

# Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

April 3, 2019 7 PM Meeting

Chairman Keady called the meeting to order. I call to order the May 8, 2019 Regular Meeting of the Holland Township Environmental Commission.

Adequate notice of this meeting was given pursuant to the Open Public Meeting Act Law by the Environmental Commission Secretary by:

1. Posting such notice on the bulletin board at the Municipal Building.
2. Publishing the notice in the December 13, 2018 edition of the Hunterdon County Democrat
3. And faxing to the Express-Times for informational purposes only.

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, Susan Meacham , Ray Note, Dwight Pederson, and Secretary Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Present: Township Committee Liaison: Robert Thurgarland

Absent: David Harrison

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 March 6, 2019 minutes and approve them as such. All present were in favor of the motion with the exception of Ted Harwick and Susan Meacham who abstained. Motion carried.

North Jersey Rivers Conference – Centenary College – March 30, 2019 – attended by Dwight Pederson. There were three workshops with each lasting about 1 Hour and then there were sub sessions. He attended the Environmental Commission session, NJ Conservation Blueprint and Wild Trout. ANJEC has games and displays and Dwight Pederson will speak with them about using their games and displays at our Community Day event. Dwight Pederson spoke with other towns about social media. Frenchtown and Belvidere are two towns that use social media. Dwight Pederson had the NJ Conservation Blueprint map up for the EC

members to view. The interactive map was developed by Rowan University and shows the progress of Farmland preservation. There are point values assigned to it and the use is beneficial to many interested in preserving land. You can also click on a parcel of land and discover information specific to that parcel. The map is NJMAP2.com. As for trout, the Raritan Watershed was the presenter and there is a full time biologist monitoring the north branch and south branch river and tributaries. Samples are presented to the lab including and grades are assigned to the areas to determine a timeline of the water to see what is happening on an ongoing basis. Jerry Bowers stated the Musconetcong Watershed Association (MWA) does something (their River Watcher program) similar and Chairman Keady stated that he would follow up with the MWA to see if they would be willing to participate in our Community Day event. Dr. Van Abs was present at the conference and talked about water in NJ and how no new sources are available. The ground water is fully allocated or over allocated. Dr. Van Abs is concerned with climate changes including severe droughts as well as Stormwater run-off. They do not recharge the aquifer. The Environment does not get the attention it needs. People do not even know about their local water sources and streams. Ask someone where drinking water comes from and you would be surprised by the answer which reinforces that people are uninformed on the issues. Dr. Van Abs refers to this as water-apathy. One major sponsor was a Micro-Brewery which indicates that they realize how important water really is. The Environment use to be a grass roots movement and now it is more professional with lots of acronyms.

PennEast Pipeline update: Susan Meacham and Mike Keady – FERC has a new docket and PennEast has talked about new options in Pennsylvania including route changes. Penn East still does not want to do a full Environmental Impact Statement. Holland Township is not registered as an intervenor for the PA docket (the new docket). March 8<sup>th</sup> was the deadline. The Federal Court allowed that Penn East had the right to survey.

Arbor Day 2019 – Holland to celebrate Saturday, April 27, 2019. Start time 11 am. Mike Keady to do a press release. Maria Elena Jennette Kozak to put information on the website, contact our Girl Scout Elizabeth and email boards and commission in Holland. Susan Meacham will handle social media. Mike Keady will touch base with former councilman Ken Vogel to see if he can spread the

word using his email list of many residents in town. The members should arrive by 10:30. The EC suggested tree, White Oak is being purchased and will be put into the ground in the Grove by DPW with the EC being able to put shovels of dirt into the ground at the event. The tree identification tags have been ordered. Robert Thurgarland will touch base with the Police and township committee members will be present. The public is welcome to walk the grounds after the tree planting. Secretary Kozak will work with DPW director Al Turdo to finalize plans.

Route 519 Widening Project –Detour is happening. Speed limit is being enforced. Be careful, be smart, be safe, and be respectful. The bridge on Route 173 in Bloomsbury is closed.

Highlands Council Public Hearing to be held in Holland Township on May 1<sup>st</sup> (which will take the place of the regularly scheduled EC meeting which move to May 8<sup>th</sup>). All are welcome to attend the Public Hearing. The reason for the Public Hearing (the Highlands Council is required to perform six hearings) is that the Highlands Council is reexamining the Master Plan and one item talks about examining procedures on how to achieve conformance. Holland is just the hosting venue for the hearing. Chairman Keady also has another item he wants clarification on regarding a certificate.

#### 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. We need to update the kiosks on the trails but only after DPW Director Turdo installs cork to make it easier to install brochures. As a reminder, prior 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 – Nothing new to report.

The EC webpage is: <http://www.hollandtownshipnj.gov/14-ec/46-environmental-commission.html>. Please send any additions or corrections to Secretary Kozak for posting

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

Additional discussion with the Environmental Commission looking to become more involved in exploring new grant opportunities with the Highlands Council, which plans 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.

Chairman Keady and Jerry Bowers have discussed the need for performing a retention/detention basin inventory under the new grant program. All agreed this item is something we should pursue and Secretary Kozak will work with Engineer Roseberry and Highlands Council Liaison Keri Green to create a scope of work for this project. Ideas could also be explored identifying Stormwater that is not going into detention basins. We have to ask about cluster developments with basins that predate the Stormwater requirements. Can we investigate and do something about them? Secretary Kozak will stay in touch with everyone.

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

Secretary Kozak to check with the Highlands Council regarding a model forestry ordinance. Henry Gore thought they were going to create one using a scientific approach.

More conversations need to take place about the task within the Highlands Council grant program that is referred to as a Stream Corridor Protection/Restoration Plan. No one really knows what this task is about.

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. Secretary Kozak investigated a Green Communities Grant which would help pay for a professional such as Arborist Farr to evaluate and help renew our plan. The matching contribution from Holland consists primarily of volunteer hours with some offset of salary employees.

Secretary Kozak will work on the grant with the subcommittee and follow proper procedures with the Township Committee for endorsement and submittal. Details will first be sent to Liaison Thurgarland so he will discuss with the Township Committee. Once endorsed then it will be submitted to the state for consideration.

The subcommittee is meeting May 6<sup>th</sup> 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) – Nothing new to discuss.

Public Comment: No one is present in the public.

At 9:20 pm Susan Meacham made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

*Maria Elena Jennette Kozak*

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Environmental Commission Secretary