

Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

August 1, 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: Henry Gore, David Harrison, Ted Harwick, Mike Keady, Susan Meacham, Ray Note, Dwight Pederson, and Secretary Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Present: Township Committee Liaison: Robert Thurgarland

Absent: Jerry Bowers

Let the record show we have a quorum.

Minutes: The reading and approval of the July 5, 2018 meeting minutes was tabled.

PennEast Pipeline update: Susan Meacham and Mike Keady – Nothing new to report.

- Phoenix Energy Center– Michael Keady – No application has been received. Michael Keady and Jerry Bowers have been working on the Draft Water Use and Conservation Plan and the plan has implications for the proposed water use by Phoenix. The plan shows a change from a deficit to surplus in the HUC-14 where the mills were located because of the shut-down of the mills. Concern is expressed that the Phoenix Energy project could actually cause more of a deficit than the past operations of the mill. There are concerns about contamination when tearing down of the old mill, and the township needs to delve into the LSRP process to be assured that everything will be ok.
- In Bethlehem Township a giant concrete recycling plan is proposed but will be under DEP jurisdiction.
- Musconetcong Watershed Association (MWA) meeting of August 2, 2018. Mike Keady, Jerry Bowers, Dwight Pederson and Alan Hunt, Director of the MWA. Discussion to take place about additional monitoring to look for

potential bad runoff from the solar project off Cyphers Road across from the old Riegel Paper Mill (Approved by the Planning Board). Mike Keady discussed the Planning Board resolution conditions regarding the prevention of Stormwater runoff to the Musconetcong River. All are encouraged to send Mike Keady any additional topics for the MWA discussion. Additional conversations took place about the “tree farm” by the river which consists of about 1000 trees planted in an old corn field. Dwight Pederson fishes there all the time and talks with people. The old well from the paper plant is being used to water the trees. This is a mitigation project. No one has been able to confirm if the trees planted are native trees.

- Community Day/Green Fair – September 8, 2018. Dwight Pederson cannot attend the event so we will not do our normal fishing project for clean communities. Susan Meacham will talk with Dominick Turdo to see if he can attend Community Day with something about his bee keeping project. David Harrison is still trying to see about the Raptor Trust being involved. Jerry Bowers will talk with the Musconetcong Watershed Association. Bob Thurgarland will check with the county about representation including the roach! Henry Gore mentioned the ongoing problem with handicapped parking.

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 work with DPW Supervisor Turdo as the educational point system has changed and revisions are needed.

Trails – Ted Harwick, Jerry Bowers and Ray Note. Nothing new to report. Trail information is to be put on the web Secretary Kozak to check with the brochures we have so we can add to the website.

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. Discussion about a tree identification class being taught by Henry Gore took place. A suggestion was made to see if the 7th or 8th grade class could be invited. Secretary Kozak will work with liaison Thurgarland about using the mule vehicle for Henry Gore to identify trees in the Holland Park.

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) – More discussion took place about the layout with a suggestion being about adding a checklist. More discussion took place about the I Naturalist site with an option to do something with Holland Township. David Harrison will explore options. It is a free application and you build from there.

Public Comment: No one is present in the public.

Ted Harwick asked about the Spotted Lantern Fly and what can we do to help educate the residents? We are under quarantine with this. If we see one, we need to report to the County for someone to come out and look at it.

At 8:50 pm made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

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Environmental Commission Secretary