

Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

March 2, 2022 7 PM Meeting

Chairman Keady called the meeting to order. I call to order the March 2, 2022 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 9, 2021 edition of the Hunterdon County Democrat
3. And faxing to the Express-Times for informational purposes only.

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, David Harrison, Mike Keady, Ray Note, Dwight Pederson, Township Committee Liaison Dan Bush (arrived 7:15 pm) and Land Use Administrator (LUA) Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Absent: Jerry Bowers, Susan Meacham, and Township Committee Alternate Liaison Thurgarland

Guest: Tony Rizzello

Let the record show we have a quorum.

Minutes: A motion was made by David Harrison and seconded by Dwight Pederson to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the February 2, 2022 meeting and to approve the minutes as recorded. All present were in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Outcome of proposed Township comments on Delaware River Basin Commission's proposed rules on fracking water in the basin - Guest Tony Rizzello was present and stated that the deadline for comments was Monday February 28th at 5pm. The Holland Township comments were submitted. Chairman Keady believes he will be on a list for follow up. Everyone thanked everyone for their support of this project. Member Barna asked if the final letter can be distributed. LUA Kozak will distribute to all the members and insert in the minutes as follows:

February 23, 2022

Re: Comments on Fracking Wastewater Rules

My name is Dan Bush, and I am the Mayor of Holland Township in Hunterdon County, New Jersey. The Delaware River forms our western boundary. I submit these comments on behalf of the Holland Township Committee and the Holland Township Environmental Commission. As a local governing body, we have a responsibility to protect the health and welfare of our citizens and we look to the DRBC to help us fulfill that duty.

It is our understanding that the Commission banned fracking in 2020, presumably on the basis that the process poses an unjustifiable environmental risk to the Basin and surrounding areas. We are therefore puzzled about why the DRBC would now be formulating rules to permit fracking wastewater into the Delaware Water Basin.

We respectfully request that the Commission consider the following factors in analyzing this issue:

1. Please consider whether evaporation of fracking wastewater could damage the air quality of the Basin.
2. Please consider whether stormwater from heavy rains might result in unintended discharge from above-ground storage ponds. We are concerned that such discharge could pose a risk to the water quality in our community, given the interconnection of aquifers on the PA and NJ sides of the Delaware.
3. Please consider whether a spill or accidental discharge upstream of Holland Township could leave toxic wastewater entering tributaries and eventually the Delaware, contaminating the drinking water of our municipality. Most Holland residents rely on private wells, and even our very limited public water

system depends completely on wells in the Township. Local industries such as farming and tourism would be severely damaged if the water quality at those wells were compromised.

4. In formulating rules, kindly insist upon drilling companies disclosing the ingredients in the drilling fluids which obviously find their way into the fracking wastewater. We are concerned that if there is a wastewater spill, the members of our volunteer fire department could be exposed to unknown carcinogens or other dangerous chemicals.
5. A Water Use and Conservation Management Plan funded by the New Jersey Highlands indicates that two of three stream systems for which Holland is responsible are in deficit. While the third stream has a slight surplus, that is due to the closure of a mill which it previously served.

Please see the following link to that study (adopted in September 2020): [https://www.nj.gov/njhighlands/hunterdon county/holland/municipal approved docs/holland WUCMP adopted.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/njhighlands/hunterdon%20county/holland/municipal%20approved%20docs/holland%20WUCMP%20adopted.pdf)

In summation, we question the wisdom of permitting the importation of fracking wastewater into the Basin. If the Commission does go forward with this step, we respectfully request that you develop rules which minimize the risk to our municipality and others along the Delaware River Basin.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel Bush, Mayor

Environmental Commission accomplishments for 2021 for submission to Township Committee: The draft was submitted as follows:

Holland Township Environmental Commission Achievements 2021

Musconetcong River Management Council (MRMC)

- Holland EC member served as liaison to the Council, attending meetings as Township representative
- Holland EC representative chaired the Water & Natural Resources Committee
- Attended meetings with staffers from Representative Tom Malinowski's and Senator Cory Booker's offices. Presented personal experiences on the Musconetcong River. Requested their office pursue Wild and Scenic designation for the Holland/Pohatcong portion of the Musconetcong River
- Requested open space for river access parking. Spoke to an International Process Plants Equipment (IPPE) representative and local open space experts several times, to no-avail.
- Alerted the Township Committee of a "log jam" of trees blocking the river, which resulted in recommendation to contact Hunterdon and Warren County Mosquito Commissions and ultimate resolution of the problem.

