

## **Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes**

June 2, 2021 7 PM Meeting

Chairman Keady called the meeting to order. I call to order the June 2, 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 JUNE 2, 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/97690758209?pwd=YTk4UEYzc1RiQlglwTGJRVjZIMGVLDz09>

PHONE: 1 646-558-8656

MEETING ID: 976 9075 8209

PASSCODE: 896720

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, Ray Note, Susan Meacham , Dwight Pederson, Township Committee Liaison Dan Bush, and Secretary Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Absent: and Township Committee Alternate Liaison: Ray Krov.

Member of the Public: Lawrence Seibel and Scott Blessing

Let the record show we have a quorum.

Minutes: A motion was made by Jerry Bowers and seconded by David Harrison to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the May 5, 2021 meeting and to approve the minutes as recorded. All present were in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

*Blockage on the Musconetcong:* Mr. Pederson with Mr. Seibel and Mr. Blessing talking. Mr. Seibel has spoken with the MWA who said to talk with Mr. Pederson. There is an issue on Mt Joy in the river with several trees being down and causing the water to dam up. Garbage is a flowing down and landing on property

owners and people enjoying the river are having problems going downstream which causes them to get out of the water and cut across properties. The properly is the man made dam from the trees being down. It is an eyesore and a disruption to the water flow. Wild and Scenic is portraying the river as this great place to visit but we have a problem and no one is resolving the problem. Mr. Seibel is at 177 Mt Joy and Mr. Blessing is at 225 Mt Joy. There are a lot of dead ash down by the river that should be attended too. Liaison Bush stepped in and suggested that contact be made by the homeowners with Rutgers Agriculture (Sheri Peterson) as well as with Hunterdon County Soil Conservation (Mike DePalma) to see if they might be able to help with the problem. They are the best place to start. The DEP might be another focal point with emphasis on an Ag agent since you are saying that the farmland is also being eroded by the water encroachment. Mr. Seibel is welcome to stay in touch with Land Use Administrator Kozak. Fish and Wildlife could be another contact. Mr. Pederson stated that there is another spot of concern down river. Mr. Seibel and Mr. Blessing thanked everyone and stated they will stay in touch and then left the meeting.

### ***PennEast Pipeline update: Susan Meacham and Mike Keady –.***

Susan Meacham reported that resolutions have been filed urging the Bidden administration to reverse their support of the pipeline. Participating Townships include: Alexandria Township, Lambertville, Hopewell, and Holland Township. Everyone is waiting on the supreme court decision which should be by the end of June before they break for summer recess. April 28<sup>th</sup> was the oral argument. More information to follow.

### **Discussion of Environmental Commission Priorities for 2021 – Regina Barna**

Additional conversation took place about the goals previously outlined. Protecting waters should be added with objectives from the Highlands Council.

### **Discuss recommending for adoption by the Holland Township Committee a resolution urging the NJ DEP to consider recreational uses of streams in their protection standards**

After discussion, LUA Kozak to send the NJDEP resolution to Clerk Miller for Township Committee endorsement. Mr. Bowers to edit first. This should be on the July TC agenda.

### **Discuss future Environmental Commission meetings by Zoom, going back to in-person, or hybrid model that allows both**

After some discussion, the next EC meeting will be in person. Zoom can be used as a backup.

### ***Sub-Committees Reports***

Trails – Jerry Bowers, Ray Note and Regina Barna. The subcommittee is working on updating the website. The bulletin boards have cork in them and Regina Barna has been working on updating the information. Liaison Bush stated that the DPW is putting up markers showing the connection of the two trails and the trails are constantly maintained by our DPW.

LUA Kozak is working with Mr. Pederson on updating the trail map.

Mr. Bowers posted the trail information on Facebook and Township Committee woman Mickey posted it as well. People are looking at Facebook. Liaison Bush stated that the township is exploring social media. It would be to share information with the general public with no comments.

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

- Discussion of applying for 2021 New Jersey Urban and Community Forestry Stewardship Grant. (Harrison, Barna)

Discussion then took place about what the township is doing with the Ash Trees with Liaison Bush explaining our process. Holland has treated some ash tree and has removed some as well. We have had

some good luck with treatment at which time Mr. Bowers stated that he treated 7 trees on his property at \$250.00 per tree. At this time, if there is a problem with a tree then someone calls the Township and we go out to determine if a CTE (certified tree expert) is needed. Discussions took place about who owns the trees in the right of way and how that is a difficult conversation to have. The park-like setting is the best place to save trees. LUA Kozak is the Grant Manager and worked with Mr. Harrison thru the SAGE system for the last grant. The EC authorized the forestry subcommittee to move forward with looking at the next grant with a webinar being June 7<sup>th</sup>. Those attending the webinar are: Regina Barna, Mike Keady, Jerry Bowers and David Harrison. More information to follow.

Community Forestry Plan Goals - David Harrison previously outlined the goals for 2021. ~~Keep this in mind.~~ We should use this as a basis for keeping us in line regarding what we plan to do and what has been done to help with the report we will file in February of the following year. It ties to the annual report. 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 are working with Georgia Pacific as a sponsor in town for the donation of some trees. Discussions and communication have been established with more information to follow. Secretary Kozak is working with the nursery and the DPW Supervisor to get our yearly tree for planting at the Riegel Ridge Community Center. This tree would go in or around the grove and the other donated trees and go around the grove or in the pine trees.
- 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 trees 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 – I suggest just saying it was a goal, but changed plans due to Covid restrictions.
- 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 worked on 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 – progress is being made.

More discussions about the Warehouses that are being built and proposed and the impact that these warehouses are playing on the environment especially with the water courses. The MWA is trying to educate people. Everyone is trying to make the DEP understand what is really happening with the water and how changes are needed for safety controls. The PILOT truck stop on 173 is an example of people getting involved and making changes. Alan Hunt challenged the application filed. Heritage Farm in Franklin could be another example of people stepping up and protecting the lands.  
Planning Board Hearing - - Nothing new to report.

Public Comment: No one was present therefore no comment. Public present earlier had left the meeting.

Board Comment –

1. Mike Keady reported that there are tons of cicadas in the area.

At 8:30 pm Jerry Bowers made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

*Maria Elena Jennette Kozak*

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

Environmental Commission Secretary