

Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

February 1, 2017 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, Ted Harwick, Mike Keady, Dwight Pederson, Rick Schrack (arrived 7:45 pm) and Secretary Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Absent: N/A

Township Committee Liaison: Robert Thurgarland (left at 7:45 pm)

Let the record show we have a quorum.

Resignation: Henry Gore submitted his letter of resignation in an email January 19, 2017.

Maria,

I am resigning as a volunteer of the Holland Twp. Environmental Commission effective January 20, 2017. I will try to answer questions about projects with e-mail.

Thank you,

Henry P. Gore

Henry Gore's resignation was forwarded to the Township Committee for acceptance. The Environmental Commission thanked Henry Gore for all his dedication and extends the best to him.

Minutes: A motion was made by Ted Harwick and seconded by Jerry Bowers to approve the January 4, 2017 minutes as presented. All present were in favor. Motion carried.

PennEast Pipeline Update: Mike Keady reported that there is some push back in the process. FEMA announced that it will take longer to produce the Environmental Impact Statement. The February deadline is now pushed to April and then there will be a 90 day comment period. Liaison Thurgarland reported that the Township Committee applied for a \$5,000.00 grant that is sponsored by PennEast. The grant money will be used for an Outside Portable Light System for

OEM with plans to use it at Community Day. PennEast grants have also been applied for and received by the Holland Township Volunteer Fire Company with the understanding that the money received is used for the benefit of the community with emphasis on safety and is not interpreted as an endorsement for the pipeline. Public Safety is not a political or environmental issue and the opportunity to do something that is for the betterment of the residents is welcomed. It was mentioned that PennEast reserves the right to use the names of grant recipients in their promotions.

Sub-Committees:

Stormwater Education – Mike Keady, Rick Schrack and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak as Secretary –nothing new to report. Secretary Kozak will work on the 2016 report that is also submitted to the Engineer for their 2016 report to the DEP.

Trails – Ted Harwick, Jerry Bowers and Richard Schrack. –The Park Association is interested in establishing a designated parking area which has been depicted on a conceptual map prepared by Maser Consulting. The proposal is to use the grant awarded by The DEP to focus on development of a parking area at the trailhead and development of the trails. The parking would be for cars as well as for trailers for horse people. Phase 1 is for passive recreational seasonal use with the Park Association working with volunteers from horse associations to build horse trails. The Environmental Commission expressed concern that we need to show progress with the grant awarded so as to seek additional grants for more expansion of the project. The Holland Park Association will be asked to attend our next Environmental Commission meeting to discuss various ideas. Rick Schrack stated that the trails are somewhat there as he and Tom Scheibener walked the property and opened up some of the trails. Signage will also be needed and the Environmental Commission was also hoping to create maps as well (which can be created on the computer in a PDF form for easy reproduction). Naturally, a ribbon cutting ceremony and dedication will take place when this is ready to open to the public.

Secretary Kozak will work on a contact list. Rick Schrack will work on a project list. Everyone has been tasked to review the agreement and come to the March 1 Environmental Commission meeting prepared to comment and make suggestions.

The Environmental Commission is focused on creating the trails and signs as priority activities under the grant. Rick Schrack and Tom Scheibener have had preliminary discussions to determine where township equipment and workers can be used to define the trail. With regards to parking, it might be helpful for the Park Association to come to the meeting with expectations of parking requirements and some costs or quotes associated with it.

Community Education and Outreach – Jerry Bowers, Dwight Pederson, and Ted Harwick – If you see additional corrections that are needed please send them to Secretary Kozak. The link is as follows: <http://www.hollandtownshipnj.gov/14-ec/46-environmental-commission.html>.

Highlands Conformance – Jerry Bowers (chair) and Mike Keady. Secretary Kozak will get the budget numbers of the grant to the Holland Township Highlands Council subcommittee. Mike Keady will work on locating the latest version of the draft Land Use Ordinance presented by Group Melvin for Darlene Green of Maser. Secretary Kozak will work with Mike Keady and then get the information to Darlene Green for review. A meeting will then be scheduled. More information to follow.

Shade Tree and Community Forestry Plan Sub-Committee – Ted Harwick, Dwight Pederson and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak as secretary. The annual report needs to be submitted to the state by February 15th. A draft has been worked on by Chairman Keady, Dwight Pederson and Secretary Kozak and is submitted for review. All agreed that the subcommittee can move forward with tweaking the document and submission. Ted Harwick stated that he would join this subcommittee but cannot commit to ongoing projects. He was not in favor of past concepts but wants to move forward. He is in favor of a tree inventory and Jerry Bowers reported that there are 46 miles of township roads with the rest being county roads. Jerry Bowers suggested partnering with other groups such as the Musconnetcong Watershed Association (MWA) e.g. with their native plant sale at the end of April, Jerry Bowers will explore this option.

As a reminder, grants will become available. Nothing has been received yet.

Emerald Ash Borer presentation by the NJ Dept. of Agriculture – Henry Gore was to follow up with this project and Chairman Keady will reach out to Henry Gore. More information to follow.

Gypsy Moths – Hunterdon County is monitoring this. Chairman Keady forwarded a link to Ted Harwick for review.

Public Comment: No comments were expressed.

Planning Board Application update:

“Block 2 Lot 1.02 & Block 4 Lot 1– Mill Road Solar Project LLC – 10 Mill Road – Preliminary and Final Site Plan – Solar Project – Deemed incomplete February 8, 2016. Revised Site Plans Received into our office June 21, 2016 – 45-day completeness deadline July 31, 2016. Board Action needed.” Deemed incomplete. Additional information submitted to the Planning Board with a completeness hearing to take place at the next scheduled meeting of September 12th. Extension granted to October 10, 2016. Additional information submitted for consideration. Extension granted to November 14, 2016 meeting. Deemed Complete. Public Hearing scheduled for January 9, 2017 and carried to February 13, 2017.

Jerry Bowers and Ted Harwick will recuse themselves as they are abutters. Both left the building.

All are welcomed to offer suggestions or concerns and to send them to Chairman Keady. The Planning Board is waiting for a review to be prepared by the board engineer, Maser Consulting. Stormwater is the next concern and the applicant will have to meet the requirements of the Stormwater ordinance. Discussions about non-structural low impact as being the best Stormwater control took place. The ordinance does require that the applicant do a report to the DEP and EC Chairman Keady will remind the Planning Board and make them accountable.

At 9:05 pm Rick Schrack made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

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Environmental Commission Secretary