJ and the entire densely populated region. This must be driven home politically.

The outcome could be to reroute the pipeline down alongside the Penn.Turnpike Extension.

2. Community Forestry - Holland TWP. has recently submitted a 5 year plan for DEP approval. The DEP must make the promised funding available for these programs. I hope personnel changes at the DEP do not signal de-emphasis of the program.

3. Trails - Holland TWP has minimum trails of all types. The only trails are on rugged terrain at the county park. Coordination and funding must be made available. The state has an opportunity to provide an anchor for a town trail network by extending the D&R Canal Trail northward along the Delaware River and Milford Cliffs. Acquiring the abandoned railway right-of-way is a good first step. Holland TWP should receive priority funding to allow us to catch up to neighboring facilities.

4. Brown Field Sites - Federal EPA has involved the community in cleanup of the nearby Milford superfund site in a superior manner. We have tried to get similar information about the pollution and health issues of the related Holland brown field sites. The DEP has not provided information, help or advise in stark contrast to EPA's open participation at Milford. We would like the DEP to meet with us to provide the environmental data on these sites, and to establish needed information programs."

I do hope that these additional comments can be discussed at the scheduled meeting of October 2 with Ms. Randazzo. Recently, Holland Township Committeemen Ken Vogel spoke with Ms. Randazzo and I am sure that those topics discussed will also be reviewed at your scheduled meeting.

Thank you for working on this project. We look forward to receiving an overview of the discussions of the scheduled meeting. It will be very interesting to read about other concerns in Hunterdon County.

Maria Elena

*Maria Elena Jennette Howard*

Holland Township Secretary

PB/BOA/EC/PR

908-995-0057

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2016 Proposed meeting dates. Secretary Kozak submitted them for consideration. A motion was made by Mike Keady and seconded by Henry Gore to accept the revised 2016 meeting dates. All present were in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Township of Holland  
Environmental Commission

#### 2016 Meetings

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Environmental Commission, Township of Holland, County of Hunterdon, New Jersey, will hold their regular meetings on the following dates in 2016 at 7:00 P.M. at the Holland Township Municipal Building, 61 Church Road, Milford, NJ. Meetings are open to the public.

#### Meeting Dates

January 6, 2016 (Reorganization Meeting)  
February 3, 2016  
March 2, 2016  
April 6, 2016  
May 4, 2016  
June 1, 2016  
July 6, 2016  
August 3, 2016  
September 7, 2016  
October 5, 2016  
November 2, 2016  
December 7 2016  
January 4, 2017 (Reorganization Meeting)

Hughesville Plant – Mayor Krov asked Henry Gore to help the Township with the true issue regarding the Hughesville Plant. The property owners (IPP) have filed a tax appeal and they are questioning the tax assessment of the property. IPP claims the property is polluted and that there is no land value. The Township Committee says that the owners polluted the land and thereby depreciated the value themselves. The township is looking for proof of what the environmental concerns are. Henry Gore showed Mayor Krov a DEP document indicating that there is no record of pollution on record for this plant. Mayor Krov urged Henry Gore to continue his pursuit of information about pollution at the plant.

At 8:50 pm Jerry Bowers made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

*Maria Elena Jennette Kozak*

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

Environmental Commission Secretary