

Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

September 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, Ted Harwick, Mike Keady, Ray Note, Dwight Pederson, and Secretary Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Absent: Township Committee Liaison: Robert Thurgarland

Absent: David Harrison and Susan Meacham.

Let the record show we have a quorum.

Minutes: A motion was made by Jerry Bowers and seconded by Ted Harwick to dispense with the reading of the July 5, 2018 and August 1, 2018 minutes and approve them as such. All present were in favor of the motion with the exception of Jerry Bowers who abstained from the August 1, 2018. Motion carried.

PennEast Pipeline update: Susan Meacham and Mike Keady – Nothing new to report with the exception that FERC made a decision on August 10, 2018 and a “turn down” was issued on the hearings.

Phoenix Energy Center– Michael Keady – No application has been received. Henry Gore stated that oil fields in the Dakota’s and Texas are burning the gas off because they cannot get the dollar for it. 20% of the natural gas escapes into the air. A discussion took place about the need for Holland to explore with the Highlands Council grant money available for a stream corridor study.

Musconetcong Watershed Association (MWA) meeting of August 2, 2018. Mike Keady, Jerry Bowers, Dwight Pederson and Alan Hunt, Director of the MWA. Concerns were discussed about potential run-off on a new solar project down river as well as discussions about the potential Phoenix Energy project at the old paper mill. Director Hunt did his homework and explained some concerns about the impact on health with the C1 stream and the potential infusion of warm water from the cooling tower. No positions are being stated but planning and education is something everyone should be interested in. The approach is more scientific.

Information is being shared. The silt behind the dam of the mill is being tested to see what is present. Silt can be removed if needed. Discussions of the approved solar project took place with what was learned and how to move forward with a LSRP being involved to read supplied reports.

Community Day/Green Fair – September 8, 2018. Mike Keady will be at the Ridge by 10:45 am for set up. Secretary Kozak and Jerry Bowers are to help with set up. Susan Meacham will also be present. Secretary Kozak is trying to have the County attend with the “roach” as well. The State Clean Energy group is attending. Stephanie from the school will be present with the rain barrel and the solar oven as well. We have not received a response from the Raptor Trust but we are still exploring the opportunity to have them participate in our Community Day celebration. More details of the programs can be found at: <http://3c5.da1.myftpupload.com/education/programs/education-programs/> The event map will be forwarded to everyone upon receipt from Director Neglia. We will also need help with breakdown.

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. Nothing new to report.

Shade Tree and Community Forestry Plan Sub-Committee – Henry Gore (emeritus), David Harrison, Ted Harwick, Dwight Pederson and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak as secretary. The sign for the Arbor Day tree planted at the Riegel Ridge was ordered and we will work with the DPW on installation. Henry Gore is willing to teach the Tree Identification class on September 22, 2018 from 10 am till noon at the home of Mr. Pederson and Mr. Harrison. Henry Gore will visit the sites and work on the tree class and will send information to Secretary Kozak so she can work with the state for CEU credits. All are invited and all are encouraged to bring a friend.

Community Forestry Plan Grant Application has been submitted and we received positive feedback for the DEP grant for a Tree Inventory. A meeting took place on August 29, 2018 with the DEP Community Forestry managers and the subcommittee. Some discussion and tweaking of the grant were needed. We need to keep track of volunteer grant hours so our forms must be kept up to date constantly. We have 63 roads in the township with 46 being Township and 17 being County. The subcommittee will work on refining the proposal so Secretary Kozak can send out for bids. The grant will be included so everyone will know what we have been awarded by the NJDEP. The subcommittee will also provide Secretary Kozak with a list.

Inventory on Fauna and Flora subcommittee - David Harrison, Dwight Pederson, Ray Note and Henry Gore (emeritus) – Nothing new to report.

Tree City USA program –The Tree City USA program has been greening up cities and towns across America since 1976. It is a nationwide movement that provides the framework necessary for communities to manage and expand their public trees. Ray Note handed out information regarding a sample City Tree Ordinance.

The sample ordinance was designed for use in Midwestern communities of average population. The ordinance that your community ultimately develops should be designed to fit its specific needs.

