

Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

August 5, 2020 7 PM Meeting

Chairman Keady called the meeting to order. I call to order the August 5, 2020 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 12, 2019 edition of the Hunterdon County Democrat
3. And faxing to the Express-Times for informational purposes only.

HOLLAND TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION PUBLIC NOTICE TOWNSHIP OF HOLLAND

NOTICE OF CHANGE OF FORMAT OF REGULAR TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR THE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 7:00 PM WEDNESDAY AUGUST 5, 2020

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE.

THE MEETING FORMAT HAS BEEN CHANGED FROM IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 61 CHURCH ROAD, TO TELECONFERENCE DUE TO COVID-19 OUTBREAK AND THE STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED BY GOVERNOR MURPHY.

IN LIEU OF IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE, THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND THIS MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCING AND COMMENT DURING THE DESIGNATED PUBLIC COMMENT PORTION IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT.

OFFICIAL ACTION TO BE TAKEN

TO JOIN THE MEETING FROM A:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95071769392?pwd=OTZXSUc2Vnh6b1dUa0NNbVBIYlZvUT09>

Phone:

1 646-558-8656

Meeting ID: 950 7176 9392

Password: 214542

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, Ray Note, Dwight Pederson, Township Committee Liaison: Robert Thurgarland, and Secretary Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Absent: Susan Meacham

Let the record show we have a quorum.

Minutes: The reading of the July 1, 2020 minutes was tabled.

PennEast Pipeline update: Susan Meacham and Mike Keady – Nothing new to really report. PennEast is soldering on and spending money. Secretary Kozak googled an article to help explain what is currently taking place.

PennEast Pipeline Company, LLC; Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment for the Proposed PennEast 2020 Amendment Project

A Notice by the [Federal Energy Regulatory Commission](#) on 08/07/2020

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) for the PennEast 2020 Amendment Project, proposed by PennEast Pipeline Company, LLC (PennEast) in the above-referenced docket. PennEast proposes to amend its certificate of public convenience and necessity for the PennEast Pipeline Project (Docket No. CP15-558-000) that was issued by the Commission on January 19, 2018 and the PennEast Pipeline Project Amendment (CP19-78-000) that was issued by the Commission on March 19, 2020. In the PennEast 2020 Amendment Project, PennEast requests authorization to construct and operate the previously authorized project in two phases, beginning with the facilities located in Pennsylvania through approximately milepost (MP) 68.2 of the certificated route. As part of Phase 1, PennEast proposes to include new delivery points with Columbia Gas Transmission, LLC and Adelpia Gateway, LLC at a new metering and regulating station (Church Road Interconnects) in Northampton County, Pennsylvania. The Phase 1 facilities would deliver up to 650,000 dekatherms per day of firm transportation service to the new delivery points. PennEast states it will continue to work towards acquiring the New Jersey authorizations for the Phase 2 facilities located in New Jersey.

The EA assesses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the PennEast 2020 Amendment Project in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The FERC staff concludes that approval of the proposed amendment, with appropriate mitigating measures, would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)—Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) participated as cooperating agencies in the preparation of the EA. Cooperating agencies have jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to resources potentially affected by the proposal and participate in the NEPA analysis. In addition to the lead and cooperating agencies, other federal, state, and local agencies may use this EA in approving or issuing permits for all or part of the PennEast 2020 Amendment Project.

The proposed PennEast 2020 Amendment Project includes the following facilities:

- New interconnection facilities in Bethlehem Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania (Church Road Interconnects), including:

- A metering and regulation station, and a pig ^[1]launcher and receiver, at approximate at MP 68.2 of the certificated route; and

- two separate interconnection and measurement facilities;

- phasing of the certificated facilities, such that PennEast would construct and operate the facilities—including the modifications under the PennEast 2020 Amendment application—in two phases:

- Phase 1 would consist of construction of the certificated route to approximate milepost 68.2, including two of the compressor units at the Kidder Compressor Station in Carbon County, Pennsylvania, as well as the new interconnection facilities in Northampton County, Pennsylvania; and

- Phase 2 would consist of the remainder of the certificated facilities from approximate MP 68.2 to MP 114 and would include the third compressor unit at the Kidder Compressor Station. Proposed

Phase 2 facilities are located in Northampton and Bucks Counties, Pennsylvania, and Hunterdon and Mercer Counties, New Jersey.

The Commission mailed a copy of the Notice of Availability to federal, state, and local government representatives and agencies; Native American tribes; potentially affected landowners; and other interested individuals and groups that filed comments on the project docket prior to issuance of the notice. The EA is only available in electronic format. It may be viewed and downloaded from the FERC's website (www.ferc.gov), on the natural gas environmental documents page (<https://www.ferc.gov/industries-data/natural-gas/environment/environmental-documents>).

In addition, the EA may be accessed by using the eLibrary link on the FERC's website. Click on the eLibrary link (<https://www.ferc.gov/ferc-online/elibrary/overview>), select General Search and enter the docket number in the Docket Number field, excluding the last three digits (*i.e.* CP20-47). Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at (866) 208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659.

The EA is not a decision document. It presents Commission staff's independent analysis of the environmental issues for the Commission to consider when addressing the merits of issues raised in this proceeding. Any person wishing to comment on the EA may do so. Your comments should focus on the EA's disclosure and discussion of potential environmental effects, reasonable alternatives, and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impacts. The more specific your comments, the more useful they would be. To ensure that the Commission has the opportunity to consider your comments prior to making its decision on this project, it is important that we receive your comments in Washington, DC on or before 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on September 2, 2020.

For your convenience, there are three methods you can use to submit your comments to the Commission. The Commission encourages electronic filing of comments and has staff available to assist you at (866) 208-3676 or FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov. Please carefully follow these instructions so that your comments are properly recorded.

