

Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

March 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 (7:25 PM), Mike Keady, Ray Note, Dwight Pederson, and Secretary Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Present: Township Committee Liaison: Robert Thurgarland

Absent: Ted Harwick and Susan Meacham

Let the record show we have a quorum.

Minutes: A motion was made by Jerry Bowers and seconded by Dwight Pederson to dispense with the reading of the February 6, 2019 minutes and approve them as such. All present were in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

PennEast Pipeline update: Susan Meacham and Mike Keady – The latest is that a new docket was opened for route changes. The only changes so far are on the PA side. Holland will register as an intervenor. The County Freeholders are actively opposing PennEast. A resolution or statement from their meeting will be posted and is on behalf of all the towns being affected. This is a partnership with the County.

Arbor Day 2019 – April 26, 2019 with Holland to celebrate Saturday, April 27, 2019. White Oak is the suggested tree to be planted. Henry Gore sent a quote to purchase a tree on line. Secretary Kozak will work with DPW Director Alan Turdo to obtain quotes from local nurseries and to work with Liaison Thurgarland for authorization to purchase. We will get a quote for a White Oak with a caliper of 2” to 3”.

Ideas discussed include planting the tree, getting more labels for trees in the area where the yearly tree will be planted, encouraging event attendees to visit the trail. DPW Supervisor Turdo ordered cork for the memo boards. The benches are installed. The DPW was to put in the ground the trail markers. Chairman

Keady will do a press release. The Forestry subcommittee will locate trees and evergreen in the area that we can get a tree sign for. They will provide the list to Secretary Kozak who will work with Liaison Thurgarland for TC approval.

Route 519 Widening Project –Detour is happening. Speed limit is being forced. Be careful, be smart, be safe, and be respectful.

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 responsibility 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 – The subcommittee had a meeting. There is a lot of Environmental Information available. The subcommittee feels like the community is not informed.

Discussion took place about the unofficial Facebook page that people use but which is not endorsed by the Township. The Township website is endorsed and people are encouraged to go to the website for information or to call the Township Municipal Building. Discussion took place about the possibility of preparing factual information on controversial topics and posting it to Facebook with a link back to the township website and a disclaimer. Everyone was advised to use caution when using Facebook as even though you are a resident and encouraged to have your own opinions, when you volunteer for the Township you should be aware that your statements could appear to be that of the Township. We all know that there is a need for transparency, however you need to use caution. The subcommittee was encouraged to create a test using the County 519 project.

Another conversation concerned doing a Community Bag giveaway. More information to be provided. The EC webpage is:

<http://www.hollandtownshipnj.gov/14-ec/46-environmental-commission.html>.

Please send any additions or corrections to Secretary Kozak.

Highlands Conformance – Jerry Bowers, Mike Keady and Dwight Pederson.

Members of Holland’s Highlands Conformance Committee (Tom Scheibener, Jerry Bowers, and Mike Keady) recently met with Keri Green, our liaison from the Highlands Council, to learn more about the new grant program.

The Highlands Council has new grant opportunities to award grants to municipalities in the Highlands Region. Grants can be up to \$50,000.

In the past, the Highlands Council awarded grants to accomplish tasks necessary to achieve conformance with the Highlands Regional Master Plan. The new grant program is intended to involve more groups within the township.

Discussions took place about options. Some discussions included expansion of the trail maps, water use and conservation, stormwater retention/detention basins, community forestry etc. The Highlands Council will help us develop a plan but not implement the plan. More discussions took place about what the Highlands Council will really pay for.

Secretary Kozak will follow up with CDM Smith and the Highlands Council to determine the remaining budget for 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. More details to follow.

Chairman Keady is still 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), Ray Note (leader), David Harrison, Ted Harwick, and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak as secretary.

Community Forestry Plan Annual Report due February 15, 2019 was submitted and all were included in the email.

Community Forestry Plan Grant -

The Holland Township Community Forestry Plan 2014-2019 expires this year. October is the resubmittal month. Ray Note and David Harrison believe that our plan is a great plan however we are not doing anything with it and we need to think about it periodically. The suggestion was made to include a discussion of progress on the Plan as an agenda item at each meeting. We need to prioritize goals and we need to work on them yearly. In order to move forward, we need to really look at this and see what is so important so we can look at what we really want money for.

The Environmental Commission is not qualified to update the plan which means we need to hire a professional (Arborist). Secretary Kozak spoke with Arborist Farr who suggested that she look at the Green Communities grant program; if we are awarded the \$3,000.00 under that activity, we could hire the Arborist to prepare the plan. We need to explore the grant, and forward it to the Township Committee for endorsement and submittal. The subcommittee will work on the grant proposal to update the Community Forestry Plan.

The subcommittee had a meeting with Ron Farr and discussed moving forward with the Tree Inventory. The subcommittee is meeting May 6th at 8am to discuss how they will do the inventory and then they will begin the Inventory on Miller Park Road. Everyone has to track their volunteer hours.

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 and Ray Note have been talking about native biodiversity. We need to explain why this is important. David Harrison will come up with a short statement as to why it is important. David Harrison is also exploring why native species become native. In an effort to continue moving forward with this project, David Harrison has started working on a list of Reptiles and Amphibians in Hunterdon County. This list will link to the NJDEP website for frogs and toads. There is another website that David Harrison is exploring that deals with the frog and toad calls, which could be added to our list as well.

HERPS OF HOLLAND TW	Date	Location	Notes		Date	Location
Turtles				Frogs and Toads		
Bog Turtle				American Toad		
Common Map Turtle				Bullfrog		
Common Musk Turtle				Fowler's Toad		
Common Snapping Turtle				Green Frog		
Eastern Box Turtle				Northern Cricket Frog		
Eastern Mud Turtle				Northern Gray Treefrog		
Eastern Painted Turtle				Northern Spring Peeper		
Red-eared Slider				Pickereel Frog		
Spotted Turtle				Southern Leopard Frog		
Wood Turtle				Upland Chorus Frog		
				Wood Frog		
Lizards						
Five-lined Skink						
Snakes				Salamanders		
Black Rat Snake				Blue-spotted Salamander		
Eastern Garter Snake				Four-toed Salamander		
Eastern Hognose Snake				Jefferson Salamander		
Eastern Milk Snake				Longtail Salamander		
Eastern Ribbon Snake				Marbled Salamander		
Eastern Worm Snake				Northern Dusky Salamander		
Northern Black Racer				Northern Red Salamander		
Northern Brown Snake				Northern Slimy Salamander		
Northern Copperhead				Northern Spring Salamander		
Northern Redbelly Snake				Northern Two-lined Salamander		
Northern Ringneck Snake				Redback Salamander		
Northern Water Snake				Red-spotted Newt		
Smooth Green Snake				Spotted Salamander		

Public Comment: No one is present in the public.

At 9:15 pm Jerry Bowers made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

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Environmental Commission Secretary