

Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

April 7, 2021 7 PM Meeting

Chairman Keady called the meeting to order. I call to order the April 7, 2021 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 10, 2020 edition of the Hunterdon County Democrat
3. And faxing to the Express-Times for informational purposes only.

I remind everyone to please turn off cell phones or put them in silent mode.

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 APRIL 7, 2021

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/97226137860?pwd=ZmpBeXVaZWk0RXVTYytVNmhkdzBQdz09>

Phone: 1 646-558-8656

Meeting ID: 972 2613 7860

Passcode: 985414

All recited the pledge of allegiance. All were reminded to turn off their cell phones or put them in silent mode. Members Present: Regina Barna, Jerry Bowers, Mike Keady, David Harrison, and Susan Meacham (had some technical difficulties in the start of the meeting), Ray Note (had some technical difficulties during the meeting), Dwight Pederson, and Township Committee Liaison Dan Bush (arrived 8:40pm), and Secretary Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Absent: Township Committee Alternate Liaison: Ray Krov.

Member of the Public: n/a

Let the record show we have a quorum.

Minutes: A motion was made by Regina Barna and seconded by Dwight Pederson to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the March 3, 2021 meeting and to approve the minutes as recorded. All present were in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Holland Happenings: The article was submitted and The Environmental Commission should be the showcase. With special thanks to Regina Barna and pictures from the Harrison Family, the article talks a lot about our love of trees and the trails. We cannot wait for the publication of this edition of the Holland Happenings.

PennEast Pipeline update: Susan Meacham and Mike Keady –.

An overhaul of the FERC process needs to be done so that everything is safe and accountable. H.R.2115 was introduced by representative Bonnie Watson Coleman. It is

H.R.2115 - To require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to apply certain procedures before granting a certificate of public convenience and necessity for a proposed pipeline project, and for other purposes. 117th Congress (2021-2022). This was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and was

introduced March 19, 2021

Hunterdon County Urges President Biden's Administration to Reconsider Support for PennEast Pipeline. The

Township Committee is also considering this in an effort to support the County and to reinforce the Township's

stance on the Pipeline.

Arbor Day

Secretary Kozak will work with Chairman Keady with some revisions to the proclamation. Secretary Kozak will work with Clerk Miller to have the proclamation on the Township Committee's agenda. Secretary Kozak is working with the nursery for a tree and with the DPW Supervisor for pickup and planting. The EC will do a picture with a shovel in the ground and a video can be produced to add to our website. This year the celebration will be silent. Secretary Kozak is revising a letter for Georgia Pacific regarding the tree donation. Secretary Kozak will work with Chairman Keady and then distribute to Mayor Bush. A discussion took place regarding the Ash trees that have been removed. The DPW will have a future line item for replanting but we have to first deal with the hazardous trees. Tree removal costs approximately \$3,000 per tree which makes planning for reforestation more difficult. Holland Township has worked with developers as well as with Hunterdon County with regards to replanting. The township is concerned with removal of trees in a safe manner as well as in populated locations. We have also established a fantastic working relationship with JCP&L who have helped remove hazardous trees near wires. Susan Meacham asked if JCP&L could bury wires but that is often a very challenging request with the existing infrastructure.

Sub-Committees Reports

Trails – Jerry Bowers, Ray Note and Regina Barna. The subcommittee is working on updating the website. Conversations have been established with the webmaster. Additional information was needed. All agreed to do a test first before putting on the website. Regina Barna expressed her opinion that we are going thru too many people and that they need to speak directly with the people doing this. Per liaison Bush, Secretary Kozak will continue to work with TC IT Liaison Thurgarland and will express the concerns of the Environmental Commission with emphasis on this project taking too much time and that we need to work better together.

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

Community Forestry Plan Goals - David Harrison previously outlined the goals for 2021. Keep this in mind. These were the goals we established to be completed for the CFP in 2021:

1) Arbor Day tree planting – Arbor Day – April 30, 2021 - - Holland Township plants a tree each year in or around the grove. We can still do this, however Liaison Bush suggested that we seek a donation from one of the local businesses to help us replenish the Ash trees that are being removed due to the Emerald Ash Borer.

We could seek a donation of approximately 6 to 12 trees. We can add more plaques which Secretary Kozak can order per the Liaison and EC members. Georgia Pacific is a potential sponsor in town to which Chairman Keady will write a letter. Some shade trees that would look great in The Grove would be a Flowering Dogwood or American Elm. One of these would be a good addition for this year on the other side by the pines.

2) Track hours and expenditures for CFP program

3) Complete annual training requirements; 8 CEU's – need to see if anything is available for ceu's

4) Submit 2 tree or forest related articles to local and regional newspapers and Township website – we do these in the *Holland Happenings*

5) Identify and label individual trees on Township property – we do the plaque project yearly

6) Plan and develop outreach efforts at Community Day – this is ongoing when we can

7) If funding is available, apply for a Township Seedling Giveaway – We signed up for trees this year and will have to pick up on April 22. In the past we have had the Boy Scouts help us. We need to have a plan this year with a rapid bail out if things change due to Covid-19. Maybe partner with another organization. Maybe pay someone from the Clean Communities grant. Chairman Keady to explore this. We have to follow social protocol of the COVID pandemic. If we cannot partner with someone then we need to figure out a way to distribute the trees.

8) Investigate alternate sources of funding and possibly create a non-profit Shade Tree Group need to explore this – check with Ron Farr

9) Work with EC and create and present a tree related program within the school district – need to explore

10) Attain CORE Training for at least one volunteer and/or DPW employee - Mr. Keady and Secretary Kozak are Core Trained. Liaison Bush is also Core Trained. Secretary Kozak needs to follow up with this. It is thru the County but we can also have him listed on the Holland site.

11) Apply for CSIP funding to implement a Riparian Buffer Program – Check with Ron Farr – is this something that ties to the Highlands Council grant availability – maybe Stream Corridor

Tree Map update – Secretary Kozak is working in creating a google account. More information to follow.
Highlands Conformance – Jerry Bowers, Mike Keady and Dwight Pederson. – Nothing new to discuss at this time.

Stormwater Education – Mike Keady, Jerry Bowers, Susan Meacham and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak – nothing new at this time.

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. The subcommittee will be sending information for Secretary Kozak to work with the webmaster.

Inventory of Fauna and Flora subcommittee - David Harrison, Dwight Pederson, Ray Note – Nothing new to report.

Wild and Scenic – Dwight Pederson - Nothing new to discuss.

Planning Board Hearing - - Nothing new to report.

Spotted Lantern Fly being discussed on Facebook. We need to post on the Ridge Facebook page and let someone borrow it to repost on other Facebook pages. Jerry Bowers to write something up about needing a Facebook page outside of the Ridge and how using the other Holland page is useful. He will write something and give to Secretary Kozak to distribute.

Public Comment: No one was present therefore no comment.

At 9:00 pm Jerry Bowers made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

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Environmental Commission Secretary