

Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

June 6, 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, Mike Keady, Susan Meacham, Dwight Pederson, Rick Schrack and Secretary Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Absent: Ted Harwick and Township Committee Liaison: Robert Thurgarland

Let the record show we have a quorum.

Minutes: A motion was made by Mike Keady and seconded by Jerry Bowers to approve the May 3, 2017 minutes as presented. All present were in favor. Motion carried.

PennEast Pipeline Update: Mike Keady and Susan Meacham reported that there have been two nominations by President Trump to FERC. (The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is comprised of up to five commissioners who are appointed by the President of the United States with advice and consent of the Senate. Commissioners serve five-year terms, and have an equal vote on regulatory matters).

Neil Chatterjee of Kentucky to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the term expiring June 30, 2021. **Mr. Chatterjee is energy policy advisor to United States Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky. Over the years he has played an integral role in the passage of major energy, highway, and farm legislation. Prior to serving Leader McConnell, he worked as a Principal in Government Relations for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and as an aide to House Republican Conference Chairwoman Deborah Pryce of Ohio. He began his career in Washington, DC, with the House Committee on Ways and Means. A Lexington, Kentucky native, he is a graduate of St. Lawrence University and the University of Cincinnati College of Law..**

Robert F. Powelson of Pennsylvania to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the term expiring June 30, 2020. Commissioner Powelson has served as a Commissioner on the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) since 2008. Commissioner Powelson was first nominated to the PUC on June 19, 2008, by Governor Edward G. Rendell and appointed Chairman by Governor Tom Corbett in 2011. Currently, Commissioner Powelson serves as the President of National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) based in Washington, DC. Commissioner Powelson serves on the Electric Power Research Institute Advisory Board (EPRI) as well as the Drexel University Board of Trustees. From 1994 to 2008, Powelson served as the President and CEO of the Chester County Chamber of Business and Industry based in Malvern, PA. In 2005, he was

selected by the Eisenhower Presidential Fellow to be a United States fellow in Singapore and Australia. Commissioner Powelson holds a Bachelor of Administration from St. Joseph's University and a Master of Governmental Administration with a concentration in public finance from the University of Pennsylvania.

As for the PennEast pipeline project, the applicant has not secured the signatures of the landowners for access to their property. The applicant is still trying. Because of the lack of access the applicant is not able to produce the required studies. An Eminent Domain conversation took place along with a conversation about Preserved Property and the need to go to court to determine the interest of all stakeholders (including, for example, township, state and/or county jurisdictions that purchased development rights to preserved properties affected by eminent domain proceedings), even if the farmer declares access to the property.

A common belief is that since this is a gubernatorial election year that things could be rocky until the outcome in November. Susan Meacham is working on a cost study for the township. Once it is prepared she will give it to Chairman Keady. Chairman Keady expressed his opinion that we have submitted enough letters. Susan Meacham will check with her contacts to see what people are doing for the next course of action but also asked if Holland has explored any options with their contacts in other governmental agencies.

2017 NJ Tree Recovery Campaign

May 6, 2017 was the event date with a time frame of 9 am till noon. The event was received positively. Some future housekeeping issues can be addressed. Some correspondence follow up included:

First of all, thanks so much to Ted, Dwight and Susan for all their hard work today. And to Maria Elena for all her work putting together the tree info sheets, sign-up sheets, photo release forms, etc.

Susan put together a list shown below, of "lessons learned" based on what we experienced at the event. In addition to the ideas expressed by Susan Meacham, I would note the following:

- We might explore whether someone from OEM who has a key to the bay would be willing to come by at 8 a.m. and unlock the bay. It's too much to expect that the police officer won't be off on . . . a police call.
- One of the hardest tasks is hosing all the mud from the tree roots off of the two tables. What would we do without Ted and his truck? Maybe some cheap plastic covering for

the tables would keep them clean and spare us the wash-down at the distant hose. Something on a roll that we could cut to the right length?

- I have a box with a bunch of samples of granite countertops that I always bring to Community Day and should have brought today. When the wind kicked up as the morning went on, we resorted to rocks and bricks, but the granite looks more civilized.
- I found a list of all the trees they make available. The only fruit tree is beach plum, and obviously they only give those to Shore towns. The list is attached.
- Now the hard part – remembering a year from now that we made this list of improvements.

From: Susan Meacham

Sent: Saturday, May 06, 2017 1:10 PM

To: 'Mike Keady'

Subject: Post Mortem from Free Trees at Holland today...

Hi there. Here's what we mentioned for next year:

Make sure the person with the key to the bay doesn't have to go on a police run.....

Bring: Pens (to write on sign in sheet!)

