

Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

February 3, 2016 – 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, and Secretary Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Absent: Robert Thurgarland

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 December 2, 2015 and January 6, 2016. All present were in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

2016 Environmental Goals:

April 3, 2013 minutes showed the following “:TO DO Lists” or goals.

2013 Long Term Goals for the Environmental Commission:

Jerry Bowers presented a “TO DO” list. It is as follows:

To Do List:

- Complete the ERI
- Complete business notification process re recycling
- Develop a Shade Tree and Community Forestry Plan
- Institutionalize EC review of site plans (with PBP)
- Complete webpage for the EC
- Develop a current/proposed trail map
- Identify HC resources available for site mitigation at Warren Glen and Hughesville mills

Henry Gore presented a “TO DO” list. It is as follows:

Proposal for Environmental Commission Goals

- Expedite Highlands planning in Holland.
Complete ERI inventory. Guide ERI features into Holland Master Plan update. Re-establish communication with Highlands Council
- Establish a Community Forestry Management Plan.
- Establish a Holland Trails plan.

Riverways

Open land connectors. Grant applications.

Integration with state Trails Master plan

- Establish a Holland Viewshed list for later inclusion into ERI.
 - Identify public scenic views
 - Get input from townspeople
 - Identify "most valuable" areas for needed protection.
- Investigate and propose "green" building ordinances.
- Support Holland recycling.
 - Business's support
 - New opportunities, such as promoting whole fallen tree log recovery
- Solar electric
 - Identify ways to protect farm and open land use
 - Ordinance revision if necessary
 - Promotion of solar on township roofs, parking lots and waste areas.
- Fish, wildlife and flora
 - Inventory existing species and habitat
 - Promote management plans for deer damage

A strategic Planning Committee was created to combine the concepts. The sub-committee is comprised of Mike Keady, Jerry Bowers and Henry Gore. They will have a meeting a report back to the committee. Ted Harwick suggested that they focus on one task. Jerry Bowers reminded the board that ANJEC has released the role of the Environmental Commission and all should review that document. The sub-committee will be able to focus on Holland Township specific.

Proposed Penn East Natural Gas Line through Holland Township – Update of the Pipeline Subcommittee (Dan Bush, Larry LaFevre, Mike Keady and Ken Vogel).

Environmental groups and elected officials urge FERC to stop work on the EIS until PennEast submits requested information. Chairman Keady worked on a letter for the township and it was distributed for review. February 2, 2016

Secretary Kimberly D. Bose
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE, Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426

Re: PennEast Pipeline Company, LLC
PennEast Pipeline Project
Docket No. CP15-558-000

Dear Ms. Bose:

The governing body of the Township of Holland joins our Federal and State legislators in urging FERC to suspend work on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). PennEast has not provided the information requested by FERC in its November 24, 2015 letter.

We thank and support Rep. Leonard Lance, Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman, State Senator Kip Bateman, and Assemblywoman Elizabeth Maher Muoio in their insistence that the review of PennEast's application should not proceed because PennEast's December 14, 2015 response regarding the information identified as missing from their Resource Reports was entirely inadequate, with information promised for delivery months from now.

PennEast has set an extremely aggressive schedule for gaining approval of this project and beginning construction. Their wishes, which seem entirely unrealistic, should not drive FERC's schedule. We expect the business needs of this private corporation to take a back seat to protecting the environmental resources of our community. The consequences of your decision are too important to tolerate incomplete and slipshod evaluation of the project. A private company could be given the power of eminent domain to seize land in our township. Land preserved with our taxpayers' dollars could become a construction site. We implore you to do this right, not fast.

We believe that our own New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has offered an example of prudent behavior. They have refused to let PennEast apply for permits because so much information is lacking. For example, PennEast has not submitted any plans for surveying Threatened & Endangered species for NJ DEP to review, and they have failed to submit the credentials of the experts performing these studies, despite the NJ DEP's insistence. This situation illustrates how far behind PennEast is on their aggressive schedule because these surveys must be done this spring for bird species, and PennEast has submitted neither plans nor experts for DEP approval.

Under these circumstances, FERC must preserve its own credibility by suspending work on the EIS until PennEast's responses are complete and enable FERC to meet the NEPA requirements.

Please contact me at r.krov@hollandtownship.org if you have any questions.

Thank you.

On behalf of the entire Holland Township Committee,

Ray Krov, Mayor

CC: Rep. Leonard Lance
Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman
State Senator Kip Bateman
State Senator Michael Doherty
Assemblywoman Elizabeth Maher Muoio
Assemblyman Eric Peterson
Assemblyman John DiMaio
Ruth Foster, NJ DEP
John Gray, NJ DEP

Additional discussion took place about what is being done by other townships and environmental groups. A senator in Illinois has introduced a bill in Washington with the hearing being February 2, 2016 which would authorize Aerial Survey. H.R. 3021, Air Survey Act of 2105 would amend the Natural Gas Act to clarify data collected by aerial survey may be accepted for Federal reviews of natural gas pipelines. Basic translation would be that you could fly above the property and not have to go on the property to see what is on the property. Mr. Gore transitioned into a discussion about the proposed pipeline change which is further into the arsenic area. The preserved farm off Stamets Road was removed from the proposed line for the pipeline as Federal Funding was used to secure the preservation of that property. An arsenic discussion also took place.