Great Waters Presentation

- Resulted in Holland passing a **Resolution** in support of the continued enjoyment of the state's waters for drinking water and recreation without harm to agriculture.

Holland Solar

- Conducted Site Plan Review. Consultation with MRMC, National Park Service and Trout Unlimited regarding the site plan resulted in recommendations to the applicant.
- **Contributed to Ordinance.** Development of key portions of a Township ordinance that requires developers to provide, via a performance bond or some other financial instrument, the funds needed to cover the decommissioning costs of solar projects in the Township.

Community Education and Outreach

- Public education, outreach and promotion of Holland Township Trails
- Public education—via the EC webpage—regarding insect infestation and control measures, stormwater management, the PennEast pipeline, and the trees and birds of Holland Township
- Made improvements to Holland Township Website navigation of the front page.
- Created new webpages: Trees, Trails, Birds

Trails

- Identified and added five trails to Holland Township Website
- Improved Holland Township Website home page to improve access to information about Environmental Resources
- Wrote two trails' articles for Holland Happenings: Spring ("Let's Take a Walk in the Township") Fall ("And Then There Were Six").
- Utilized Kiosks for posting information on Holland Trail
- Obtained Trail brochure holder for Holland Trail
- Mayor Bush facilitated the purchase of the new O'sakame Preserve and added new signs: Holland Park, O'sakame Preserve, Holland Highlands

Forestry

- Created Trees & Birds brochures with checklist
- Identified nine additional trees for signs at Riegel Ridge and Holland Trail
- Mounted several new signs with names and QR codes on trees in Holland Park vicinity
- Wrote two articles for Holland Happenings: Fall ("Splendid Sweetgum," "Friend of the Forest")
- Planted Black Tupelo as an Arbor Day tree
- Explored New Jersey Urban and Community Forest Service Grant (NJUCF) for Emerald Ash Borer tree mitigation, which ultimately was not in conjunction with our needs
- Secured donation from Georgia-Pacific for purchase of trees to replace trees lost to Hurricanes Sandy and Ida and ash trees killed by Emerald Ash Borer
- Submitted Annual Report on Community Forestry Management Plan
- Submitted final closeout of Tree Inventory, which incorporated data collected by EC members and an arborist contracted by the EC
- CORE training attended by one member of the Environmental Commission
- Submitted and received a posthumous award for the achievements of Henry Gore through the NJ Urban and Community Forestry Achievement Award

Chairman Keady talked about Highlands Council grant with \$33,000.00 of the grant being marked for the task entitled "stream corridor". While this is not a priority at the moment, it is something Holland Township can pursue in the future. David Harrison explained the priority of the stream corridor relating to the Community Forestry Plan. Liaison Bush mentioned that there is money available for tree plantings on the river from the Georgia Pacific donation which is in a Township account.

Member Barna will make a few more updates and submit the final version to LUA Kozak. Chairman Keady will prepare a memo for the Township Committee and submit to LUA Kozak who will submit the final accomplishments and memo to the Township Committee.

Environmental Commission goals for 2022 – Outlined and comments as follows:

Holland Township Environmental Commission Goals for 2022

Community Forestry Management Plan Annual Goals for 2022

- Plant a tree for Arbor Day – Georgia Pacific – gives us 5g per year for reforestation. We need to add some trees in Holland Park, Shire Park or O’sakame Park. Regina Barna asked about planting a tree at the Municipal Building and Liaison Bush responded that we need to focus on the park area. Discussions took place regarding green infrastructure with emphasis on rain gardens. Our Holland Township Stormwater Mitigation plan outlines where gardens are preferred. This mitigation plan is part of the master plan as an element. Chairman Keady reminded everyone that we should keep in mind that we can add visual interest and that we need to see trees that support the best area. David Harrison stated that oaks are best because they provide diverse benefits. Additional discussions took place and Liaison Bush supported the idea that two trees be purchased this year for our Arbor Day celebration. One tree will be a Honey Locust and the other will be a Black Oak. LUA Kozak will work with the nursery to purchase these trees with a 2.5 caliper trunk. Liaison Bush suggests that the Arbor Day trees be planted at the Shire Road location.
- Track hours and expenditures for the Community Forestry Program
- Identify and label individual trees on township properties
- Continue and improve outreach efforts at community events
- Complete annual training requirements (8 Continuing Education Units)
- If funding and seedlings are available, apply for a Township Seedling Giveaway
- Submit two tree or forest related articles to local and regional newspapers and to the Holland Township website
- Begin implementing the Riparian Planting Project
- Apply for a Community Stewardship Incentive Programs (CSIP) grant to implement a Green Stormwater Management System
- Complete a Forest Inventory of hazard trees if CSIP funding becomes available
- Apply for CSIP funding to remove invasive species on township owned land
- Adopt the Model Highlands Shade Tree Ordinance

