

Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

August 3, 2022 7 PM Meeting

Chairman Keady called the meeting to order. I call to order the August 3, 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 7:08 pm) and Land Use Administrator (LUA) Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Absent: 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 Regina Barna to dispense with the reading of the June 1, 2022 and July 6, 2022 meeting minutes and approved them as presented. All present voted in favor of the motion with the exception of David Harrison who abstained from the vote of the June minutes.

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

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

Biggest Tree competition was announced in the Holland Happenings Newsletter Spring 2022 edition. David Harrison reported that three trees were measured. Homeowner at 115 Riegelsville Road, Davina Lapczynski has a Silver Maple that was just short of the current one in the Township. The Tulip entry was smaller than the existing entry as was the Oak entry. David Harrison does have pictures of each entry. Discussion took place about publicity and the challenge is going to continue. All are encouraged to think of ways to step up to the challenge.

Tree Map update – LUA 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.

Stormwater Education – Mike Keady, Jerry Bowers, ???(we will be adding our newest member to this once appointed and the oath administered) and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak –
LUA Kozak prepared a draft overview for review. Yellow represents what we have currently. Green is what we will be doing. Pink is what we hope to do.

Holland Township Environmental Commission

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TO: Township Engineer Adam Wisniewski

CC: The 2022 Environmental Commission

FROM: Maria Elena Jennette Kozak- Environmental Commission Secretary

DATE: xxxxxxxx

RE: 2022 Tier B Municipal Stormwater General Permit Points

New Point System for Public Education Outreach - - need 12 points and include activities from 3 of the 5 categories. Total Points

Category 1 - General Outreach (subtotal 1 point)

- Web postings - 1 point
 - Please look at the web site. <http://www.hollandtownshipnj.gov/>
 - Some information is available on the home page of the web site as suggested by the past township engineer. Our web administrator has it under advisories.
 - Exhibit 1 - screen shot

Category 2 - Targets Audience Activities (subtotal 7.5)

- Stormwater Display - 1 point
 - Display at Municipal Building -
 - Exhibit 2 - pictures
 - Posters obtained by State (like TIP cards)
 - Mounted in Black frames
 - Displayed on the lower level of the building and in our hallway
- Promotional Item - 2 points
 - Stormwater message on Individual hand sanitizer distribution to Holland School, police department, DPW, and available at the municipal building for whoever wants one
 - cost comes out of grant money!
 - Did individual hand sanitizer bottles with “Don’t Pollute Streams” on it. Repeat of 2020
 - Exhibit 3 - Picture and requisitions
- Mass mailing - 2 points
 - The stormwater information sheet was mailed with the 2021 recycling /dumpster cards package distributed to residents in December.
 - Exhibit 4 - the “Solutions to Stormwater Pollution” flyer and envelop
- Stormwater Management Training - 2 points - Max 4 points -
 - Exhibit 5 - certificate Adam T. Wisniewski from Maser
- Municipal Training - .5 Points - Max 6 points
 - www.njstormwater.org/training
 - PB/BOA/Environmental Commission Secretary
 - Asking the Right Questions
 - Exhibit 6 - last page of slide show with signature of person completing the training Secretary Kozak

Category 3 - School/Youth Education and Activities (subtotal 3 points)

- Clean-up - .3 Points
 - Road clean ups-Del Val All Sports Booster - cheerleading and football. Roads cleaned: Hawks Schoolhouse. Ellis Road, Bellis Road, Dennis Road, Cyphers Road, Shire Road, Phillips

Road, Church Road, Stamets Road, Javes Road, Miller Park Road, and Rummel Road - residents also helped clean our local trails with DPW emptying clean up containers regularly.

- Exhibit 7 - Overview of roads and trails

Category 4 - Watershed Regional Collaborations (subtotal 3 points)

- Community Activity - .3 Points

- A cleanup of the River Musconetcong Watershed Association . April 17, 2022. Hunterdon: 420 volunteers, 200 bags of trash and recyclables, 10 tires, several truckloads of larger items like couches, lawn furniture and car parts...In Holland the collection was 11 trash bags, 3 bags of recyclables, and large items are a road sign with a "W" on it.
- Exhibit 8 - requisitions attached
- Participated in New Jersey Clean Communities 4th Annual Delaware River Clean up, October 16, 2021 at the Riegelsville Boat Launch and the surrounding roads by the river. A lot of roadside and river debris was picked up including removal of garbage and recycling from the banks of the river. Items from the river included natural garbage and recycling as well as carpet and a crushed port-a-john as well as signs.
- Exhibit 9 - information and pictures attached

Mayor Bush authorized LUA Kozak to create a requisition for the MWA for a donation as done in the past for all annual cleanup.

