

Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

May 6, 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: Dan Bush (arrived 7:10 pm). (Member present of the Pipeline Subcommittee. The members consist of Dan Bush, Larry LaFevre, Ken Vogel and Mike Keady).

Public: Tony Rizzello and Winifred Waldron

Let the record show we have a quorum.

Minutes: The minutes of April 1, 2015 were tabled.

New Jersey Tree Recovery Campaign – tree distribution ~~was held to be held~~ in Holland Township on April 18, 2015. This ~~was held~~ at the Recycling Center from 10:30 am till the trees ~~were~~ gone. Chairman Keady thanked all for helping, It was discussed that in the future they should start earlier for distribution to ~~run~~ begin at the same time the Recycling Center opens. Everyone should arrive at about 8:30 for set up and then begin distribution at 9 am ~~would start distribution~~. Secretary Kozak forwarded the pictures sent to her by Chairman Keady. The state appreciated our quick response. The public who attended were very pleased with the program. The kids scheduled to help us with the distribution did not show up.

Proposed Penn East Natural Gas Line through Holland Township – Report of the Pipeline Subcommittee (Dan Bush, Larry LaFevre, Mike Keady and Ken Vogel). Let the record show that due to a Township Committee quorum issue, Committeeman Vogel did not attend this meeting. In Mid-March this committee was established and they did have a meeting on March 25, 2015. They have consulted with Environmental Consultants (Steven Gross at Hudson Highlands Environmental, Deb Kratzer from Frenchtown, and Mike Gallagher of Princeton Hydro). Each candidate was asked questions pertaining to environmental concerns for Holland Township. Our concerns focus on the C1 streams as well as the 300' buffering. Dry Crossing was discussed. The possibility to cross a C1 safely was discussed. One consultant expressed the opinion that the pipeline consortium will ~~focus~~ worry on about mitigation rather than ~~seeing~~ alternatives. The pipeline companies are finding that it is harder to do business in New Jersey and New York. Banding together with other municipalities is better than taking an individual stance. ~~The citizens groups can do the “stop” chant however the municipalities should worry about other issues. It was suggested that the municipalities should do all they can think of.~~ It was asked if the state ~~could~~ be demanded to ~~undertake~~ their oversight and regulatory responsibilities ~~jobs with a response of YES~~ Federal representation could ~~include~~ be the US Army Corp of Engineers. The Highlands Council appears to be against the project but they can do nothing about it at this time. They are working with the DEP to be included and to have a voice. The Delaware River Basin Commission (consisting of representation from 4 states and the Federal government) is also included. One consultant suggested that ~~you~~ the Township wait to hire a consultant as there is a new legal initiative to have FERC look at pipeline projects better from a more national perspective rather than from the perspective of individual projects ~~national effort and not an individual project based effort.~~

Dan Bush stated that the pipeline consortium knows the process and has deep pockets. We need to be speaking with the legislators, the Highlands Council, the DEP etc. We need to be practical. We support the effort to stop the pipeline as we need to protect our homes. ~~At a recent meeting there were only two residents present. The public was made aware as there are "secret": emails that go out from various members involved with different groups in town.~~ Rick Schrack was thanked for revising the maps. More discussions took place regarding C1 Streams and steep slopes. The consultant topic was discussed again and Dan Bush said that not one of the potential consultants would commit to a "cost". The suggestion to unite with other municipalities to cost share is good in theory but harder to manage ~~uniting personalities in practice~~. Until the report is released the consultants cannot ~~even figure out the beast or how much is needed to fight it~~ assess the likely issue or how to address them. The impact study is needed. We need to ~~be attentive watch our town~~ to see if surveys are being done in Holland Township and -who is participating, what information is being shared, etc. We have already ~~communicated shown our concerns to PERC and~~ the pipeline consortium, and are hopeful that those concerns will be substantively addressed by both parties. We need to have our "good" groups watching. We provided information and we need to hope that FERC will protect us some as well. ~~what are concerns are. We need to have our "good" groups watching. We provided information and we need to hope that FERC will protect us some as well.~~ When the EIS is released ~~then~~ we need to read it, study it and evaluate it. The subcommittee will still meet.

Additional conversations took place about the BogOG turtle and ~~its~~ the habitat. Henry Gore suggested looking into this. There is a USDA Grant available.