Additional discussions took place about how to educate people to not plant invasive species. Bio-Diversity was discussed by David Harrison which gave way to trying to have the community identify the biggest tree in Holland Township. We have bragging rights with hosting the Northern Tapa as the biggest in Holland Township but maybe we need to encourage people to identify trees on their property or around town to see who has a large tree. We can compare it to our Tree Inventory.

Liaison Bush suggested we put a QR code on the literature holder at the Holland Park for a green approach to obtaining flyers. Dwight Pederson will work with LUA Kozak.

Forestry Additional Goals

- Conduct community Arbor Day celebrations, including a tree planting and distribution of tree seedlings to community residents, if the state makes seedlings available
- Include additional images of common trees, other pictures and videos on Website
- Continue identifying trees with signs and QR codes
- Produce new interactive map on Holland Township website showing location of identified Common Trees with tree signs
- Use Tree Inventory and iTree for analysis, and consider a focus on native plants in the purchase of additional trees
- Consider planting trees at municipal building
- Design and implement Phase 2 of the Township Tree Inventory

Trails

- Maintain the appearance and utility of signage and information kiosks at Township Trails
- Continue efforts to promote public awareness and use of Township Trails, such as National Trails Day, April 23
- Produce new interactive map for Holland Township Website showing trail locations and parking areas
- Add printable Trees and Birds checklists to the Holland Township website
- Place Trees and Birds checklists at Holland Park Trail, O'sakame Trail and at local businesses
- Plan guided trail trips using the new Trees and Birds checklists
- Install larger, laminated trail map at Holland Park Trail
- Explore improvements to O'sakame Trail – Large Map, Historical Information, Connection with our Native American Lenape inhabitants
- Create new Website page for O'sakame Trail
- Put historic information on Lenape, Gilbert Power Plant on on-site signs and at greater length on the Township website
- Write article for Holland Happenings on O'sakame Trail
- Plan trail trip for O'sakame for EC and public with historian, Larry LaFevre

Stormwater

- Design and launch grant-funded activities to repair riparian conditions and to inventory and assess stormwater detention basins in the Township

Delaware River Basin Commission

- Alert the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) to the hazards associated with the importation of wastewater from Pennsylvania fracking sites

Plastic Bag Legislation

- Support the implementation of New Jersey plastic bag legislation with public information programs and promotion of reusable bags. State funding has been provided to municipalities through Clean Communities. LUB Kozak printed material for review. Holland will target narrower audiences to supplement the state program. The following is an overview of new norms, what is not permitted and exceptions.

New Norms - What is Not Permitted - Exceptions

Grocery Store

(2,500 sq ft or larger)

- **Customers bring reusable bags to the store**
- **Store sells reusable bags**
- **Store cannot provide single-use plastic or paper bags* (grocery stores under 2500 sq ft can provide paper bags)**
This includes:
 - At checkout
 - Curbside pickup
 - Home delivery
- **Bags for loose items are exempt** e.g., produce, greeting cards, flowers etc.
- **Polystyrene foam for raw and deli sliced meats, including poultry and fish trays are exempt****
- **Polystyrene foam for grocery items pre-packed by a manufacturer is exempt**** e.g., instant ramen noodles

Restaurant

(includes fast food and food delivery)

- **Restaurants may provide single-use paper bags**
- **Food served or delivered in plastic, paper, or aluminum containers**
- **Customers bring a reusable bag**
- **Restaurants only provide plastic straws when requested**

- **Restaurant cannot provide single-use plastic bags***
- **Restaurant cannot serve or deliver food in polystyrene**

- **Paper straws are exempt and can be given without a request**
- **Polystyrene portion cups of two ounces or less, if used for hot foods or foods requiring lids are exempt****
- **Polystyrene disposable, long-handled soda spoons when required and used for thick drinks are exempt****