LUA Kozak and DPW Supervisor Colaluce have agreed to help out with the Annual NJ Clean Communities Delaware River Clean up. This is on behalf of Holland Township. EC volunteer help is encouraged and information has been sent to all the boards and commission LUA Kozak is involved with as well as Facebook and on the Holland webpage. We are investigating a second location in Holland Township which would be the Narrows (in conjunction with the boat launch). LUA Kozak is working with DPW Supervisor Colaluce in exploring the areas at the boat launch that need clean up. The Narrow would be its own area and EC member Barna offered to staff the table at this location. This location will involve the County agreeing to allowing the road to be closed for a portion of time. Naturally Holland Township participation will also include working with our Police Department. More information to follow. This will commit Holland Township to the 4 points in Category 4.

Mayor Bush explained that we are exploring grant funding for Holland Township regarding moving from a Tier B municipality to a Tier A municipality for the Township's stormwater permit. We need to plan how to proceed with the new requirements if the state does move the Tier Bs to Tier A. Some additional work includes identification of road inlets, retention/detention basin identification, additional street sweeping, special dumpster requirements, more paperwork and more accountability which ties into a more detailed annual report submittal. It will also cost the Township more to implement the changes. An extension has been requested regarding Holland Township being reassigned from Tier B to Tier A. More information to follow as it becomes available.

Highlands Conformance – Jerry Bowers, Mike Keady and Dwight Pederson. – a Holland Township Highlands subcommittee meeting is being scheduled. The date is being worked on. Discussion took place about seeking an Open Space/Recreation Plan which would be part of the Master Plan. The process is explained as this will ultimately fall under the Land Use Board adoption as it would be an element of the Master Plan. Planner Green will prepare a Scope of Work and Land Use Administrator Kozak prepares a Scope of Work for Holland which includes attorney involvement. This is presented to the Highlands Council for grant consideration. The EC will be asked to weigh in; however, this would probably be under the committee of Parks and Recreation with a subcommittee consisting of a PR member, the mayor, the public, maybe an EC member and maybe a LUB member. The details will be considered if the grant is approved. A scope of Work has been prepared by Colliers and Land Use Administrator Kozak is working on the Township Scope of Work for the next phase of Task 8 the Water Use and Conservation Management Plan. This goes to the Highlands

Council for grant consideration but in this case, there was already money set aside for the Water Use and Conservation Management Plan that was not used for the work thus far. Secretary Kozak is working with the Highlands Council to see if this becomes part of the Master Plan Element.

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

Guest Lecture Series is under Community Education and Outreach

Lecture Series –

Preliminary Discussion of Environmental Education Speaker Program

Notes from Education and Community Outreach Sub-Committee Meeting 7/25/22

Purpose of Speaker Program

1. To promote our Holland Township Environmental Commission and its work
2. To educate the public in the important ecological undertakings in the state, county and local community
3. To present interesting and current topics regarding the environment
4. To promote activities for individuals to preserve and enhance the natural world around us

Suggestions for speakers and topics

Importance of Bees in the Ecosystem – Northwestern Beekeepers Association, Jean Miller – Master Beekeeper

- Musconetcong Wild and Scenic River Designation – Update, Importance to Community for Tourism and Quality of Life – Alan Hunt, Director MWA
- The New York-New Jersey Trail Conference recently completed a Highlands Council-funded project to enhance signage and mapping along the New Jersey portion of the Highlands Trail, including Holland Township. Zach Cole may be a resource.
- NJ State Initiative in New Jersey Native Plants – why and how to use them, where to get them, how to promote them. Rutgers Extension Service may have insight into initiatives or other topics.
- Preparing your garden for winter, possible bus trip to learn about native plants from a NJ expert – Pat Sutton Cape May Bird Observatory
- Importance of Birds and how to invite them into your landscape, Audubon Society.
- Importance of Trees and how they communicate with each other through their underground root system

We also had some discussion of the number of programs – about 3-4 per year, to be held at the same 5:30 time at the RRCC Library.

Submitted by Regina Barna 7/29/2022

Discussion took place about feedback sheets as well as the next date for a lecture. They were looking at September 25 at 1pm. Regina Barna to work on the September lecture and Dwight Pederson will work on the December lecture. Mayor Bush stated that the County offers Zoom lectures for free and there is a naturalist who can also help us with planning a guest lecture. We can also contact Rutgers extension. David Harrison suggested a lecture on Mushrooms and has mentioned a contact in the past. Chairman Keady suggested someone from the Highlands Trail. The goal is to have a lecture one per quarter with a budget of about \$1000.00 for the year. LUA will remember to mention the budget when planning 2023. The subcommittee will work on this and return to the EC so that the EC can approve one per season.

