

Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

April 6, 2022 7 PM Meeting

Chairman Keady called the meeting to order. I call to order the April 6, 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, Jerry Bowers, 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: Susan Meacham, and Township Committee Alternate Liaison Thurgarland

Guest: Davina Lapczynski

Let the record show we have a quorum.

Minutes: A motion was made by Jerry Bowers and seconded by Ray Note to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the March 2, 2022 meeting and to approve the minutes as recorded. All present were in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Ban on single-use plastic which begins May 4, 2022.

The Star Ledger ran an article on Sunday April 3, 2022. The Environmental Commission has only a marginal involvement because it is a state project. We can provide links on our website. ANJEC has lots of information including a useful chart. The BagUpNJ website also has great information. The subcommittee will look into providing LUA Kozak with links to add to our Holland Township website. Susan Meacham was working on a bag to hand out which would also tie to our Stormwater Education so we can help meet our yearly point requirements.

ANJEC Open Space Stewardship Grant. Deadline is May 2, 2022 with a grant award of \$1500.00.

Discussion took place on if we wanted benches for O'sakame Preserve or signage of the history of Lenape or history of the Gilbert Plant. Chairman Keady will speak with the tribal leader who serves with him on the Highlands Coalition Board of Trustees for some insight. The subcommittee will be Jerry Bowers, Regina Barna and Mike Keady. LUA Kozak reminded everyone that the grant needs to be to her by April 15th so she can submit it to the Township Committee for the Mayor to sign at the meeting of April 19th. LUA Kozak will work with Clerk Miller to have this on the agenda with more details to follow. The benches would be similar to those at Holland Park and would be located on either side of the hill going down but facing in. If you go down the north slope first and come up the south side (which is the Power Plant side) it is easier to walk. A kiosk will be needed and Mayor Bush said the Township Committee can entertain that as part of the park addition. Mayor Bush is also working on a O'sakame map project. More details to follow.

Community Forestry Management Plan - David Harrison, Ray Note, Regina Barna and Secretary Kozak

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 the DEP Forestry Division 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

Arbor Day 2022 is Friday April 29, 2022 with a celebration being Saturday April 30, 2022. The event will be at O'sakame Park with an 11:00 am start time. The DPW will plant the tree and there will be a small celebration which will include the Girl Scouts (Mayor Bush has invited). We are purchasing 2 trees of which one is a honey locust and the other is to be a swamp oak. One tree will be planted at the Shire Road property and one at O'sakame. LUA Kozak will do the proclamation for the Township Committee to authorize. Chairman Keady will do a write up and will include the fact that Georgia Pacific has provided grant funding for the purchase of trees. Mayor Bush will be in attendance at the celebration and Chairman Keady will take pictures.

Biggest Tree competition will be in the Holland Happenings Newsletter Spring 2022 edition. The article will also talk about teaming with Hunterdon Land Trust on O'sakame Preserve. The Environmental Commission has a list of the largest trees of each species created from the tree inventory which is on public right of way. We noted the diameter. LUA Kozak was authorized to work with DPW Supervisor Colaluce to purchase a diameter tape. The article suggests that people contact LUA Kozak with their nominated tree and LUA Kozak will submit information to the EC for follow-up. Regina Barna asked about publicity and it will be on the Holland Township website. LUA Kozak will resend the volunteer tracking form so everyone can keep track of their hours on projects.

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

Trees of Holland changes to the website. A redesign is in the works. Chairman Keady asked for a count of how many people look at the website. This would give us a measure of what people are looking for on our website.

Stormwater Education – Mike Keady, Jerry Bowers, Susan Meacham and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak – nothing new at this time. Secretary Kozak worked on an update of the 2021 Stormwater breakdown and will 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: There were no comments made from the public.

Board Comment: Discussion about a presenter and an educational seminar. Everyone was thankful for the comments in the minutes about the 2021 overview and 2022 goals. Liaison Bush stated that he is CORE trained. LUA Kozak to reach out to the county to have more bird flyers printed.

At 8:30 pm David Harrison made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

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Environmental Commission Secretary