

# Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

May 8, 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 , David Harrison, Mike Keady, Susan Meacham , Ray Note, Dwight Pederson, and Secretary Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Absent: Township Committee Liaison: Robert Thurgarland

Absent: Susan Meacham

Let the record show we have a quorum.

Minutes: The approval of the April 3, 2019 minutes was tabled.

PennEast Pipeline update: Susan Meacham and Mike Keady – Mike Keady reported that Township Attorney Cushing received a letter from PennEast informing the Township that PennEast is surveying lands owned by the Township. Ted Harwick explained that he was recently at an Ag Meeting and Laura Wilson stated that the thickness of the pipeline determined by, among other things, how close to a building the pipeline is going to be and the potential for an explosion. Environmental studies still need to be done.

Arbor Day 2019 – Holland to celebrate Saturday, April 27, 2019. Everything went well, however attendance was still meager, even with all the publicity. Ideas were discussed but basically we will need to do the same thing we have done with publicity and if people attend that is terrific and if they do not attend then at least

we are still doing the right thing and above all planting a tree! Ted Harwick donated new tree deer protectors that Secretary Kozak will work with the DPW for installation.

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.

Sub-Committees:

Stormwater Education – Mike Keady, Jerry Bowers, Susan Meacham and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak as Secretary – Secretary Kozak worked with DPW Supervisor Turdo regarding recent changes in the educational point system and the revisions that were needed. The 2018 report will be submitted to Maser Consulting for submittal to the State and a cc will be sent to all Environmental Commission members.

Trails – Ted Harwick, Jerry Bowers and Ray Note. Nothing new to report other than partnering with the Park Association. The subcommittee will meet to update the kiosks on the trails once DPW Director Turdo installs cork to make it easier to install brochures. The subcommittee is also looking to walk the trail. Secretary Kozak stated that she has seen and has received reports that people are using the trail and are very positive about it.

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.

Highlands Council Public Hearing was held in Holland Township on May 1, 2019. 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 Township was thanked for hosting the public hearing. It was a non-adversarial hearing. Many of the Environmental Commission members were present.

The Holland Township Highlands Council Subcommittee consisting of Jerry Bowers, Michael Keady and Dan Bush had a meeting prior to the Public Hearing to continue discussions about the Highlands Council's new program 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.

Environmental Commission member Dwight Pederson also participated in the meeting as he is interested in the Stream Corridor task item which has a grant allocation of \$32,500.00 assigned to it under the existing conformance grant. We can do a base line of streams and have something to use in the future to refer back to. Secretary Kozak asked all to remember to not count on the full amount but to leave some money in the account for Holland Township Administrative scope of work. Discussion took place about whom to work with to develop a scope of work for the project and while Maser is an obvious pick because of our existing engineering contract we could look into other vendors such as Princeton Hydro or Musconetcong Watershed Association. Highlands Council liaison Green will forward Dwight Pederson scientific reports. Recharge was discussed as being an issue of concern. Evaluating conditions will be a large part of the project and what needs to be done to preserve water quality. Another suggestion was to contact the Highlands Coalition for assistance. Secretary Kozak will investigate bidding and proper procedures. Additional conversations extended into expanding the Water Use and Conservation Management Plan which studied the three HUC priority zones. The deficits were identified but we need to figure out what to do next. This is where money remaining in the existing grant could be reassigned to work on this plan with Maser being the lead vendor to create a scope of work. Another project identified as a candidate for grant funding is a Retention/detention basin inventory in which would identify the existing basins and establish the conditions of the basins. Secretary Kozak is working with Maser on preparing a scope of work for this project which could expand into additional monies being allocated to see if we can modernize the basins and/or change them.

Secretary Kozak has followed up with CDM Smith and the Highlands Council to determine the remaining budget for the Water Use and Conservation Management Plan. We are still working with Maser on finishing up the 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 and the checklist was submitted to the Township Committee for adoption. 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.

#### 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. We are still waiting for the DEP approval of the Grant but all are encouraged to start reviewing the existing plan. Ray Note stated that he will work on this as a priority. Secretary Kozak has spoken with Arborist Farr who originally prepared the plan with the Environmental Commission and he suggests that we review the plan to identify what we did, review updates, and include suggestions for what we would like to do for the future five year plan.

The subcommittee gathered on May 6<sup>th</sup> at 8am to discuss how they will do the inventory and then began the Inventory on Miller Park Road. Everyone has to track their volunteer hours. The subcommittee will get the base training and then will reach out to other committee members interested in helping with the project. The township has been broken down into four quadrants and each quad consisted of a listing of roads on which members identified the trees in the right of way as being a 1 (top Priority), 2 (somewhat) or 3(not a priority). Secretary Kozak worked with DPW Supervisor Al Turdo to obtain a list of roads he thought were a high priority for the inventory. This list then was compared to the Quad lists and the subcommittee has the results to move forward. Hours counted this evening include each member spending about 15 minutes hearing the updates and offering

suggestions along with David Harrison spending an additional 20 minutes before the meeting identifying the fourth quad of which Ted Harwick and Henry Gore will go out and identify. Secretary Kozak will follow up on planning the next meeting in the field. Dwight Pederson discussed the conversation Mayor Bush had about Hazardous Tree Mitigation.

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 9:00 pm David Harrison made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

*Maria Elena Jennette Kozak*

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Environmental Commission Secretary