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Website update needed for recent projects – Dwight Pederson shared an idea with Secretary Kozak about adding information to our environmental resource about pollinator gardens. No action was taken.

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

Public Comment: Davina Lapczynski asked if the Environmental Commission was involved with the Recycling Center. And what other environmental topics was the Environmental Commission involved with? Jerry Bowers summarized ongoing topics being addressed by the EC, including review of commercial solar projects, and support for recycling, but stated that the Environmental Commission has not really been involved with that as it is more of a DPW task especially with meeting certain quotas for recycling. Davina Lapczynski asked if anyone explored solar with the street light project. The environmental commission was not part of that project but recollections were that the conversations were about taking street lights out and not paying vs an option of putting a solar panel on it to help reduce the electric used. No one really remembered alternative opportunities being discussed.

Board Comment:

- O'sakame Park - O'sakame improvements – what is the plan?
 - The question posed is if the Township can pay for benches and historic signs or should the EC look for other grants? Mayor Bush stated that there will be some monies available in the American Recovery Act that enable the Township Committee to commit to the purchase of 2 benches for the park but not until the earliest being 4th quarter 2022. The Township Committee will commit to the purchase of a tree or 2 with funds to come out of the Georgia Pacific donation. All of these expenditures will have no effect on the budget. We need to put the tree or trees in a clean part of the property with consideration for the future. LUA Kozak will work with Mayor Bush with determining the caliper of trees to purchase and the EC can make suggestions on location.
- Holland Solar Farm and the Riparian Mitigation plan – Jerry Bowers.
 - It has come to our attention that the applicants for the Holland Solar Farm project off Cyphers Rd are trying to escape their obligation for riparian mitigation. They are taking advantage of credit bank and buying credits in Oxford stating economic hardship. Jerry Bowers stated that Holland needs clarification and that an economic hardship is not a reason and that the DEP regulations state that the mitigation purchasing bank has to be in the same watershed. Jerry Bowers stated that renewable energy is important but that something that has a risk to jeopardizing the river demands our attention and obligation to determine if they are doing this then why and how is it permitted. Mayor Bush assured the EC that the Township is working with the alternate engineer but that there are no guarantees. Our TC attorney is also looking into this. We have followed up with the State Construction Office and a final certificate is NOT to be issued until the Township approves that all conditions of the resolution have been satisfied.

The Decommissioning Agreement has been revised reflecting changes in names. Land Use Chairman Miller will be briefed on this situation. We are on top of this however, the NJDEP can trump Holland Township and the conditions of the resolution. Dwight Pederson stated that Holland Solar said they would perform onsite remediation to restore the riparian areas so credits should not be permissible. Dwight Pederson also asked if the Planning Board saw the mitigation plan as he had requested it and received a copy and in it there is a plan showing 2000 trees to be planted. More discussion took place as to what is in the riparian zone, what is permitted, not permitted and should not be allowed. Mayor Bush stated that if the EC has specific questions and concerns then they should be forwarded to LUA Kozak so she can work with the professionals regarding this situation. Mayor Bush also stated that everyone needs to be aware that it could happen. Dwight Pederson asked about intervention and Mayor Bush said our professionals are working on this. Jerry Bowers will work on a formal letter to LUA Kozak so that it is on record that the EC has a formal role in this. Mayor Bush further stated that the professionals are working for the Township and are reviewing this. Mayor Bush also reminded everyone that the Township has been supportive with the EC and passed ordinances regarding their concerns. This is a team effort.

- JCP&L plan to plant trees – JCP&L is looking to plant 1600 trees including approximately 250 with Hunterdon Land Trust. Chairman Keady contacted the Executive Director of Hunterdon Land Trust to discuss planting the trees and discovered that JCP&L will plant them. There are a lot of unknowns. Holland Township may only want to commit to a planting of 20 trees. Chairman Keady will explore this concept and uncover all the details. More details to follow.
- Ban on single-use plastic - May 4, 2022. LUA Kozak submit the state link to the webmaster for posting. LUA Kozak will follow up with the County rep regarding the bag for distribution. LUA Kozak to also follow up with TREX and some other towns still collecting plastic for the plastic program.

At 8:50 pm David Harrison made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

Environmental Commission Secretary