

Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

January 5, 2022 7 PM Meeting

Chairman Keady called the meeting to order. I call to order the January 5, 2022 Re-organizational 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 9, 2021 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 JANUARY 5, 2022. PLEASE TAKE NOTICE. THE MEETING FORMAT HAS BEEN CHANGED FROM IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 61 CHURCH ROAD, TO TELECONFERENCE DUE TO THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK. 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://us06web.zoom.us/j/84315407419?pwd=d2JvY2kvcndxaWxGSnhuRytqQTNZUT09>

Meeting ID: 843 1540 7419

Passcode: 524225

One tap mobile

Phone: 1 646-558-8656

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, David Harrison, Mike Keady, Susan Meacham, Ray Note, Dwight Pederson, Township Committee Liaison Dan Bush (arrived at 7:41 pm) and Secretary Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Absent: Township Committee Alternate Liaison: TBD

Let the record show we have a quorum.

Minutes: A motion was made by Regina Barna and seconded by Jerry Bowers to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the November 2, 2021 meeting and to approve the minutes as recorded. All present were in favor of the motion, with the exception of David Harrison and Susan Meacham who abstained. Motion carried.

Just a reminder, the 2022 schedule is as follows (please mark your calendars):

2022 Environmental Commission Meeting dates

Township of Holland
Environmental Commission
2022 Meetings

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Environmental Commission, Township of Holland, County of Hunterdon, New Jersey, will hold their regular meetings on the following dates in 2022 at 7:00 P.M. at the Holland Township Municipal Building, 61 Church Road, Milford, NJ. Meetings are open to the public.

Meeting Dates

January 5, 2022 (Reorganization Meeting)

February 2, 2022

March 2, 2022

April 6, 2022

May 4, 2022

June 1, 2022

July 6, 2022

August 3, 2022

September 7, 2022

October 5, 2022

November 2, 2022

December 7, 2022

January 4, 2023 (Reorganization Meeting)

PennEast Pipeline update: Susan Meacham and Mike Keady

Susan Meacham reminded everyone that the PennEast Pipeline project is now officially dead because FERC withdrew the permits that had been granted. This topic will be removed from future agendas.

Township response to Delaware River Basin Commissions proposed rules on fracking water in the basin: Mike Keady and Jerry Bowers

This was something that was brought to their attention requiring immediate work with comments being needed by the end of February. The goal is to prohibit the import of fracking water into the Delaware River basin. They found the concept not acceptable and received Township Committee support to pursue a letter. Storage of contaminated fracking water could be stored on the Pennsylvania side with potential leaching to the aquifer across the river in Holland, plus potential air pollution, both of which could leach to New Jersey. Township resident, Tony Rizzello has done some background work on the subject and requests that the Township Environmental Commission do something. Chairman Keady is working on a letter which will come before the Environmental Commission for endorsement, and which would then be forwarded to the Township Committee for action and forwarding to the appropriate agencies. Susan Meacham is happy to do some additional background work and to help Chairman Keady.

Sub-Committees Reports

Trails – Jerry Bowers, Ray Note and Regina Barna. O'sakame Park update: Discussions took place regarding visiting the park and the concerns regarding hunting season. All agreed that there should be warnings and better signs. Liaison Bush circled back to this conversation and requested Secretary Kozak and our DPW Supervisor work with Mayor Bush on obtaining appropriate signs informing people of hunting season, when it is permitted and who can use the land. Once approved, signs will be obtained then the information will also be posted on our website as well as sent to the Holland Township website page. Updates to the existing kiosks at the Holland Park are needed including the additional information for the information storage bin which is mounted by the kiosk. Secretary Kozak will work on the request of Regina Barna that an enlarged map be laminated for the kiosk. Regina Barna talked about invasive vines and how goats can help reduce the invasion. Secretary Kozak is working with the County and with member Harrison regarding the approved Bird Flyer. The County was helping refine our layout of the bird check-list. Once received, we will also put on the website and ultimately post on the Holland Township Facebook page. Member Barna attended a workshop on How

Trees Communicate and will provide Secretary Kozak with the certificate for follow up with the State for potential CEU credit. The free video is available for viewing on the NJ Shade Tree Commission website under the annual conference.

Community Forestry Management Plan – Ray Note, David Harrison, and Secretary Kozak
The 2021 annual report is due February 2022. David Harrison will work on this with Secretary Kozak. Secretary Kozak will gather the financial information and will reproduce the 2020 report submitted for comparison. As a reminder...the Community Forestry Plan Goals for 2021 have been outlined monthly.

Core trained: David Harrison (volunteer) and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak (employee). Elizabeth McKenzie has been listed for Holland Township as Core Trained. Regina Barna and Mike Keady are Core Trained. Mayor Bush is also exploring becoming Core Trained. More to follow.

These were the goals we established to be completed for the CFMP in 2021:

- 1) Arbor Day tree planting – Arbor Day – April 30, 2021 - - Holland Township plants a tree each year in or around the grove. Georgia Pacific is donating \$5000 for us to purchase more trees. Chairman Keady will work on a press release.
- 2) Track hours and expenditures for CFMP program – Secretary Kozak will resend everyone the tracking form. Please keep track of all hours – keep the projects separated for ease of tracking hours.
- 3) Complete annual training requirements; 8 CEU's – need to see if anything is available for CEUs
- 4) Submit two articles related to trees or forest matters 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 – Secretary Kozak suggested 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, Ms. Barna and Secretary Kozak are Core Trained. Liaison Bush may also be Core Trained. Secretary Kozak needs to follow up with this. It is thru the County but we can also have Dan Bush listed on the Holland site.
- 11) Apply for CSIP funding to implement a Riparian Buffer Program – Check with Ron Farr – determine if this is 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. Secretary Kozak to work with Dwight Pederson.

Stormwater Education – Mike Keady, Jerry Bowers, Susan Meacham and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak – nothing new at this time. Secretary Kozak to work on an update of the 2021 Stormwater breakdown and share the criteria.

Highlands Conformance – Jerry Bowers, Mike Keady and Dwight Pederson. – Chairman Keady reported that we are moving forward and that Liaison Green has left the Highlands but that our new liaison is Steve Simone. Secretary Kozak is following up with Engineer Roseberry and Planner Green with Scope of Work for 2 projects that have been on our to do list. More details to follow.

Community Education and Outreach – Jerry Bowers, Dwight Pederson, and Susan Meacham –
The EC webpage is: <http://www.hollandtownshipnj.gov/bds-committees/environmental-commission>.

Please send any additions or corrections to Secretary Kozak for posting. Mayor Bush explained that no comments will be allowed on the Holland Township Facebook page. The administrator is Deputy Clerk Tigar and she is the only person that posts information related to township, comment and boards. It is to be a billboard for activities in Holland Township. The Education group can start putting things up on Facebook. We need to cite links. The subcommittee will work on this. Once ready, they will provide the information to Secretary Kozak so she can forward to Admin Tigar.

Inventory of Fauna and Flora subcommittee - David Harrison, Dwight Pederson, Ray Note – David Harrison is working on a list of birds and trees etc.

Musconetcong River Management Council – Dwight Pederson
Wild and Scenic – progress is being made but nothing new to report.

Planning Board - - Jerry Bowers – Solar Panel Decommissioning conversations have been on hold till the second meeting in January of the Township Committee. The zoning permit was issued to the Solar Farm in December of 2021 with a preconstruction meeting taken place in November of 2021. All professionals still are involved with the project with constant monitoring.

Public Comment: No one was present therefore no comment.

Board Comment –

At 8:01 pm Dan Bush made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak
Environmental Commission Secretary