Public Discussion:

Tony Rizzello-8 Crestwood Drive ~~was present. Here tonight and is~~ representing most residents of Crestview Drive. He is not directly affected by the proposed pipeline but still has concerns. His observations:

- ~~1. Issue with subcommittee membership:~~ One member is pro pipeline. One member said there is no arsenic level in Holland Township yet many people on Crestview Drive have their water tested for arsenic levels as there is a problem. This brings up the question: Is this member appropriate? Chairman Keady expressed that you need to have different views present on the subject as a diverse group of people is advantageous, and reflective of the diversity of opinions in the Township. ~~While it was expressed that the the Ar arsenic conversation might not have been totally accurate, was offensive,~~ the commission tried to say that you need to educate people who do not know facts. Mr. Rizzello wanted it on the record that a connecting the pipeline with PennEast goes thru one of the committeeman's properties and that he believes that is creates a conflict of interest, and that this same subcommittee has a vested interested in seeing the pipeline go thru and that his statements are ludicrous.
- ~~2. Construction Issu/e Boring: issues. The short term level of 100-200' with the size of the hole being slightly larger than being pulled thru with only about 25' deeper.~~ Horizontal drilling was explained. The resource report filed by PennEast to FERC says that PennEast will undertake all of its pipeline installation work in Holland Township via they have designated boring, and that no. No horizontal drilling is planned for their work in Holland Township, as it would all be boring. Relevant-So concerns include questions evolve as to where the construction/boring equipment would sit, authority over the site, installation, third party contractors being hired, etc. It is Mr. Rizzello's opinion that they PennEast/its agents would have (and exercise) are the primary authority for decisions on a homeowner's your land and that you are the secondary.
- ~~3. Consultant: Issue.~~ The residents represented by Mr. Rizzello request that people requested Holland Township hires a consultant. They ~~do~~ not want and advocate, but rather, ~~They wanted~~ someone in the field to enforce what is going on. If you have to accept the project then you want someone on your team. The consultant would stop the wrong things from happening. They would make the pipeline consortium accountable. Chairman Keady stated that he thought Holland Township wanted a consultant to review the report and address/counter its ~~the~~ findings. Mr. Rizzello said ~~the thought~~ they wanted a consultant to protect the actual land of Holland

Township and he was not so sure we needed a consultant to respond to a report! ~~Jerry Bowers stated that he thinks Holland Township needs to stop the train.~~

~~4.Strategy4. Strategy~~ to move forward for Holland Township. Mr. Rizzello discussed how Massachusetts stopped the ~~C~~constitution pipeline. He has spoken to that attorney. The towns put together resolutions to make sure the pipeline ~~was installedis put~~ in certain ways. This caused the pipeline ~~company~~ to withdraw their application because they did not see it as ~~financially a positive financia lfeasible way~~ to move forward. FERC does not usually deny applications. Pipelines withdraw when they see that it is not a financial gain to go thru a township. It is his opinion we could do something similar. We need to create resolutions that ~~apply practice~~ policies and procedures that are for the safety of our land. We need to spell it out. It can be based on environmental and safety of our public. Jerry Bowers expressed ~~his concerns~~ that the pipeline could then be diverted to another town and that could create an issue with our neighbor. Dan Bush had concerns that the interviewed consultants did not bring this to our attention. A correction was made in that the reference is not resolution but ~~an~~ ordinance.

Winifred Waldron – talked about the arsenic levels with Mr. Rizzello

No one else was present in the public and no other comments were made by the public.

Sub-Committees:

Stormwater Education – Mike Keady, Ted Harwick and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak as Secretary Kozak.

Secretary Kozak – the next activity is community day in September.

Trails – Ted Harwick (chair), Robert Thurgarland and Richard Schrack. ANJEC Grant deadline is April 1, 2015. ANJEC Grant and DEP NJ Recreational Trails Program grant have been filed. The ANJEC grant was approved. We are awarded \$1480.00. Part one will be the record search and then the other is field work.

Blazing trails should be the start and then go back to records. Jerry Bowers ~~will work withis working on trying to get a student from W~~ Warren County Community College to ~~identify a student/recent graduate to~~ work with us. CFO Rees and Township Liaison Krov will discuss the financial aspects and guide Secretary Kozak on how to proceed with a ~~purchase order for the person selected to do the fieldwork. voucher.~~ We will be able to hire the student as an independent consultant which will be under the bid threshold.

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

Highlands Conformance – Jerry Bowers (chair), Mike Keady and Henry Gore. Chairman has been working on the new version of the Highlands Land Use Ordinance with the planner. Chairman Keady is working with Secretary Kozak on some of the questions. The answers will go to planner Mueller and then Mr. Mueller will incorporate and give the plan back to Keri Bencotter at the Highlands Council. Once they are ok with the document then ~~the Highlands Council returns itit comes back~~ to the EC, ~~which who~~ then sends it to the PB for review and then to the TC for adoption.

Shade Tree and Community Forestry Plan Sub-Committee – Henry Gore, Robert Thurgarland, Dwight Pederson and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak as secretary. Secretary Kozak will follow up with Consultant Farr. Chairman Keady will reach out to the Green Team to see if this plan can also count as points with the Sustainable Jersey certification needed.

Public Comment: Already discussed.

At 9:00 Jerry Bowers made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

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Environmental Commission Secretary