

Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

April 4, 2018 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, David Harrison, Mike Keady, Susan Meacham, Dwight Pederson, and Secretary Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Present: Township Committee Liaison: Robert Thurgarland

Absent: Rick Schrack

Let the record show we have a quorum.

Minutes: A motion was made by Jerry Bowers and seconded by Ted Harwick to approve the January 3, 2018 minutes as presented. All present were in favor of the motion with the exception of David Harrison who abstained. Motion carried.

PennEast Pipeline update: Susan Meacham and Mike Keady – FERC issued conditional certificate of approval on January 19, 2018 so that PennEast could go to court to enforce eminent domain. 131 condemnation cases have been filed and 6 of those cases have Holland Township named as a defendant. Only one of those 6 cases has a direct impact on the Township while in the other five cases Holland has a lien or has a claim on the property. PennEast also filed in Pennsylvania and New Jersey and also filed for Emergency Relief. 19 organizations or individuals have filed appeals. There is no stay of the project. Court Hearings on eminent domain start on April 5, 2018 in Trenton. More information to follow.

Sub-Committees:

Additional discussion to take place in the future regarding sub-committee titles and positions.

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

Trails – Ted Harwick, Jerry Bowers and Richard Schrack. – Progressing. – Volunteer hours still needed to send to the state. Secretary Kozak still is working on satisfying conditions of the grant so as to get the reimbursement for Holland.

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>. All were still encouraged to think about how to publicize the Trails. Mapping will need to be created etc.

Highlands Conformance – Jerry Bowers and Mike Keady. Nothing new to report.

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

Tree Give-A-Way – May 5, 2018 at the Recycling Center. Ted Harwick and Dwight Pederson will pick up the trees on Friday May 4, 2018 with a call to Secretary Kozak so she can print the information pertaining to the trees given to Holland for the distribution. The Boy Scouts will be helping. Someone to put the information on Facebook. The information has been posted to the township website. 8:15 am is the set up time. The police will open and close the bay that we use. Robert Thurgarland will make the arrangements.

Holland Township Arbor Day celebration April 28, 2018 at the Ridge. The tree plaques will be revealed. Mike Keady will be the MC and Henry Gore will talk about the tree plaque project. Continued work is being done with the website to have it working as requested. Dwight Pederson and Secretary Kozak have been working with the webmaster. Holland Park Trails will also be dedicated at this event. A discussion about the trail project will take place. All are encouraged to attend the opening of the trails. A new tree will be planted in The Grove. The township purchased a tree for the Environmental Commission and the Girl Scouts to plant in The Grove. Township representation at the event will include Liaison Robert Thurgarland and Mayor Dan Bush.

Community Forestry Plan – deadline for the Grant Application is April 17, 2018. Henry Gore has been working on this, with a focus on the category of Tree Inventory/Hazard Assessment. The Township Committee will have to approve the grant proposal before we submit the grant. Discussions of the benefits of a tree inventory took place. David Harrison and Secretary Kozak are interested in attending the Community Forestry Core Training in New Brunswick on May 5, 2018. Information will be submitted to Robert Thurgarland for review.

Inventory on Fauna and Flora subcommittee - David Harrison, Rick Schrack, Dwight Pederson – David Harrison is working on finalizing the list of birds and then he would like it put on the website like we created the tree inventory project. Additional discussion took place about a larger scale volunteer project but more information will need to be gathered to figure out how to do this. The goal would be to do an identification of birds etc on a specific property such as the Holland Park. It was also suggested that we let people know where the endangered species have been identified.

Stormwater Mitigation Projects – Maser Consulting reached out to Chairman Keady to discuss the potential of a Planning Board applicant that is not able to do Stormwater mitigation on the property to do it elsewhere on township property. Mike Keady is reaching out to DPW Supervisor Al Turdo. Jerry Bowers spoke of the meeting with consultants from CDM Smith, the Highlands Council and the Highlands Council Sub-committee. The meeting was to discuss the Highlands Council Water Use and Conservation Management Plan. Holland is in a water deficit in all HUC – 14 watersheds; however once the defunct mills are removed the HUC -14 where the mills are located might not be in deficit. CDM Smith is working on the inventory now. Consideration will also include the proposed pumping from a new well on the corner of

Rt 519 and Rt 614. As approved by Robert Thurgarland, Mike Keady will discuss with Al Turdo the concept of a Stormwater Mitigation Project elsewhere in the Township.

Public Comment: No comments were expressed.

At 9:05 pm made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

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Environmental Commission Secretary