Paper towels (1 roll)

Newspapers to wet and lay over the roots to keep them moist while they lie out on the tables

Make sure we get 100 tags for 100 trees (I wonder if the tags were bundles of 50?) We ran out of tags about half way through running out of trees so I'm thinking we should have had 2 bundles of tags for each kind of tree?

Long twist ties (so if we run out of the printed tags, we can fold the half sheet info paper about the tree around the trunks and secure with a tie)

Next year, can we find out if there are any fruit trees available?

Also, we got 3 kinds of pines and that is what we ended up with the most of at the end.

What worked:

The paperwork was perfect. The signage was excellent. Next year, make sure we have rocks or bricks to secure the papers on the tables.

The paper bags we were given were perfect, and we had a lot left over to re-use next year.

Thanks so much

Susan Meacham

Secretary Kozak will get some table clothes for next year. Secretary Kozak will start gathering a “kit” for the EC for different events. Some items to keep in the kit would include pens, pencils, paper towels, sponges etc. It was mentioned that Facebook is a great way to “spread the word” of an event and members are welcome to pass the “message” as they see fit. The township does not have an official Facebook page.

Environmental Commission role in site plan review.

The EC has a role. In regards to the application before the Planning Board now, Chairman Keady requested that Secretary Kozak send the application to the EC members for review. Everyone should have received the emails. Please review the material and send questions to Secretary Kozak for Chairman Keady for the next meeting.

The Planning Board project is a pipeline project but on a specific property. Another pipeline project involving Elizabethtown Gas has to do with pipe replacement. Some background on the project includes Past Committeeman Vogel trying to establish a meeting with Elizabethtown Gas and the affected township residents to discuss the proposed project. Only 4 (four) homeowners expressed interest so the meeting did not take place. Elizabethtown Gas is interested in obtaining a wider easement because they do not want to actually replace the existing pipe but to put another pipe alongside the existing pipe. EC member Meacham has an interest in this project as she has an existing easement on her property. Susan Meacham explained that Elizabethtown Gas not only wants to widen the current easement but to also get permission for a temporary easement to do the work but that no one really knows how a temporary easement is defined. She is trying to determine if Elizabethtown Gas really needs it before she grants access to her property and accepts their proposal.

A member of the EC questioned the widening of Route 519. Chairman Keady will question the Township Committee at the next meeting. A sign on Route 519 says roadwork to begin on June 19th. The sign is located near the bridge on Route 519 by the mill.

Secretary Kozak will continue to send all Planning Board applications to the Planning Board EC liaison member, Mike Keady, and he will advise Secretary Kozak on the need to forward an application to the Environmental Commission members for review and comment.

Sub-Committees:

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

Trails – Ted Harwick, Jerry Bowers and Richard Schrack. –

We are waiting for the Township Committee and Maser Consulting to advise the EC about the potential wetland issue on the current logging roads which will be developed as trails on the proposed trail site. Rick Schrack had the parking lots removed from his quotes. The Holland Park Association received a grant from PennEast and they are using the money as seed money for the parking lot. Approximately \$4,000.00 from our DEP Trails grant can also be used

towards the parking lot. The Holland Park Association will look for other grants to help fund development of the parking lot.

Rick Schrack can move forward with the project once we have the authorization from the Township Committee. Lehigh Valley Contractors is ready to start the project. An Eagle Scout has also expressed interest in helping with this project. It was suggested that the Holland Township mulch could be used for this project. Bob Thurgarland and Rick Schrack are to stay in contact regarding Maser's decision about potential wetlands as well moving forward with the project.

Community Education and Outreach – Jerry Bowers, Dwight Pederson, and Susan Meacham – 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>. Susan Meacham is looking into conservation and expressed a need to work with the school. Chairman Keady stated that the school has made great progress with Sustainable Jersey. Chairman Keady will give Susan Meacham the contact information for the Holland Township School representative on the Green Team. Her name is Alison Wilt.

Highlands Conformance – Jerry Bowers (chair) and Mike Keady. Darlene Green did the Land Use Inventory Map (Task 4b) and the Highlands Council approved what was submitted. Secretary Kozak has a copy if anyone is interested in viewing the document please contact her.

Shade Tree and Community Forestry Plan Sub-Committee – Ted Harwick, Dwight Pederson and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak as secretary.

Holland Township achieved 2016 approved status by the State. Everyone was sent this information. Henry Gore responded to Secretary Kozak about doing another seminar. Secretary Kozak will work with Chairman Keady on the seminar development. More information to follow

Just a reminder, if you participate in a webinar please provide Secretary Kozak with your certificate so she can work with the state on keeping track of the hours. We will also need to discuss having someone move forward with CORE Training.

Public Comment: No comments were expressed.

At 8:50 pm Rick Schrack made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

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Environmental Commission Secretary