

Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

February 6, 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, Mike Keady, Susan Meacham, Ray Note, Dwight Pederson, and Secretary Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Absent: Township Committee Liaison: Robert Thurgarland

Absent: Ted Harwick

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 December 5, 2018 and January 9, 2019 minutes and approve them as such. All present were in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Environmental Commission Subcommittee and List of Leaders of the Subcommittees were presented by Chairman Keady. After some discussion, a motion was made by David Harrison and seconded by Susan Meacham to accept the membership chart as outlined. All present were in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

	Trails	Forestry	Highlands	Stormwater	Community Outreach	Bio-Inventory
J. Bowers	L		X	X	X	
D. Harrison		X				L
T. Harwick	X	X				
M. Keady			L	L		

S. Meacham				X	L	
R. Note	X	L				X
D. Pederson		X (leaves)	X		X	X

H. Gore		X				X
M.E. Kozak		X		X		

Secretary Kozak will send the members a members list containing addresses, emails and phone numbers.

PennEast Pipeline update: Susan Meacham and Mike Keady – On February 1st PennEast filed Application of Amendment. Thus far, they have only filed route changes for the PA portion. They are looking to change some work areas up near Wyoming Valley as well as the abandoned mines near the Susquehanna River. They have done a few borings and they have stated that it will not cause a problem. However, other people believe it will present a problem with the abandoned mines. Survey crews are in New Jersey so the theory is that an Application of Amendment for New Jersey should be filed soon. The New Jersey State Attorney General is not in favor of the pipeline. The current FERC Commissioner has been asked to NOT seek another term of office and will be out of office in June with the expectation that a Democrat will become Commissioner. Governor Murphy will not allow treatment of water from fracking and there is no fracking in the Delaware River basin.

New Jersey Tree Recovery Campaign for 2019 – The state ran out of seedlings under this program and something happened with our application as well as others who have been a part of this program. We have the opportunity to purchase trees at a reduced rate but since we did not budget for this we are not able to participate in the program. We can put this in the 2020 budget.

Route 519 Widening Project – Dwight Pederson reported that signs are up indicating the road closing date and the detour route. Chairman Keady has asked the Township Committee to provide additional information or a link on the Township Webpage. Dwight Pederson did review the plans at the Municipal Building and stated that the Bio Detention basin presented in the plans seems like it will be effective and it will be interesting to see the final product.

Sub-Committees:

Stormwater Education – Mike Keady, Jerry Bowers, Susan Meacham 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>.

Highlands Conformance – Jerry Bowers, Mike Keady and Dwight Pederson. The Highlands Council proposed new rules for dealing with the area in the Highlands Region obtaining a redevelopment exemption. Public Comment needs to be made by February 11, 2019. Mike Keady has spoken with the Highlands Coalition and thinks that Holland Township also needs to comment. Mike Keady has prepared something for the township to consider.

Progress is being made with the Water Use and Conservation Management Plan.

The Highlands Council has approved additional grant money to work on the Chapter 101 Checklist for the adopted Chapter 101 Highlands Land Use Ordinance. Planner Green is working on this project.

Chairman Keady is also working with Maser on refining the Environmental Impact Assessment Checklist with input to come from the EC. More information to follow.

The Holland Township Highlands Conformance Committee consisting of Mike Keady, Jerry Bowers, Tom Scheibener and Secretary Kozak is having a meeting with Highlands Council Liaison Keri Green on February 13, 2019 at 2pm to discuss various topics including additional grant funding. Dwight Pederson will offer some suggestions about stream ideas and the subcommittee will discuss with the Highlands Council.

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

Community Forestry Plan Annual Report due February 15, 2019. Dwight Pederson had worked on this report and has sent this to all for review. The EC members thanked Dwight Pederson for all his efforts. Secretary Kozak is awaiting the Mayor's signature on the submittal document. Secretary Kozak will file the document with the State representative and email a copy to all the members as FYI.

Community Forestry Plan Grant -

As a reminder, 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 Dwight Pederson started working on this document. We need to review and possibly work with Ron Farr for some direction. We can also contact Carrie Sargent and Brian McDonald at the DEP for some direction. Secretary Kozak will make sure everyone has a copy of the plan for their files.

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

Secretary Kozak will send to the subcommittee the original grant information as well as the proposal from Ron Farr. The subcommittee should also discuss with Ron Farr the cutting down of trees in the Right of Way by the Power Company and what they are allowed to do and what they are actually doing. Also discuss the rumor about the removal of all ash trees. The subcommittee should also review the Township Ordinances as well.

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.

Community Outreach – Jerry Bowers, Susan Meacham, Dwight Pederson. Nothing new to report.

Public Comment: No one is present in the public.

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

Respectfully Submitted

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

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Environmental Commission Secretary