**SAMPLE
CITY
TREE ORDINANCE**

Be it ordained by the City Commission of the City of:

(City) _____

(State) _____

Section 1. Definitions

Street trees: "Street trees" are herein defined as trees, shrubs, bushes, and all other woody vegetation on land lying between property lines on either side of all streets, avenues, or ways within the City.

Park Trees: "Park trees" are herein defined as trees, shrubs, bushes and all other woody vegetation in public parks having individual names, and all areas owned by the City, or to which the public has free access as a park.

Section 2. Creation and Establishment of a City Tree Board

There is hereby created and established a City Tree Board for the City of:

(City) _____

(State) _____

which shall consist of five members, citizens and residents of this city, who shall be appointed by the mayor with the approval of the Commission.

Section 3. Term of Office

The term of the five persons to be appointed by the mayor shall be three years except that the term of two of the members appointed to the first board shall be for only one year and the term of two members of the first board shall be for two years. In the event that a vacancy shall occur during the term of any member, his successor shall be appointed for the unexpired portion of the term.

Section 4. Compensation

Members of the board shall serve without compensation.

Section 5, Duties and Responsibilities

It shall be the responsibility of the Board to study, investigate, council and develop and/or update annually, and administer a written plan for the care, preservation, pruning, planting, replanting, removal or disposition of trees and shrubs in parks, along streets and in other public areas. Such plan will be presented annually to the City Commission and upon their acceptance and approval shall constitute the official comprehensive city tree plan for the City of:

(City) _____

(State) _____

The Board, when requested by the City Commission, shall consider, investigate, make finding, report and recommend upon any special matter of question coming within the scope of its work.

Section 6. Operation

The Board shall choose its own officers, make its own rules and regulations and keep a journal of its proceedings. A majority of the members shall be a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 7. Street Tree Species to be Planted

The following list constitutes the official

Street Tree species for:

(City) _____

(State) _____

No species other than those included in this list may be planted as Street Trees without written permission of the City Tree Board.

** Please note: The above species are offered as size-class examples only and may not be suitable for planting in your area. Please check with local sources to develop a species list for your*

Section 8. Spacing

The spacing of Street Trees will be in accordance with the three species size classes listed in Section 7 of this ordinance, and no the following: Small Trees, 30 feet; Medium in special plantings designed or approved

Section 9. Distance from Curb and Sidewalk

The distance trees may be planted from in accordance with the three species size and no trees may be planted closer to any Trees, 2 feet; Medium Trees, 3 feet; and

Section 10. Distance from Street Corners

No Street Tree shall be planted closer than the point of nearest intersecting curbs or closer than 10 feet of any fireplug.

Section 11. Utilities

No Street Trees other than those species listed as Small Trees in Section 7 of this ordinance may be planted under or within 10 lateral feet of any overhead utility wire, or over or within 5 lateral feet of any underground water line, sewer line, transmission line or other utility.

Section 12. Public Tree Care

The City shall have the right to plant, prune, maintain and remove trees, plants and shrubs within the lines of all streets, alleys, avenues, lanes, squares and public grounds, as may be necessary to insure public safety or to preserve or enhance the symmetry and beauty of such public grounds.

The City Tree Board may remove or cause or order to be removed, any tree or part thereof which is in an unsafe condition or which by reason of its nature is injurious to sewers, electric power lines, gas lines, water lines, or other public improvements, or is affected with any injurious fungus, insect or other pest. This Section does not prohibit the planting of Street Trees by adjacent property owners providing that the selection and location of said trees is in accordance with Sections 7 through 11 of this ordinance.

Section 13. Tree Topping

It shall be unlawful as a normal practice for any person, firm, or city department to top any Street Tree, Park Tree, or other tree on public property. Topping is defined as the severe cutting back of limbs to stubs larger than three inches in diameter within the tree's crown to such a degree so as to remove the normal canopy and disfigure the tree. Trees severely damaged by storms or other causes, or certain trees under utility wires or other obstructions where other pruning practices are impractical may be exempted from this ordinance at the determination of the City Tree Board.

