

Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

January 9, 2019 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.

Present: Township Committee Liaison: Robert Thurgarland

Absent: N/A

Let the record show we have a quorum.

Minutes: Tabled.

Oath of Office:

David Harrison, Susan Meacham and Dwight Pederson were administered the Oath of Office by Liaison Thurgarland. All were congratulated on their reappointment. The term expiration is December 31, 2021.

Henry Gore thanked the board for their patience and well wishes as he has had some ongoing health concerns since November. Things are moving forward and he is eager to continue helping the Environmental Commission.

2019 meeting schedule. The 2019 meeting schedule was forwarded to Clerk Miller for publication. It is as follows:

Township of Holland
Environmental Commission

2019 Meetings

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Environmental Commission, Township of Holland, County of Hunterdon, New Jersey, will hold their regular meetings on the following dates in 2019 at 7:00 P.M. at the Holland Township Municipal Building, 61 Church Road, Milford, NJ. Meetings are open to the public.

Meeting Dates

January 9, 2019 (Reorganization Meeting)
February 6, 2019
March 6, 2019
April 3, 2019
May 1, 2019
June 4, 2019 * (Tuesday)
July 10, 2019
August 7, 2019
September 4, 2019
October 2, 2019
November 5, 2019 *(Tuesday)
December 4 2019
January 8, 2020 (Reorganization Meeting)

PennEast Pipeline update: Susan Meacham and Mike Keady – A Judge in the US Courts is allowing PennEast to undertake survey work, and to use eminent domain if necessary. A hearing on February 14, 2019 in Trenton is a special meeting to discuss compensation. Discussions are taking place on what to pay the landowner. There is no money involved in the survey but money is an issue when granting the easement for the pipeline. Eminent Domain landowners can go back to get their property back if the project never happens. Citizens against the Pipeline suggest the property owners ask the surveyors what kinds of surveys are being done and what is the duration of the survey being performed. Property owners are encouraged to be nice but that they should also video tape the surveyors on their property. They think that PennEast should gather all the information so that the NJDEP can then say to the Pipeline that the project cannot happen. A problem could arise if Construction and Tree Cutting are done before a permit is given. The Attorney General has stated that Eminent Domain cannot apply to State owned lands. The State of New Jersey is totally behind landowners. The Attorney General supports the landowner and is against the Pipeline.

New Jersey Tree Recovery Campaign for 2019 – Pickup May 3, 2019 with distribution to be Saturday May 4, 2019. Secretary Kozak to fill in the application. Hackettstown is the pickup location. Nothing new to report.

Route 519 Widening Project – Dwight Pederson has looked at the files at Holland Township and he did not see anything about the drainage basin. Secretary Kozak

suggested that Dwight Pederson contact the County. The County is also reaching out to the NJDEP for documents on drainage basins. The concern is that there will be more runoff towards the Musconetcong River. The Road will be closed from March to November and alternate routes will be in effect. Dwight Pederson wants to make sure that the road crew on the project executes the safety measures put into effect to protect the river. More information to follow.

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 is working 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 other than partnering with the Park Association. Discussions took place about the role of the Environmental Commission with the trails. A suggestion is to ultimately pass the trail project to Parks & Recreation. For now, the EC wants to make sure everything is completed as promised and then to look towards moving forward.

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>. Robert Thurgarland will contact the web company to see if they can keep track of the number of hits to our website/webpage.

Secretary Kozak will take the article that Jerry Bowers wrote and send it to the webmaster for posting based on category. She will hold off sending the trail portion. She will do this after the revised “Birds of Holland” is updated.

Holland Township announces environment initiatives

The Holland Township Environment Commission has announced the launch of several new initiatives. These include:

- **“Birds of Holland”**: Lifelong birder and EC member David Harrison has compiled an extensive list of the township’s avian residents (and transients). Based on his own observations over a period of over 20 years, plus additional data from his personal contacts and from sightings posted on eBird (Cornell Lab of Ornithology), the extensive list notes the names, migratory behavior and web links describing over 230 birds

observable at various times of the year in the township. The list is posted at <http://www.hollandtownshipnj.gov/bds-committees/environmental-commission> on the EC page of the Holland Township webpage.