Convenience Store

- **Convenience Stores may provide single-use paper bags**
- **Store cannot provide single-use plastic bags***
- **Exceptions listed above for grocery store and restaurant apply**

Pharmacy

- **Pharmacy may provide single-use paper bags**
- **Customers bring a reusable bag**

- **Pharmacy cannot provide single-use plastic bags***

- **Plastic bags for prescriptions are exempt**

Retail Store

- **Retail Stores may provide single-use paper bags**
- **Store cannot provide single-use plastic bags***

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In homes

- **NJ residents can re-use single use plastic bags at home or in-store**

- **NJ residents can buy and use paper lunch bag**
- **NJ residents can no longer purchase polystyrene plates, cups or utensils.**
- **Plastic utensils or plastic or paper plates or cups are exempt**

Native Plant Legislation

- Support the implementation of New Jersey Native Plant Legislation – education.

Examine whether “Jersey Native Plants Program” bill (S83/A1580) signed in January will need publicity support this year – or wait until 2023 ---- educate. Jerry Bowers brought this up and Liaison Bush suggested that the Environmental Commission host a public education forum on the topic. The Township can pay for this. He can be at the Municipal Building or at the Rudge and it can even be in lieu of one of our meetings. This is something we can do yearly and something informative with building blocks. It’s a good event to start. The goal can be to host a series of environmental talks. This is something that is an achievable goal that is not expensive. Chairman Keady will explore this and David Harrison may have a contact thru his daughter. More details to follow. The following is a portion of the legislation in question:

CHAPTER 331 AN ACT establishing the “Jersey Native Plants Program” and supplementing Title 4 of the Revised Statutes. BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey: C.4:10-25.10 “Jersey Native Plants Program”, established. 1. a. The Secretary of Agriculture, in conjunction with the State Board of Agriculture, shall develop and implement a “Jersey Native Plants Program” to encourage and promote the sale of New Jersey native plants at retail garden centers and nurseries. The program shall increase consumer awareness of the important role of native plants in the ecosystem through advertising campaigns and marketing programs, provide for the dissemination of information about the variety and availability of New Jersey native plants, and create a labeling program to identify native plants as “Jersey Natives” for sale similar to the Jersey Fresh and Jersey Grown programs. b. The Department of Agriculture shall adopt, pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), rules and regulations to implement this act. 2. This act shall take effect immediately. Approved January 1, 2022.

Musconetcong River Management Council

- Continue to participate in Musconetcong River Management Council

Community Education and Outreach

- Continue to provide information for the new Holland Township Facebook page.

Some goals assume a reduction in COVID prevalence and social distancing measures

Sub-Committees Reports

Trails – Jerry Bowers, Ray Note and Regina Barna.

Brochures: A discussion took place on refilling the holder at the Holland Park Trail. David Harrison offered to check and refill on a monthly basis. David Harrison also will distribute flyers with the local bird seed shop.

Future ideas for brochures were discussed. Susan Meacham has a friend who is knowledgeable about mushrooms.

- Discuss if it's possible under DEP Green Acres rules to have at least one Holland Park that isn't also used for hunting, or shorten the hunting season

Mayor Bush explained that hunting on Holland Township Park lands is permitted by contract. There were discussions about green acres money and requirements. We do contracts for security purposes. Green Acres, Open Space, Land Trust, Rossi Grant all promote hunting for population control of the White Tail Deer. If we deviate then we need to have rangers. If we improve the parks then the areas of improvements are out of the hunting program which is the compromise. Any future properties would probably be the same as we go for the population control of the White Tail Deer. No hunting is permitted near the house as the legal distance is 450' with Holland doing more when possible. There is nothing wrong with being on the trail just be safe. Farmers Sportsman is aware of people being in the trails. We entertain other clubs but Farmers Sportsman has always had Holland in mind.

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

LUA Kozak reached out to the DEP requesting an update with a response that the DEP is still reviewing the submitted reports.

David Harrison explained that the state only asks for 4 highlights from the year basically asking “what did you work on that was most important” We picked different CSIPs which included saying we have more people core trained, working on public trails, labeling is a big project and of course we talked about the Holland Happenings. We are also using hazardous tree listing to work with our DPW in being proactive and not always reactive with tree issues. We were also recipients of a Georgia Pacific donation for more trees and Arbor Day plantings. Suggestions were made requesting that grants be action orientated vs planning orientated. We also want state to recognize that rural communities have different needs from other communities in the state.

