

Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

March 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 and Secretary Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Absent: N/A

Township Committee Liaison: Robert Thurgarland

Let the record show we have a quorum.

Minutes: A motion was made by Jerry Bowers and seconded by Ted Harwick to approve the February 1, 2017 minutes as presented. All present were in favor. Motion carried.

PennEast Pipeline Update: Mike Keady reported that PennEast got a water quality permit from Pennsylvania DEP. FERC cannot ignore this. The NJDEP will have to issue or refuse to issue a water quality permit. The Federal Clean Water Act comes into play. The Stormwater Act and Highlands Council also have water controls. The PA permit means that PA does not feel like PennEast project will negatively affect water quality. The Delaware River Basin Commission has to review this application.

2017 NJ Tree Recovery Campaign

Seedling pickup is Thursday May 4, 2017 – Ted Harwick and Dwight Pederson will pick up again. Once the trees are assigned to Holland Township, a call will be made to secretary Kozak so she can do the information printing. Bob Thurgarland will work with Mayor Bush on using the CERT garage bay again at the recycling center. Secretary Kozak will contact state representative McCarthy to find out about the event. Secretary Kozak will do a save the date flyer for the web with a give-away date of Saturday May 6 2017. Dwight Pederson will enlist the Boy Scouts. 8 am will be the time for all volunteers to assemble. All agreed to help out with the exception of Rick Schrack who will be out of town.

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 was unable to attend this meeting. Discussion took place about the contents of the Grant Agreement for Holland Park Trails. Discussion about obtaining the volunteer rate for 2017 took place but since the Township paid Maser Engineering for a master plan for the park, there is no need for the volunteer match. Bob Thurgarland will investigate matters. The goal is to obtain additional grants but in order to get them we must first meet our commitments under the current grant, and fully utilize funds under that grant. A lengthy discussion took place about a parking lot and how that should be addressed with grant funds. Discussion about how to use the monies awarded to Holland Township in conjunction with other monies that have been obtained by the Holland Park Association took place. Discussion took place about hiring our current municipal lawn mowing service (which is a Holland resident with a business) to “brush hog” and create the trails for approximately \$5,000.00. The Park Association has also obtained a \$5,000.00 grant from PennEast which can also be used for this project. Chairman Keady stated that the Environmental Commission could not approve anything until he talks to the people and sees something on paper and then the commission would be in a position to vote. Some potential stream encroachment and need for permit discussion took place. More discussion took place about balancing investments under the grant for development of a parking area vs. trails development. The township invested about \$6,000.00 to create the map to come up with ideas for the Holland Park. A parking lot has been identified as a great starting point. Discussion about the potential need for permit to put in the trails took place. The overflow parking lot near the water tower used for community day is the parking lot that has been identified as something that can be expanded. Rick Schrack did mention that no “before” pictures were submitted with the grant application. Horse trails are also something being encouraged by the Holland Park Association – prompting a discussion about the need to clean up after the horses to allow people to also walk on the trails. Questions came up about the involvement of Tom Scheibener in these plans as Rick Schrack and Tom Scheibener had worked on walking the lands and determining trail location. Bob Thurgarland stated that he

was not sure about Tom Scheibener's involvement but that Mayor Bush is involved.

The next EC meeting is April 5, 2017. This means that the DEP grant needs to be completed in one year. Bob Thurgarland stated that the township authorized the spending of \$6,000.00 from this grant for engineering and that the township will not authorize the engineer to do anything else. The Environmental Commission members expressed concern about developing a parking lot first and would rather develop the trails first. Additional discussion took place about the neighboring county trails and uniting them with the Holland Park trails. After additional discussions about all aspects of the grant and the desires for a parking lot, the topic was tabled till the next scheduled meeting. All want to move forward with the trail investigation and a parking lot can be discussed in April.

A motion was made by Mike Keady and seconded by Ted Harwick to have Rick Schrack talk with people to act as a contractor to do the trails counting on the approximate \$13,000.00 from the approved DEP grant with the understanding that all can be modified at a future date as various ideas are explored and discussed. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Some discussion took place about the DPW doing the trails and Bob Thurgarland stated that he did not think that was an option.

Jerry Bowers will talk with NJ Fish and Wild-life to see how much they spent on the creating the parking lot on Bellis.

Options will be explored on spending only \$6,000.00 for a parking lot.

Bob Thurgarland stated that he wanted a clear understanding that he will go back to Mayor Bush and that Maser Consulting will not do anything and that there is no grant money available to do anything regarding engineering.

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. Moving forward. More information to follow.

Shade Tree and Community Forestry Plan Sub-Committee – Ted Harwick, Dwight Pederson and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak as secretary. With special thanks to Chairman Keady, The Annual Accomplishment Report was submitted by February 15, 2017. Nothing has come in about 2017 grants availability. There are no updates regarding the Emerald Ash Borer presentation.

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, February 13, 2017 and carried to March 13, 2017.

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

Maser did a comprehensive report. The applicant has not yet submitted scores of items required by Holland’s Major Solar Ordinance, the Stormwater Ordinance, and the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance. Nor have they replied to many comments from the Board Engineer and the Environmental Commission. At a recent hearing, the applicant moved away from structural basins. Maser has had an in house LSRP look at the information provided from the applicant and Maser concluded that the applicant did not test the way the work plan said it should have been done. The soil borings were deeper than 2 feet which means they did not look at soils above 2 feet. Chairman Keady will discuss options with Planning Board Chairman Rader.

At 9:10 pm Mike Keady made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

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Environmental Commission Secretary