Section 14. Pruning, Corner Clearance

Every owner of any tree overhanging any street or right-of-way within the City shall prune the branches so that such branches shall not obstruct the light from any street lamp or obstruct the view of any street intersection and so that there shall be a clear space of eight feet (8') above the surface of the street or sidewalk. Said owners shall remove all dead, diseased or dangerous trees, or broken or decayed limbs which constitute a menace to the safety of the public. The City shall have the right to prune any tree or shrub on private property when it interferes with the proper spread of light

SMALL TREES	MEDIUM TREES	LARGE TREES
Apricot	Ash, Green	Coffeetree, Kentucky
Crabapple,	Hackberry	Maple, Silver
Flowering (sp)	Honeylocust	Maple, Sugar
Golden Rain Tree	(thornless)	Oak, Bur
Hawthorne (sp.)	Linden or	Sycamore
Pear, Bradford	Basswood (sp.)	Sycamore, London
Redbud	Mulberry, Red	plantree
Soapberry	(fruitless, male)	Cottonwood
Lilac, Jap. Tree	Oak, English	(Cottonless,
Peach, Flowering	Oak, Red	male)
Plum, Purpleleaf	Pagodatree,	
Serviceberry	Japanese	
	Pecan	
	Birch, River	
	Osageorange	
	(Male,	
	thornless)	
	Persimmon	
	Poplar, White	
	Sassafras	

cordance with the three species size classes trees may be planted closer together than Trees, 40 feet; and Large Trees, 50 feet; except by a landscape architect.

curbs or curblines and sidewalks will be classes listed in Section 7 of this ordinance, curb or sidewalk than the following: Small Large Trees, 4 feet.

and Fireplugs

35 feet of any street corner, measured from curblines. No Street Tree shall be planted

along the street from a street light or interferes with visibility of any traffic control device or sign.

Section 15. Dead or Diseased Tree Removal on Private Property

The City shall have the right to cause the removal of any dead or diseased trees on private property within the city, when such trees constitute a hazard to life and property, or harbor insects or disease which constitute a potential threat to other trees within the city. The City Tree Board will notify in writing the owners of such trees. Removal shall be done by said owners at their own expense within sixty days after the date of service of notice. In the event of failure of owners to comply with such provisions, the City shall have the authority to remove such trees and charge the cost of removal on the owners property tax notice.

Section 16. Removal of Stumps

All stumps of street and park trees shall be removed below the surface of the ground so that the top of the stump shall not project above the surface of the ground.

Section 17. Interference with City Tree Board

It shall be unlawful for any person to prevent, delay or interfere with the City Tree Board, or any of its agents, while engaging in and about the planting, cultivating, mulching, pruning, spraying, or removing of any Street Trees, Park Trees, or trees on private grounds, as authorized in this ordinance.

Section 18. Arborists License and Bond

It shall be unlawful for any person or firm to engage in the business or occupation of pruning, treating, or I en-loving suet or paik trees within the City without first applying for and procuring a license. The license fee shall be \$25 annually in advance; provided, however, that no license shall be required of any public service company or City employee doing such work in the pursuit of their public service endeavors. Before any license shall be issued, each applicant shall first file evidence of possession of liability insurance in the minimum amounts of \$50,000 for bodily injury and \$100,000 property damage indemnifying the City or any person injured or damaged resulting from the pursuit of such endeavors as herein described.

Section 19. Review by City Commission The City Commission shall have the right to review the conduct, acts and decisions of the City Tree Board. Any person may appeal from any ruling or order of the City Tree Board to the City Commission who may hear the matter and make final decision.

Section 20. Penalty

Any person violating any provision of this ordinance shall be, upon conviction or a plea of guilty, subject to a fine not to exceed \$_____

He explained that we need to meet 4 standards. He just wanted to present this for consideration Henry Gore stated that a Tree Ordinance is in line with what we are accomplishing with the Community Forestry Plan. We do an Arbor Day proclamation. We are waiting for the Highlands Council to develop a tree project which would make money available for us to use as part of our Grant with the Highlands Council. Secretary Kozak will look into the project.

Public Comment: No one is present in the public.

At 8:30 pm made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

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Environmental Commission Secretary