These are the 2022 Community Forestry Management Plan goals to which we are committed:

- 1) Plant a tree for Arbor Day
- 2) Track hours and expenditures for the Community Forestry Program
- 3) Identify and label individual trees on township properties
- 4) Continue and improve outreach efforts at community events
- 5) Complete annual training requirements (8 Continuing Education Units, AKA CEUs)
- 6) If funding is available apply for a Township Seedling Giveaway
- 7) Submit 2 tree or forest related articles to local and regional newspapers and to the township website
- 8) Begin implementing the Riparian Planting Project
- 9) Apply for a CSIP grant to implement a Green Stormwater Management System
- 10) Complete a Forest Inventory if CSIP funding has been received (this must be here in error since we already did the inventory)
- 11) Apply for CSIP funding to remove invasive species on township owned land
- 12) Adopt the Model Highlands Shade Tree Ordinance

Tree Map update – Secretary Kozak is working with Dwight Pederson. The Google account has been created.

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. – Nothing new to report.

Community Education and Outreach – Jerry Bowers, Dwight Pederson, and Susan Meacham –
The EC webpage is: <http://www.hollandtownshipnj.gov/bds-committees/environmental-commission>.
Everything will first go to Susan Meacham for review and then to Secretary Kozak for distribution to the website or Facebook.

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.

Public Comment: Mr. Rizzello thanked everyone again for the support with the DBRC letter. We need to keep our eye on things!

Board Comment –

- Spring issue of Holland Happenings.

February 17, 2022

Good Afternoon,

The Township Committee has contracted again with Hometown Press to publish the  **SPRING 2022**  issue of the Holland Happenings!

This will be your opportunity to inform the public about your Department, Board, Commission, Services that you offer, Upcoming Events, Upcoming Deadlines, Reminders, Interesting Facts, Welcoming of New Employees, etc.

Articles should be submitted in **WORD format only**.

Township content is being limited to 8 pages for the Newsletter so please keep your submission brief.

Newsletters will not be mailed out until **May 15, 2022** so please keep your content with the months of **June, July, August, September and even October of 2022 in mind.**

PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES TO ME NO LATER THAN 2:00pm TUESDAY March 29th.

Thank you so much,

Melissa S. Tigar, RMC/CMR

Discussion took place about doing an Environmental Commission series. All are encouraged to write a brief paragraph for Chairman Keady to tweak and submit.

Community Day 2022 – September 10, 2022. The 2022 Community Day celebration will have food trucks and a band on a stage with a beer garden. The local business known as Descendants Brewing Company is working with the township committee. Historically the Environmental Commission has participated in Community Day with a Green Fair concept to help educate the community. The suggestion was made that the Environmental Commission work with the Farmers Market to promote the Green Fair educational opportunity or to contact Phillips Farm to see if the Environmental Commission could work with them in having a table set up on weekends to again promote education. This is something that needs to be done as required by state programs.

Ongoing preservation of Lands – Larry LaFevre is exploring options. There are properties on Spring Mills Road that are for sale. Each property has a fair number of acres associated with them. One property has lands that abut county lands.

The Park House update – 23 people submitted a \$1000.00 each to walk thru the property for consideration in the Auction.

Two new grant opportunities: Are we interested?

AARP Grant

<http://www.aarp.org/communitychallenge>

Average Grant - **\$11,000**

Deadline - **March 22, 2022**

Projects have included trail enhancement - benches, signs

244 awards last year out of 3,400 applicants across the United States

And

ANJEC Open Space Stewardship Grants

[2021 anjec open space stewardship grants for environmental ...http://anjec.org](http://anjec.org)

Projects - trail building, signage, maintenance; pollinator gardens

Grant Award - **\$1500**

Deadline - Monday, **May 2, 2022**

Discussions took place which went into Pollinator Gardens or interpretive signs. ANJEC appears to be a reasonable grant to pursue. Liaison Bush believes the Township Committee would support signage. We have talked about the Gilbert Property (O'sakame Park) and a native American plaque. Chairman Keady will work on this with Larry LaFevre. A kiosk and historical signs would be a nice addition for the public.

Liaison Bush mentioned an ongoing goal to connect the trail. There is a building going up at the Riegel bridge and the ongoing goal is to connect trails - Milford to Frenchtown will be a trail.

At 8:35 pm David Harrison made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

Environmental Commission Secretary