

Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

November 3, 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~~ Gore (arrived 8:20 pm – from the polls), Ted Harwick, Chairman Michael Keady, Dwight Pederson, ~~Richard~~, Richard Schrack, Robert Thurgarland, and Secretary Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Absent: N/A

Township Committee Liaison Present: Ray Krov

Guest Brittany Wieder

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 October 7, 2015. Motion carried. Some discussion took place about some of the edits that were received by Mr. Keady and Mr. Bowers and Secretary Kozak said she merged them but there was nothing of substance in the changes. Some additional discussion took place regarding the Hughesville Plant and solar but there is no formal application received in the Township.

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. Holland Township has filed as an intervener. A major discussion took place on what to do next. The Highlands Council letter was discussed.

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 which was submitted at the last meeting.

Trails – Ted Harwick (chair), Robert Thurgarland and Richard Schrack. Brittany Wieder was present. Her presentation is below:

MEADOW TRAIL

Visitor Education: Pamphlets describing flora and fauna commonly seen in the meadow could be provided at the trail head and in the wildlife blind for visitor use.

Meadow Preparation: The meadow must be prepared for planting to ensure desired plants are not out competed by weeds. This may be accomplished by tilling the soil or by using an herbicide. Tilling must be done every three weeks for an entire growing season. Six day-long rentals of a roto tiller would cost around \$480. Environmentally friendly herbicides can be purchased for as little as \$16 per gallon, however, large quantities and repeated applications will be necessary.

Meadow Sowing: Desired grasses and wildflowers should be sown in mid-Spring. Dependent upon chosen mix the meadow could cost over \$17,000 to seed.

Meadow Maintenance: After three years of growth mow the meadow close to the ground once in late fall or early spring yearly.

Trail Maintenance: Once meadow vegetation is established the path running thru the clearing should be mowed weekly. Wooded sections of the trail should also be surveyed weekly, at a minimum, so that obstructions may be cleared in a timely manner.

Wildlife Blind: Construction of a wildlife blind will allow visitors to observe animals that may otherwise have been scared off by their presence. Building materials for a 12' by 8' wooden structure would cost around \$400.

Total Cost: \$17,880 (Not including labor.)

Discussion of the above took place. These are ideas. She explained how she arrived at the numbers. Explained that the meadow is an option. Spots to sit and be created. She was unable to determine costs for maintenance such as mowing. The path would basically be a mowing path. Low maintenance. Anything that we want can be done but at additional costs. Holland Township needs to determine what they are actually looking to accomplish. She was in favor of an Ecosystem overhaul.

Brittany Wieder has ~~meetmet~~ with Tom Thorson with Hunterdon Land Trust but has been unable to meet with Lorraine Scheibener, chair of the Holland Park organization. Bob Thurgarland who is also on ~~the~~ that subcommittee will work with Mrs. Scheibener. After some ideas were expressed and discussion took place, Rick Schrack said he would revise the map that Brittany Wieder submitted as there was confusion in reading the map as the coordinates were off. Brittany Wieder does not have a smart phone so is unable to use many of the apps available to create trails. She mapped this out on her own after walking the property. Brittany Wieder will try to attend the Park meeting which is scheduled for November 12th and will try to attend the EC December meeting.

We have not received anything regarding other trail grants we were seeking.

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 the~~ updating 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. No one was able to attend the core training.

Public Comment: No comments.

DEP “Community Deer Management Plan” – Jerry Bowers. This was tabled till the December meeting.

Milford Paper Mill Meeting attended by Henry Gore. Discussions took place.

At 8:55 pm Jerry Bowers made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

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Environmental Commission Secretary