

Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

July 5, 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, David Harrison, Ted Harwick , Mike Keady, Susan Meacham, Ray Note, Dwight Pederson, and Secretary Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Absent: Township Committee Liaison: Robert Thurgarland

Let the record show we have a quorum.

Minutes: A motion was made by Jerry Bowers and seconded by David Harrison to dispense with the reading of the April 4, 2018, May 2, 2018 and June 5, 2018 minutes and approve them as such. All present were in favor of the motion with the exception of David Harrison who abstained from June 5, 2018. Motion carried.

PennEast Pipeline update: Susan Meacham and Mike Keady – Nothing new to report. The Pennsylvania DEP granted PennEast an extension request of a deadline to provide additional environmental information. The new campaign for PennEast includes trying to get residents to voluntarily give up the information for them to do the surveying of wells. One Commissioner of FERC has stepped down (a piece of an article is provided below...).

FERC Commissioner Powelson To Step Down In August

- By [Keith Goldberg](#)
- Law360 (June 28, 2018, 7:56 PM EDT) -- Federal Energy Regulatory Commissioner Robert Powelson said Thursday he will step down in August, creating an even partisan split at the commission as it tackles weighty issues such as a pipeline policy revision and a potential U.S. Department of Energy bailout of coal and nuclear power plants.

Powelson, a Republican nominated by President Donald Trump in May 2017 and

confirmed by the Senate in August 2017, is stepping down to become president and CEO of the National Association of Water Companies, a trade group for the...

- Report on Phoenix Energy Center discussion item at June 11 Planning Board meeting – Michael Keady – No application has been received but this has the potential to be a very involved application. The Environmental Commission will have a role in the future. Jerry Bowers attended the Planning Board meeting when the discussion item was on the agenda with the explanation that this was preliminary, an exploration of an option for the mill where there have been other projects looked at in the past. NJ. Com published a news story and NJ Sierra Club had comments included. Jerry Bowers cautions all on not taking a stand that might be interpreted by the public as an official Holland Township government position. Mike Keady explained the Highlands Applicability Determination (HAD) can exempt the project using exemption 4 but NJDEP will not issue any permits until an amendment to the upper Delaware Quality Management plan is approved. There was mixed news in the letter from the NJDEP. At the Planning Board meeting, Mike Keady made mention that he was the EC Chairman and that the EC would be looking at water issues and possible contamination issues. Water use is huge issue. CDM Smith is aware of the project with regards to the Water Plan. Mike Keady told the EC that we learned about the LSRP process from the Mill Road Solar application and now we need to apply that knowledge and do a more effective job if there is an application from Phoenix Energy Center and/or from other applicants.
- Feedback on Community Forestry Core Training in New Brunswick on May 5 - David Harrison and Secretary Kozak attended the class David Harrison reiterated what Secretary Kozak stated about the training being excellent and he liked that we learned how many resources are available for us to use. Tree failure identification and risk analysis was really a strong focus. Not just looking at trees but looking at the whole picture. The Shade Tree Conference in October is something to look into.
- Community Day/Green Fair – September 8, 2018. Secretary Kozak to reach out to the county to see if they can provide the bugs. We will contact Stephanie for the rain barrel and maybe the solar oven. Secretary Kozak will reach out to the clean energy program people to see if they can come back. Dwight Pederson will contact Fairfax Hutter to see if she or someone from the

Watershed Ambassadors will attend. Susan Meacham to look at the Delaware River Keepers to see if they can participate with emphasis on a book signing as well as an education forum. David Harrison to reach out to the Raptor Trust to see if they can attend. Susan Meacham will also work with the same group that came out in the past regarding the PennEast project.

Sub-Committees:

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

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

Trails – Ted Harwick, Jerry Bowers and Ray Note. Nothing new to report.

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. Progress is being made with the Water Use and Conservation Management Plan. The first draft of the Water Use component is before the Highlands Council Subcommittee and they are reviewing it with comments to be submitted very soon. The comments will be sent to the consulting company known as CDM Smith.

Shade Tree and Community Forestry Plan Sub-Committee – Henry Gore (emeritus), David Harrison, Ted Harwick, Dwight Pederson and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak as secretary. Still working on the sign for the Arbor Day tree planted at the Riegel Ridge. After some discussion, the committee decided that they want a post mounted with a label. A brief explanation will go to the Township Committee for a decision to move forward.

Community Forestry Plan Grant Application has been submitted. Nothing to report at this time.

Inventory on Fauna and Flora subcommittee - David Harrison, Dwight Pederson, Ray Note and Henry Gore (emeritus) – David Harrison will work on cleaning up the list he presented to the EC. Dwight Pederson will work on the webpage layout

in a way to make it similar to the Tree and Trail page. David Harrison and Dwight Pederson have a schedule of all the work that needs to be done. The goal will be to do a bio blitz in 2020. David Harrison will participate in other bio blitz events so as to obtain a better understanding of the process. They are usually free and he will also see if grants are available for us to perform a bio blitz in 2020.

Public Comment: No one is present in the public.

Ted Harwick is having cataract surgery in August and September.

At 9:10 pm made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

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Environmental Commission Secretary