

# Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

April 5, 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: Ted Harwick, Mike Keady, Dwight Pederson, Rick Schrack and Secretary Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Absent: Jerry Bowers

Township Committee Liaison: Robert Thurgarland

Let the record show we have a quorum.

Oaths of Office: Township Committee Liaison Robert Thurgarland administered the Oath of Office to new member Susan Meacham. Congratulations.

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

PennEast Pipeline Update: Mike Keady and Susan Meacham reported that all has been quiet. PennEast received approval from the PA DEP for a Water Quality Permit. A Compressor Station Permit was also approved by PA. Friday is the scheduled FERC issuance of their Final Environmental Impact Statement. Once this takes place then the 90-day comment period for agencies kicks in. FERC has 5 members and needs 3 to hold a quorum. It is the opinion of Susan Meacham that FERC needs an overhaul as she was in DC in December and she felt that things were a mess. She believes it is all a sham and is very terrifying. Susan Meacham further explained that FERC is funded by the industry that it regulates so it is self-serving. What needs to be done is to determine if there is a need for the pipeline. The major concern today is that the gas is going out of the country. She further shared her opinion that it has been collusion, deception and a revolving door policy that has guided each step of the process and you really witnessed it when PA caved because they are seeing dollar signs. All agreed that New Jersey has been awesome and that they are still holding PennEast to what is needed. In regards to the EIS, everyone needs to note the deficiencies in the review comments so that it will be on record if there is a future lawsuit. On Saturday April 8<sup>th</sup> there is a scheduled rally in Stockton. Dwight Pederson mentioned that Trout Unlimited in

PA is going to start monitoring the fish in streams where the pipeline is to go thru to establish a baseline. People are preparing for the worst.

### 2017 NJ Tree Recovery Campaign

Seedling pickup is Thursday May 4, 2017 – Ted Harwick and Dwight Pederson will pick up again. As stated before, 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 did a save the date flyer for the web with a give-away date of Saturday May 6, 2017. Dwight Pederson enlisted the Boy Scouts and the Cub Scouts. Secretary Kozak will make sure Dwight Pederson has the photo release forms for the event. 8 am will be the time for all volunteers to assemble.

Holland Township School Green Fair – April 26, 2017 from 4 pm to 6 pm. Ted Harwick said he was going to be out of town. Rick Schrack stated that he is already going to be working at the event. Dwight Pederson will do a smaller version of the “Stormwater Education” pools that we do yearly at Community Day. Chairman Keady will stop by the office to pick up the literature from Secretary Kozak along with one of our giveaways. This event is open to the parents and kids of the school. They are hoping to have it outside. Susan Meacham is interested in attending and talking about the Pipeline.

### Sub-Committees:

Stormwater Education – Mike Keady, Rick Schrack and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak as Secretary –nothing new to report. Secretary Kozak submitted to the Engineer the 2016 report to the DEP.

Trails – Ted Harwick, Jerry Bowers and Richard Schrack. – Mayor Bush talked with The Park Association and regarding the \$24,000 NJDEP grant, \$20,000 will be used for the trails and \$4,000 will be used for parking. The Township Engineer to develop specifications for the parking area using the PennEast Park Association grant of \$5,000 and the NJDEP grant mentioned above of \$4,000. Which means the Engineer will have \$9,000. The Park Association wants to develop a starting point to create a parking lot using the map that Maser created with the location being established. The Engineer will work on this using the monies mentioned above to help us figure out what we need in the future. Jerry Bowers did investigate the Fish and Wild Life parking lot in Holland and understands that the

parking lot cost about \$4,000 to create. Rick Schrack did put together a package so that he could have companies quote us and the package included a 50 x 100 parking area. He actually met someone out there to walk the land with them. He received 2 quotes. One quote came in at \$28,000 which he was able to get reduced to \$19,000 and the other quote was approximately \$76,000. The next step would be to proceed with one contractor. The goal is to work with the Park Association. Ted Harwick is going to attend the next Park Association meeting. He is interested in discussing horse trails and to see if that is something that is really needed now. The quotes were for parking lot, road and trails as the plan. Ted Harwick expressed concern about using the money to pay the engineer along with the parking lot. He believes to keep it simple and spend as little as possible to get a use for all. The Environmental Commission is not in favor of using the trail money for horse trails. Bob Thurgarland explained that the Township is looking at the long term of the property and the long term use. Ted Harwick expressed that the gravel parking lot that was originally discussed is more of what everyone envisioned. Engineer Roseberry did discover some potential issues with wetlands along the trails the EC want to develop. This potential issue could change the plan and the easiest solution is to scale back the proposed trails. The Holland Park Association is a non-profit organization that has been charged with the task to develop ideas and uses for the Township owned property. Because of their non-profit status they can also raise money for the projects. More discussion took place about the trail using the existing logging roads as originally discussed.

A motion was made by Ted Harwick and second by Rick Schrack to use the NJDEP grant to pay for the 1<sup>st</sup> year of the Park Association website. All present were in favor of the motion. Motion carried. Secretary Kozak will process the \$921.00 quote and send a note to the Township Committee explaining the expenditure.

Regarding the project moving forward, Rick Schrack will work with Bob Thurgarland. Engineer Roseberry has walked the land and believes that GIS can be used. Rick Schrack will obtain more quotes. Wetlands need to be determined and Maser is a good starting point. Bob Thurgarland will discuss with Engineer Roseberry.

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.

CSIP Grant proposal is due May 16. Chairman Keady gave an overview of the program including the history. We need to decide if we want to move forward which means everyone basically deciding if they have interest and time to do this. A different approach would be to do an inventory at Holland Park to identify the bad trees rather than on public roads. The County does have a program in place. Ted Harwick suggested that we concentrate on the Ridge and the trails. Dwight Pederson expressed that there are concerns with the Pipeline and that should be the EC focus. Chairman Keady explained the options. After some additional conversations no one wanted to step forward to write the grant proposal, but all decided to maintain the CEU's and CORE for this year and then re-evaluate. Dwight Pederson stated that he would look at the criteria again and all agreed to participate in webinars with Dwight Pederson considering CORE training.

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 12<sup>th</sup>. 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.

The applicant asked for a continuation till the scheduled May meeting. There is nothing new to report. So Ted Harwick will not recuse himself as he is an abutter. He did not leave the building.

Holland Happenings – Bob Thurgarland stated that the Holland Happenings newsletter was making a comeback. Each department and Board/Commission will be asked to submit a ¼ page informational blurb to Bob Thurgarland by the end of April. The goal is to distribute the Newsletter in mid-July. Chairman Keady will do the EC write up and submit to Bob Thurgarland.

All were reminded to take pictures at all events. Please send to Secretary Kozak.

At 8:55 pm Rick Schrack made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

*Maria Elena Jennette Kozak*

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Environmental Commission Secretary