- **Holland Park Trail:** With grant support from the Recreational Trails Grant Program of NJDEP/Green Acres and the assistance of the Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation, Holland Township has developed a new walking trail on 140 acres of land (“Holland Park”) purchased by the Township from the Archdiocese of Metuchen. The 1.25 mile trail traverses meadows, hills, and woodlands, and links to an additional two miles of woodland trails maintained by Hunterdon County on an adjoining parcel of land. A map of the Township-County Trails network is at <http://www.hollandtownshipnj.gov/images/Trails/Musconetcong-Mountain-Preserve-Trail-Map-01-09-18.pdf>
- The Holland Township Department of Public Works and the Township Committee worked with the TREX Corporation to create a **recycling program for plastic bags and plastic films** (see the program flyer at <http://www.hollandtownshipnj.gov/images/notices/2018/recycle-bags.pdf>). The Township installed collection boxes at several locations in the community—sites where residents can deposit plastic grocery bags, cereal box liners, ice bags, Ziploc and other reclosable bags, case overwraps (e.g., from cases of water bottles), newspaper sleeves, dry cleaning bags, etc. The collection & recycling initiative is expected to keep tens of thousands of plastic bags and fillers out of the environment each year.
- **Trees of Holland Township:** The Township EC has launched a program to label trees at the Township’s Riegel Ridge Community Center and at the Holland Park site mentioned above. Plaques attached to trees at the sites will include the common and scientific names of each tree, plus a QR code that will enable smartphone-equipped users to access detailed information about the trees. Go to <http://www.hollandtownshipnj.gov/118-trees-of-holland.html> for to view a sample tree sign with QR code.

Highlands Conformance – Jerry Bowers and Mike Keady. Progress is being made with the Water Use and Conservation Management Plan. The Highlands Council is working on a plan for us to have grant money to work on the Chapter 101 Checklist. The other checklists are being revised which triggered the discussion about a checklist for the newly adopted Chapter 101 Highlands Land Use Ordinance. Chairman Keady s also working with Maser on refining the Environmental Impact Assessment Checklist with input to come from the EC. More information to follow.

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

Community Forestry Plan Grant -

The annual report is due February 15, 2019. Dwight Pederson has been working on the report and we are waiting for committeeman Krov to look over the budget. Secretary Kozak will send to everyone once it is submitted to the State.

The Holland Township Community Forestry Plan 2014-2019 expires this year. October is the resubmittal month. We need to review the document and tweak where necessary. Mike Keady and Dwight Pederson had many questions which included are we being too over ambitious. We need to review and possible work with Ron Farr once he is awarded the contract to perform the Tree Inventory.

The subcommittee will have a meeting to discuss moving forward with the Tree Inventory but all EC members will need to assist in tracking their volunteer hours for this project.

Discussions also took place about the tree sign project. The EC members agree that they want to expand the sign program but are unsure of the exact number of desired signs. They are also hopeful that the township will continue to plant a tree for Arbor Day and that we can continue to dedicate that tree.

Girl Scout Silver Award - - Elizabeth Tamaro. Nothing new to report.

Inventory on Fauna and Flora subcommittee - David Harrison, Dwight Pederson, Ray Note and Henry Gore (emeritus) –

David Harrison prepared the Birds of Holland Township List for the website. It was tweaked and the final version 5 will be sent to the website by Secretary Kozak.

Tree City USA program – The sample City Tree Ordinance that Ray Note distributed explains how to write a tree ordinance and is as follows.

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 Section 7 of this ordinance, and no following: Small Trees, 30 feet; Medium Trees, special plantings designed or approved by

Section 9. Distance from Curb and Sidewalk

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

Section 10. Distance from Street Corners

No Street Tree shall be planted closer than 35 point of nearest intersecting curbs or curblines. 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

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, male)
Peach, Flowering	Oak, Red	
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 the 40 feet; and Large Trees, 50 feet; except in a landscape architect.

curbs or curblines and sidewalks will be classes listed in Section 7 of this ordinance, and sidewalk than the following: Small Trees, 2 Trees, 4 feet.

and Fireplugs

feet of any street corner, measured from the No Street Tree shall be planted closer than 10

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 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 removing street or park 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 \$_____

Nothing new to report since this was tabled.

Public Comment: No one is present in the public.

Reminder for sub-committee sessions. We created a subcommittee so that you can have meetings, talk and work together. Chairman Keady provided chart for everyone to review and change if desired.

	Trails	Forestry	Highlands	Stormwater	Community Outreach	Bio-Inventory
J. Bowers	X		X	X	X	
D. Harrison		X				X
T. Harwick	X	X				
M. Keady			X	X		
S. Meacham					X	
R. Note	X					X

D. Pederson		X			X	X
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H. Gore		X				X
M.E. Kozak		X		X		

Current Assignments (January 9, 2019)

Discussions took place regarding people moving around. Discussion of each subcommittee also took place. Three members (not counting Emeritus Gore or Secretary Kozak) is all that is permitted without having to advertise for a meeting. Everyone was encouraged to look over the subcommittee and to let Chairman Keady know which subcommittee you are interested in remaining on or switching to.

Secretary Kozak resent the Volunteer Form for tracking of volunteer hours. Please let her know if you need a hard copy.

Secretary Kozak spoke about the Bloomsbury Dam Removal as well as reminded everyone about the invitation to the Radon seminar.

Secretary Kozak will work on the Arbor Day proclamation for the Township Committee once we have a date scheduled along with an event.

ANJC training dates discussed. March 9, 2019 from 9 am till 1:30 pm in Bridgewater NJ is the closest. Please contact Secretary Kozak if interested.

At 8:55 pm Jerry Bowers made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

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Environmental Commission Secretary