

Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

November 3, 2020 7 PM Meeting

Chairman Keady called the meeting to order. I call to order the November 3, 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 NOVEMBER 3, 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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94824265633?pwd=OWdNTmY0YXlDemdVWnFNSVdXaVJaQT09>

Phone: 1 646-558-8656

Meeting ID: 948 2426 5633

Passcode: 169435

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, Mike Keady, David Harrison, Ted Harwick, Ray Note, Dwight Pederson, and Secretary Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Absent: Susan Meacham, and Township Committee Liaison: Robert Thurgarland.

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 October 7, 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 report.

Sub-Committees:

Trails – Ted Harwick, Jerry Bowers and Ray Note. It was noted that the trail off Cyphers is all overgrown. Since this is a County Trail, Jerry Bowers offered to speak with Mayor Bush about the upkeep. David Harrison stated that the Holland Trail at Riegel Ridge is being well cared for. The lower trail kiosk needs information. A thank you is extended to the DPW for a job well done.

Community Forestry Plan – Ray Note, David Harrison, Ted Harwick, and Secretary Kozak

Community Forestry Plan Grant - David Harrison outlined the goals for 2020

1. Arbor Day – Secretary Kozak to follow up with DPW Supervisor Colaluce. A tree was planted. We need to get a picture and a copy of the invoice.
2. Track Hours – Secretary Kozak to work with DPW Supervisor Colaluce for hours worked above.
3. Submit 2 articles – Secretary Kozak to get a copy of the Holland Happenings – spring and December edition.
4. Plan Development Outreach – COVID did not allow this to happen.
5. Tree Label – Secretary Kozak needs to work on this. Arbor Day tree planted. Also check info from David Harrison.
6. Community Day – did not happen
7. Seedling – made arrangements but another COVID did not let it happen
8. Reg 3rd graders for tree give away – we need to get more info and work with the school to see if they do this or if they can
9. Recruit Volunteers for Help
10. Complete Hazardous Tree Survey Grant – we need to finish the tree inventory grant first and then the state says funding might be available. Maybe February 2021.

Mike Keady completed CORE training and joins the list with David Harrison and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Both Mike Keady and Secretary Kozak attended the NJ Shade Tree Federation Conference which was virtual for 2020.

Tree Inventory – Mike Keady took some pictures of Jerry Bowers, Ray Note and Ron Farr when they were in the field. Secretary Kozak will contact Susan Meacham to check about the tree data entry. Dave Harrison will enter the current data from the recent field work. Dwight Pederson and David Harrison will continue to work on integrating the data collected. Secretary Kozak reminded everyone to keep track of volunteer hours and send them in as soon as possible.

Highlands Conformance – Jerry Bowers, Mike Keady and Dwight Pederson. – The Holland Township Highlands Council subcommittee has been busy as several tasks were completed and adopted.

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 a report 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.

Wild and Scenic – Liaison Pederson reported that the Musconetcong Watershed Management Council Meeting took place. National Park Service Representative states that there is a lot of activity in trying to obtain “Wild and Scenic” designation for the portion of the Musconetcong River along the borders of the two townships (Holland and Pohatcong). The Department of Interior is showing positive signs with the National Park Service. There are more conversations taking place regarding the Warren Glen dam located behind the inactive FiberMark mill. The Army Corp of Engineers and the DEP are looking at the technical feasibility of the project. They need to decide if the dam should be repaired, removed or if a fish ladder should be built. The Musconetcong Watershed Association received a grant to look at removing the dam. We should receive more information in one to two months. Highlands Council representative Keri Green praised Holland Township for all their hard work and for being a leader. Highlands Council is expecting additional grant money to fund various projects. A discussion took place about the warehouse project in Franklin Township Warren County and the effect it will have on the Musconetcong. The Department of Interior designated the Musconetcong as a National Water Trail. This puts the Musconetcong on the map. MWA is working on a line map. Christopher Meyers (past EC member) is involved and is very active with MWA. Discussion also took place about the forest and wildlife. Sparta Mountain worked with the DEP in work relating to the forest.

Planning Board Hearing - - Solar Project at the Hughesville Mill Property on Cyphers Road. Dwight Pederson stated that fishermen and others are trying to gain access to the Musconetcong River in association with the Hughesville Mill. Dwight Pederson has spoken with the property owner’s representative who will discuss the concept with the owners. Holland Township will not assume the liability of ownership with the potential designated parking area. Details need to be worked out with the owners and the potential associations interested in access. Discussion took place about the Farm house on the other property and the issues associated with that project.

Board of Adjustment Application –nothing new to report.

Public Comment: Ted Harwick asked about the meetings continuing on zoom and for the moment the answer is yes.

At 8:00 pm Dave Harrison made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

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Environmental Commission Secretary