

Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

September 7, 2022 7 PM Meeting

Chairman Keady called the meeting to order. I call to order the September 7, 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, Davina Lapczynski(new member), Ray Note, Dwight Pederson, Township Committee Liaison Dan Bush and Land Use Administrator (LUA) Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Absent: Jerry Bowers and Township Committee Alternate Liaison Thurgarland

Guest: N/A

Let the record show we have a quorum.

Minutes: The approval of the August 3, 2022 minutes was tabled.

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

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, Davina Lapczynski and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak –

LUA Kozak and DPW Supervisor Colaluce agreed to help out with the Annual NJ Clean Communities Delaware River Clean up. This is on behalf of Holland Township. EC volunteers are needed. Regina Barna will help out at the Narrows location and Mike Keady will take pictures. Mayor Bush asked Secretary

Kozak to register himself and his son for the cleanup. More information to follow. This will commit Holland Township to the 4 points in Category 4.

Highlands Conformance – Jerry Bowers, Mike Keady and Dwight Pederson. – a Holland Township Highlands subcommittee meeting is being scheduled. The meeting will take place September 22, 2022. Mayor Bush is asking the focus to be on exploring grant opportunities for the Tier change with Stormwater. We will also discuss plans on moving forward with outlining the goals of the task.

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. Zac 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 with the event being September 25 2022 at 1pm. More discussions about the future topics took place. The goal is to host a lecture about each topic. Discussion on dates and times took place. All agreed that an event in January should be a goal. The lecture series will be part of the Environmental Commission article for the Holland Happenings. Once the lecture is booked then we can mark calendars. Posters to be put up, the flyer is on the webpage, on Facebook and shared on other avenues. Some poster locations will be: Alexandria Municipal Building, pizza, Asian Yummy, Delta market, St Edwards, the Golf Course. Liaison Bush asked LUA Kozak to reach out to the county for the 519 trail newsletter. Mike Keady to follow up with the newspapers. Liaison Bush asked LUA Kozak to contact Clerk Miller to see if she can contact the clerks association with the flyer. LUA Kozak to work with Davina Lapczynski with creating a spreadsheet for poster outlets and contacts.

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

Alan Hunt discussed Wild and Scenic at a MWA meeting. There will still be a celebration with the announcement. Alan Hunt told the MWA meeting group that a grant for 12 million is being sought to continue work on the Warren Glen dam project. They are getting engineering plans. It will take 6 to 7 years to remove the silt in the dam. There will be a pipeline with pumps to pump the silt to dump trucks lined with perforated bags to get the water out. Fish and Game has fields in Hackettstown where the clean silt will be dumped. Alan Hunt is involved with the Riparian issue at the Holland Solar project. Dwight Pederson stated that the other members of the Council were upset about the off-site mitigation. Discussion about mitigation took place. The temporary mitigation needs to be replaced. Liaison Bush explained that although Holland Township put conditions in place with the approval, a state agency can make a decision that may not be consistent with the condition of the resolution. Dwight Pederson explained that the applicant applied for a hardship case to the NJDEP that says onsite mitigation and now the applicant wants to back out of the agreement. Dwight Pederson stated that he feels he knows as much as the engineers as he has spent countless hours there and one way or another, they will get to the bottom of this. MWA director Hunt is working on streets of the river for towns along the river to bring acknowledgment for places that have walkable streets. Hackettstown and Finesville are examples of this. Holland Township will be contacted.

Public Comment: There was no members of the public present.

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 asked LUA Kozak to follow up with a quote regarding 2 benches and a kiosk.
- Shire Road Park – Hunterdon Land Trust – questions about access came up. All parties were aware of the parking. At the moment, you cannot park there but can park down the road and walk to the property.
- Website Update
 - The counter on the website is general for now. In the future it could be designed to count traffic to specific articles on the website. This is a counter for the Township Committee. Members of

the EC noticed that the counter is bogging down the website. LUA Kozak to work with Liaison Thurgarland and the webmaster to discuss.

At 8:20 pm Mike Keady made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

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Environmental Commission Secretary