(1) You can file your comments electronically using the eComment feature on the Commission's website (www.ferc.gov) under the link to FERC Online. This is an easy method for submitting brief, text-only comments on a project;

(2) You can also file your comments electronically using the eFiling feature on the Commission's website (www.ferc.gov) under the link to FERC Online. With eFiling, you can provide comments in a

variety of formats by attaching them as a file with your submission. New eFiling users must first create an account by clicking on eRegister. You must select the type of filing you are making. If you are filing a comment on a particular project, please select Comment on a Filing; or

(3) You can file a paper copy of your comments by mailing them to the following address using the U.S. Postal Service. Be sure to reference the project docket number (CP20-47-000) with your submission: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426 NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent through carriers other than the U.S. Postal Service must be sent to 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852 for processing.

Filing environmental comments will not give you intervenor status, but you do not need intervenor status to have your comments considered. Only intervenors have the right to seek rehearing or judicial review of the Commission's decision. At this point in this proceeding, the timeframe for filing timely intervention requests has expired. Any person seeking to become a party to the proceeding must file a motion to intervene out-of-time pursuant to Rule 214(b)(3) and (d) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.214(b)(3) and (d)) and show good cause why the time limitation should be waived. Motions to intervene are more fully described at <https://www.ferc.gov/ferc-online/ferc-online/how-guides>.

Additional information about the PennEast 2020 Amendment Project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at (866) 208-FERC, or on the FERC website (www.ferc.gov) using eLibrary. The eLibrary link also provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

In addition, the Commission offers a free service called eSubscription, which allows you to keep track of all formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets. This can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings by automatically providing you with notification of these filings, document summaries, and direct links to the documents. Go to <https://www.ferc.gov/ferc-online/overview> to register for eSubscription.

Dated: August 3, 2020. Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary.

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 and Secretary Kozak

Community Forestry Plan Grant - The Holland Township Community Forestry Plan 2020-2024 was approved. Please submit your volunteer hour sheets. Working on grant reimbursement.

Tree Inventory – Consultant Farr is not available to continue the inventory due to a health issue. The original delay was farmland and then he took some time off to regroup and move his son. While doing that, he hit his head and has had a bout with being dizzy. As soon as he is stable and they rule out anything major he will be in touch to finish the field work which will probably be another day in the field.

Jerry Bowers and David Harrison discussed their last field day and that there is about one mile more on Spring Garden that is needed. Discussions took place about remaining roads to potentially be completed. David Harrison and Dwight Pederson are still working together in fine tuning the data entered into Excel and the compatibility with iTree. iTree flagged species and DBH that they did not identify. Mike Keady will join the next field trip and take pictures of the day.

Highlands Conformance – Jerry Bowers, Mike Keady and Dwight Pederson. – The Holland Township Highlands Council subcommittee has been busy.

Jerry Bowers and Mike Keady as part of the Holland Township Highlands Council subcommittee participated in a subcommittee meeting regarding the Water Use and Conservation Plan. CDM Smith, the consultants involved with the project were also present for the meeting. Another meeting included the subcommittee, the Highlands Council, CDM Smith and the stakeholders. All meetings were enlightening. The conversations include the next step of the plan with highlights of public outreach, retro municipal facility, retention/detention basin identification; amend the stormwater ordinance, leak protection and repair as well as ordinances and resolutions. The stakeholders are the water users and include Oak Hill Golf Club, Aqua, Milford Borough, Phillips Farm, IPPE and GENON; however, only Oak Hill, Aqua and Milford attended the Zoom meeting. All discussed that recommendations to the plan are really doable and feasible for us. The Township Committee will ultimately make the decisions but the plan and options will be presented for the decisions to be made. The hardship was that one of the largest users of water was not present for the conversations however agriculture is exempt. Jerry Bowers sent a memo to the Township Committee to encourage a conversation with Phillips Farm. Another unknown factor could be in the future if Phoenix Energy submits an application to the Planning Board. It could be a possible draw from the HUC14.

The Planning Board should be hosting public hearings in July, August and September for the Re-examination Report, The Stormwater Management and Mitigation Plan, the Water Use and Conservation Plan and the Fair Share Housing Plan. All report will be available to the public and Secretary Kozak will have them online for each specific Public Hearing. All are welcome to comment during the public portion of the public hearing.

Highlands Council Environmental and Economic Sustainability Grant Awards Program update:

Secretary Kozak continues to work with Maser and the Highlands Council but distribution of funds is on hold. The Retention/Detention basin inventory is still an important project. Shifting of monies from previously approved tasks is being considered but the council is thinking that everything is on hold per the Governor.

Stormwater Education – Mike Keady, Jerry Bowers, Susan Meacham and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak as Secretary – Nothing new to report. Secretary Kozak will start working on 2020.

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 – Nothing new to report.

Spotted Lantern Fly – Dwight Pederson mentioned that traps can be made. He asked if we could get a grant to make traps. He was thinking that the grants would cover materials and the Boy Scouts could do the work with residents being able to use them. He has been in contact with ANJEC. It was suggested that he maybe do a video using materials and explain how to make a tarp and that we could put this on the township website. We can include the how to instructions in the Holland Happenings.

Holland Happenings – Chairman Keady will start working on a write up for the next edition. All are encouraged to submit information to him. Ideas include the tree inventory, information on Spotted Lantern Fly, Emerald Ash Borer, and the Mudsnaill. Secretary Kozak will check with Aqua to see if there are any tips. Dwight Pederson suggested including stormwater with emphasis on recharge to the aquifer.

Public Comment: No one is present in the public.

At 8:35 pm Ted Harwick made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

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Environmental Commission Secretary