

Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

August 7, 2019 7 PM Meeting

Chairman Keady called the meeting to order. I call to order the August 7, 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, David Harrison , Ted Harwick , Mike Keady, Susan Meacham, Ray Note, Dwight Pederson, Township Committee Liaison: Robert Thurgarland and Secretary Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Absent: Henry Gore

Let the record show we have a quorum.

Minutes: The approval of the July 10, 2019 minutes was tabled.

PennEast Pipeline update: Susan Meacham and Mike Keady – something is happening! PennEast is to submit an application for water permits to the NJDEP and people will be able to make comments during the 15-day period from receipt of the letter from PennEast. Input (comment) is determined from the day it appears in the NJDEP Bulletin. People are already drafting comments so they can jump on it when the time comes. Liaison Thurgarland stated that the Township Attorney is aware of the article from the Democrat. PennEast is saying that the bulk of construction will take place in 2021. People working with the various “Stop the Pipeline” groups are gathering information and plan to submit comments.

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.

Community Day & Green Fair – September 7, 2019. Hours of operation 3pm till 8pm. Drop off materials should be around 2:30pm and pick up of the booth will be after 8:30pm. Discussions of the time took place with the general concern being the length of time expected to be in attendance as well as safety concerns of cleaning up booths in the dark. Some concerns were expressed pertaining to the harshness of the instructions and all thought that the instructions pertains more to vendors rather than volunteer organizations. Liaison Thurgarland

did not think volunteer groups were expected to stay as late and all decided to stagger their time at the event. The set up and breakdown are the times where help is needed the most. Susan Meacham, Dwight Pederson, Ted Harwick and Mike Keady will meet at 2:15pm to set up. Secretary Kozak to resend the flyer for Community Day. All agreed to start the breakdown at 7:30pm. Jerry Bowers asked when the layout will be available and Secretary Kozak will reach out to Director Neglia for the design. Once received, Secretary Kozak will send to everyone. Questions came about the rain date, if one. Ray Note said he would be in attendance as well but David Harrison stated that he would be out of town. Dwight Pederson is following up on help from the Brownies. Susan Meacham did not have luck with her daughter's friends who love reptiles as they are busy on the 7th. Secretary Kozak will have materials ready for the next meeting for loading into Chairman Keady's car. Secretary Kozak to order a give-away.

Holland Happenings Newsletter – Chairman Keady announced that plans are underway for another edition of the newsletter. All organizations have been asked to submit an article. The deadline is September 6th. The plan is for the newsletter to be distributed in late November. We just need to do a recap of things we have been involved with. Secretary Kozak will let Clerk Miller know that we will send pictures from Community Day on Monday after the deadline. We can talk about our trail, our recycling program, land acquisitions and our Green Fair at Community Day. We can also talk about our tree inventory project and Community Forestry Plan.

ANJEC letter distributed urging municipalities to establish ordinances that ban single use plastic bags. Holland is not in favor of this at this time as we have our plastic bag collection program with TREX. To date, we have received 2 recycled plastic benches from TREX for supporting this program.

Sub-Committees:

Trails – Ted Harwick, Jerry Bowers and Ray Note. Nothing new to report.

Community Forestry Plan – Ray Note, David Harrison, Ted Harwick, Henry Gore (emeritus) and Secretary Kozak

Community Forestry Plan Grant - The Holland Township Community Forestry Plan 2014-2019 expires in 2019 and the Green Communities Grant from the DEP has been awarded to Holland Township. The subcommittee will need to meet to work on the Plan in order to work with Forester Ron Farr. The Plan will need to be submitted to the DEP for approval for the next five years.

Tree Inventory Update – The subcommittee is still working on this project with Arborist Farr. The date collection being entered into the system is still being refined by Dwight Pederson and the subcommittee. All are welcome to help participate in the tree inventory. Please provide your vehicle information so we can supply the information to the police as requested.

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

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

Highlands Council Environmental and Economic Sustainability Grant Awards Program update:

No news to update other than Secretary Kozak is still working with Maser and the Highlands Council.

Stormwater Education – Mike Keady, Jerry Bowers, Susan Meacham and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak as Secretary – Nothing new to report

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

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 7:50 pm Susan Meacham made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

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Environmental Commission Secretary