

# Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

April 1, 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, Chairman Michael Keady, Dwight Pederson, Richard Schrack, Robert Thurgarland and Secretary Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Absent: Ted Harwick

Township Committee Liaison Present: Ray Krov

Guest: Jordan Foreman, AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassador

Let the record show we have a quorum.

Minutes: After reading the minutes, a motion was made by Ted Harwick and seconded by Richard Schrack to approve the minutes of February 4, 2015. Motion carried.

AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassador Jordan Foreman was present to discuss the planting of 800 trees on Shire Roads to be held on April 11, 2015 from 12:30 pm – 3:00 pm. The AmeriCorps is working with Hunterdon Land Trust. This property is the Saeger Preserve on Shire Roads. Volunteer suggestions included the Del Val Enviro Club, Holland School, the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts, etc. Mayor Krov will reach out and pass along contact information he has and Secretary Kozak will reach out to get contact information for the Girl Scouts. All information will be passed on to Mr. Foreman.

New Jersey Tree Recovery Campaign – tree distribution to be held in Holland Township on April 18, 2015. This will be at the Recycling Center from 10:30 am till the trees are gone. Mayor Krov and Chairman Keady to pick up the trees. Secretary Kozak will reach out to Alec McCartney to see if we know which trees Holland is receiving so as to get a jump on printing the Educational handouts. Chairman Keady, Richard Schrack, Robert Thurgarland and Mayor Krov are going to attend the distribution. Secretary Kozak will contact DPW supervisor Turdo regarding a sign.

Proposed Penn East Natural Gas Line through Holland Township – the revised route map is on the web site. A subcommittee has been created and they are interviewing prospective professionals who might be recruited to assist the Township – possibly in cooperation with other municipalities. The belief is powers in numbers and being unified in the effort. Township Committee members Dan Bush and Ken Vogel are part of the Penn East township subcommittee. Other members include Mike Keady and Larry LaFevre. The subcommittee is looking for other municipalities to get involved so as to split the cost of hiring a professional. The theory is that a name stands out when discussing the topic at hand. It is no longer enough to have the average citizen standing up at meetings. FERC is surprised by the reaction of the public. FERC has posted responses to the scooping meetings from PennEast comments. The comments did not address some topics. Responses have been repetitive and pro forma. More discussions took place.

Hunterdon County proposal widen Route 519 – using preserved land in Musconetcong Gorge Nature Preserve – March 31, 2015 hearing follow up - - A few people attended the hearing at the Holland Township Municipal building. Chairman Keady and Township Committeeman Ken Vogel were present. The original proposal some years ago was for a climbing lane that would enable cars and other vehicles to pass slow-moving trucks. The new proposal has a breakdown lane on both sides consisting of about 8' each. The widening is at the steep parts of the ridge. The Environmental Commission needs to look at the environmental impacts. There is some shifting in the road but less than 4/10<sup>th</sup> of an acre of park land would be revoked with the county adding an

equivalent amount to the park land at another spot. It is basically a wash with little impact. Impervious coverage was discussed as well as a retention basin. Mayor Krov stated that he has spoken with Committeeman Vogel and together they believe that overall there is limited issues but that the Environmental Commission needs to send a letter to the Township Committee concurring in that assessment, so that the Township Committee can pass a resolution asking the County and State to look at allocating funds to Holland Township to aid in the repair or potential damage on local roads from the detour and to also encourage them to include in the bid specs a requirement that the contractor do the road work in two 8 hour shifts so as to cut down on the two year close down period. The detour and time frame for the project are the more relevant issues. There is concern at the County level that some Federal grant money has been spent and the committed money is not used then they the County may have to pay it back. After additional discussion, The Environmental Commission agreed that the issues are not environmental. They authorized Mayor Krov to make that statement and further endorsed Township Committee efforts to seek compensation to help with any damages resulting from the use of alternate routes during the close down period; to speed up the construction activities utilizing 2 shifts; to change the specs to add an incentive to finish early; and to plant additional trees in Holland Township instead of in different towns. Mayor Krov will discuss with the Township Committee.

#### Sub-Committees:

Stormwater Education – Mike Keady, Ted Harwick and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak as Secretary Kozak. Nothing new to report.

Trails – Ted Harwick (chair), Robert Thurgarland and Richard Schrack. . The ANJEC application grant has been filed. The deadline for the DEP NJ Recreational Trails Program Grant is April 30, 2015. Rick Schrack presented the information for consideration. The township would match \$10,000.00. The suggestion is to focus the activity on Holland Park, and to identify/begin trails thru newly acquired preserved land in Holland Township. Holland Township spent \$1.2 million to acquire 140 acres on land contiguous to the county preserved land and the goal is to build a network of trails not to interfere with fields. Mike Keady made a motion which was seconded by Bob Thurgarland to authorize the trails subcommittee to prepare the DEP grant to consider the hiring of a professional and to have Mayor Krov work with the Township Committee to authorize the Environmental Commission the power to seek the grant. All present were in favor. Secretary Kozak will send the information to Clerk Miller for the Township Committee agenda.

Web Page – Jerry Bowers, Dwight Pederson, and Rick Schrack –The new web design company has had a meeting with key Holland people. More information will follow.

Highlands Conformance – Jerry Bowers (chair), Mike Keady and Henry Gore. Chairman Keady stated that he has asked Planner Mueller to move forward. We should have something soon.

Shade Tree and Community Forestry Plan Sub-Committee – Henry Gore, Robert Thurgarland, Dwight Pederson and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak as secretary. Arbor Day is April 25, 2015. The school might be able to get trees from the county. The comments from Alex McCartney have been submitted to Consultant Farr. The issues need to be addressed. Once the subcommittee is satisfied, the document will be sent back to Mr. McCartney. All communications will be thru emails.

Public Comment: There was no one in the audience. .

At 9:08 Rick Schrack made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

*Maria Elena Jennette Kozak*

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Environmental Commission Secretary