

Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

September 2, 2020 7 PM Meeting

Chairman Keady called the meeting to order. I call to order the September 2, 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 SEPTEMBER 2, 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 OUTBRESK 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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96157234541?pwd=dnN3Z0h0Q1BSQkdZY0EvN0gxRzNMQT09>

Phone: 1 646-558-8656

Meeting ID: 961 5723 4541

Passcode: 473739

All stood for the pledge of allegiance. All were reminded to turn off their cell phones or put them in silent mode.

Members Present: Ted Harwick, Mike Keady, Ray Note, Dwight Pederson, Township Committee Liaison: Robert Thurgarland, and Secretary Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Absent: Jerry Bowers, David Harrison, and Susan Meacham

Let the record show we have a quorum.

Minutes: A motion was made by Dwight Pederson and seconded by Mike Keady to dispense with the reading of the July 1, 2020 and August 5, 2020 minutes and to approve as presented. All present were in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

PennEast Pipeline update: Susan Meacham and Mike Keady – Nothing new to really report.

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. Volunteer hour sheets are needed for Secretary Kozak to submit for grant reimbursement.

Tree Inventory – Dwight Pederson and David Harrison worked on integrating the data collected with emphasis on dead trees. Additional information was needed but they were able to convert the data collected and the tree program is being populated. A final report will be provided when we are all done collecting information. Consultant Farr is still unavailable to continue the inventory due to a health issue. Secretary Kozak will reach out to him to schedule the last inventory.

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 working with Planner Green on many of the Master Plan Elements outlined for the Planning Board. 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 with the Fair Share Housing Plan to be presented in the near future. All reports 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. Secretary Kozak will email the letter from the Highlands Council to AQUA regarding the Huntington Knolls project with mention of the Water Use and Conservation Plan.

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.

Community Day 2020 is postponed till 2021 due to COVID 19.

Holland Happenings – Chairman Keady is working on the article. Some discussion items to be included include the Tree inventory, the five year update, incorporating how the Environmental Commission works on projects that benefit the township and the residents but also works with the other departments, boards and commissions within the township. He will explain the tree inventory and why it is an important plan to

develop and how the residents will benefit from the work performed. Explanation of hazardous tree mitigation will also be explored as well as how the plan will help our DPW with identification of potentially problematic trees within the township. The goal will be more educational in nature

Wild and Scenic – Liaison Pederson reported reminded everyone that Holland wanted to join the designation sooner but Pohatcong was slower to commit and because of our neighborly borders we needed to be united in our decision. The designation can change in the future however Dwight Pederson is a nonvoting member to the MRM Council. Alan Hunt coordinates the meetings and state representatives are present. Discussion recently took place about the over use of the Muskey with too many people showing up at the river with some problems that include a basic disrespect of the area (leaving trash behind etc). Mr. Hunt reported that another study was done for the Warren Dam which was structural in nature. The Army Corps of Engineering is working with IPPE to discuss options such as tearing down or keeping it. MWA received a grant to look at dealing with the dam as well. Another grant opportunity for the MWA is to look at Bloomsbury north to track pollutants to the river from after storm run off. The MWA is looking to send a letter to the Department of Interior to see about Section C and to have Holland and Pohatcong officially recognized. More details to follow. Dwight Pederson mentioned the Hughesville Solar project at a River meeting. The emphasis was on the potential loss of parking for the fishermen who access the river. Questions came up about the property owner being able to provide parking access. All are welcome to attend the scheduled Planning Board public hearing and to offer comments, questions and concerns. The MWA endorses a motion to have an access created for river use. Trout Unlimited is also in support of the concept.

Public Comment: No one is present in the public.

At 7:45 pm Dwight Pederson made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

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Environmental Commission Secretary