

Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

December 2, 2020 7 PM Meeting

Chairman Keady called the meeting to order. I call to order the December 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 DECEMBER 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 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/99796261909?pwd=U1hxellhZmhZYm9aVIIIUUIERExhdz09>

Phone: 1 646-558-8656

Meeting ID: 997 9626 1909

Passcode: 966748

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, Susan Meacham , Ray Note, Dwight Pederson, and Secretary Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Absent: Township Committee Liaison: Robert Thurgarland.

Let the record show we have a quorum.

Minutes: The minutes of November 3, 2020 were tabled.

PennEast Pipeline update: Susan Meacham and Mike Keady –. Susan Meacham stated that all is quiet. NJR was removed and suspended financing of the project. The DRBC is not looking favorable with PennEast.

Sub-Committees:

Trails – Ted Harwick, Jerry Bowers and Ray Note. Mike Keady reported that he heard more people are using the trail. Jerry Bowers offered to speak with Mayor Bush about cleaning up the Cyphers Road access. It was noted that the trail off Cyphers is all overgrown. An alternative concept would be to speak with Liaison Thurgarland about the situation to see if he knows of anyone at the County who could help with this situation.

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 Colaluca. 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 Colaluca 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 – cancelled due to Covid-19
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.

Secretary Kozak will resend the report of last year. Secretary Kozak will also reach out to the school to discuss the 3rd grade project mentioned in the report.

Tree Inventory –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. Consultant Farr will need to work on his portion of the tree inventory project for submittal to the state.

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 and that the letter was sent to the Department of Interior to request that the portion of the Musconetcong that borders Holland Township be designated as Wild and Scenic. More information to follow.

Planning Board Hearing - - Solar Project at the Hughesville Mill Property on Cyphers Road. Jerry Bowers explained he wants EC assurance that the applicant follows the Township’s decommissioning ordinance (2019-19) and a decommissioning plan. He spoke at a Township Committee meeting about the condition established by the Planning Board as a prerequisite for issuance of a building permit. Jerry Bowers expressed his opinion that the Planning Board resolution is flawed and is factually wrong in certain respects and that testimony presented by Jerry Bowers and Dwight Pederson was incorrectly captured. He stated that it is wrong for the Township to waive a performance bond. The Township Committee Attorney requested that Jerry Bowers put the concerns of the Environmental Commission into writing. Jerry Bowers, Susan Meacham and Mike Keady will work on this and then share with the commission. This will enable the Environmental Commission to vet their eyes on what is being stated. This needs to be to the Township Committee for the second meeting in January. Getting this to Clerk Miller as quick as possible is best. Mike Keady explained the procedure and his discussions with the Planning Board and how the Township Committee has the final say with decommissioning. Dwight Pederson stated that he has been in touch with the IPPE representative. Larry LaFevre said something about a parking lot alone is not enough for Green Acres. Dwight Pederson has been in touch with a few people from Green Acres, the County representative and Hunterdon Land Trust and 10 acres would be a good amount of land for this project. The 10 acres would wrap around the homes and the river and could be for donation or purchase. A revised map was sent to the IPPE representative. Green Acres likes properties to abut Green Acres properties.

Board of Adjustment Application –The hearing is done. Jerry Bowers did not think he needed to recuse himself since the Board of Adjustments approved the application with conditions. Mike Keady expressed that he thought the public had a disadvantage in understanding a public hearing. Dwight Pederson expressed his opinion that the whole thing bothered him. He read thru the ordinance and in his opinion, the applicant did not follow the ordinance. It is his opinion that the board and the attorney dropped the ball on this and this will be an eyesore.

Public Comment: Ted Harwick thanked everyone for all his years on the board. This was his last meeting.

At 8:20 pm Dave Harrison made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

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Environmental Commission Secretary