Community Day – Continued discussion took place about expanding the Environmental Commissions booth at the Holland Township Committee Day celebration to incorporate a Green Fair with the Holland Township's Green Team. Mayor Krov will contact Jessica Neglia to let her know what the plans are. Additional space will be needed

Sub-Committees:

Stormwater Education – Mike Keady, Robert Thurgarland and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak as Secretary Kozak. Secretary Kozak distributed the final report for 2015 which was submitted to the Township Engineer. The summary is as follows:

Holland Township Environmental Commission
planningboard@hollandtownship.org

61 Church Rd., Milford, NJ 08848

www.hollandtownship.org
Phone: (908)995-0057
Fax: (908)995-7112

TO: Township Engineer Richard Roseberry
CC: The 2015 Environmental Commission
FROM: Maria Elena Jennette Kozak
Environmental Commission Secretary
DATE: January 7, 2016
RE: 2015 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.hollandtownshipnj.gov/>
 - Some information is available on the home page of the web site as suggested by the past township engineer. Our web administrator has it under advisories.
 - Exhibit 1 - screen shot
- Created Committee (CSAC) - 2 points
 - 2014 Members: Michael Keady, Robert Thurgarland, and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak (as secretary)
 - Exhibit 2 - screen shot

- Members listed on website -updated yearly.
<http://www.hollandtownshipnj.gov/14-ec/46-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 -
 - 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 04-11-2015 -250 bags of trash and recyclables, 50 tires, and several truckloads of larger items!!.
 - Road clean ups. All approved by Al Turdo - Cleanups include: Dennis Road, Hawk Schoolhouse Road, Ellis Road - Meadow Run to Little York, Ellis Road - Hawk Schoolhouse to Meadow Run, Javes Road, Stamets Rd - Box 319 (Rt. 519) and Stamets Rd
 - Exhibit 5 - requisitions attached
- 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 yearend 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, quotation and picture of child using the bottle

Trails – Ted Harwick (chair), Robert Thurgarland and Richard Schrack.

Jerry Bowers – Hunterdon Land Trust suggested GPS plotting and mapping of the Holland Highlands Trails (the Kolonia and Saeger property).

ANJEC grant – Secretary Kozak will send copies of the vouchers showing that Holland Township paid Brittany Weider so that Holland Township can be reimbursed. Secretary Kozak will include Jerry Bowers with the submittal.

DEP grant – Nothing yet received. Secretary Kozak will follow up.

Another goal for the trails committee is to obtain additional grants to plan on additional projects.

ANJEC Environmental Stewardship Grant 2016 was discussed. The deadline is April 1, 2016. This is the same one we sought after in 2015 for the trails grant (remember we did blaze the trail and color coded about 6 miles of trails – in conjunction with the Hunterdon Land Trust we worked on the Saeger and Kolonia property. Rick Schrack was able to put on Bock and Lot boundaries so as to develop a new brochure. On the meadow part of the Holland Park property we were able to map a trail and develop future ideas which need to be further explored. The topic of working on the 2016 grant was table until our next meeting. The members of the trails committee will need to meet and make a decision of how to proceed. A discussion of altering the tails

committee membership took place. Everyone was reminded that the Township has authorized the Township Engineer to see where things could go on the Holland Park property. The work could tie into a grant. At the Holland Township Committee meeting of February 2, 2016 the county came in and did a discussion which included a desire to extend the trail from Trenton to Holland (the one along the canal from the river). Again, something might tie into the grant proposal for ANJEC where Holland could get involved with the project. All ideas for the Trails subcommittee to explore.

Web Page – Jerry Bowers, Dwight Pederson, and Rick Schrack –updating to the website is taking place. If you see additional corrections that are needed please send them to Secretary Kozak. Mr. Keady provided the link for review. <http://www.hollandtownshipnj.gov/14-ec/46-environmental-commission.html>

Highlands Conformance – Jerry Bowers (chair), Mike Keady and Henry Gore. Chairman Keady will work with Secretary Kozak and Group Melvin. More information to follow.

Shade Tree and Community Forestry Plan Sub-Committee – Henry Gore, Robert Thurgarland, Dwight Pederson and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak as secretary. All have been asked to send secretary Kozak a listing of the hours they spent on this project as well as what they did (justification of the hours). Once received Secretary Kozak will work on getting reimbursed from the state. Jerry Bowers has submitted that information. Reminder, the committee reviewed three drafts of the plan, had various meetings, and discussed at many EC meetings. Each member should have about 1 hour of EC meeting time on their list. Secretary Kozak will submit the Forestry Plan to the Web for posting. Henry Gore will work on a letter of introduction.

February 17, 2016 11 am to noon is a webinar regarding Emerald Ash Borum. This will count as credit towards our forestry plan requirements.

Public Comment: No comment as there was no one present in the audience.

Board Members. Gypsy Moth – Holland Township will participate in the spraying. Al Turdo and someone from the school attended a training session. It was an informative and purely an educational session as we will have nothing to do with the actual spraying.

2016 New Jersey Tree Recovery Campaign - The deadline for the application is February 12, 2016. This is the program that Holland Township has been participating in for about 2 years and consists of picking up trees for distribution to the public. A motion was made by Henry Gore and seconded by Mike Keady to have Dwight Pederson Chair this program. All present were in favor of the motion. We will need to pick up the trees on Friday April 22 for Saturday April 23 distribution. The pickup time will be from 9 is till noon and will be at the recycling center. We will ask for 1000. Ted Harwick will pick up the trees. We will try to do more publicity and include a picture with the Observer and Hunterdon County Democrat. Discussion took place about planting a tree at the school and working with the Green Team. Mayor Krov will give contact information to Dwight Pederson to make this happen. More updates to follow.

At 9:10 pm Ted Harwick made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

Environmental Commission Secretary