

Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

October 5, 2022 7 PM Meeting

Chairman Keady called the meeting to order. I call to order the October 5, 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, Mike Keady, Davina Lapczynski, Ray Note, Committee Liaison Dan Bush and Land Use Administrator (LUA) Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Absent: David Harrison, Dwight Pederson, Township and Township Committee Alternate Liaison Thurgarland
Guest: Holland Township Police Chief, Sean Gutsick

Let the record show we have a quorum.

Minutes: The approval of the August 3, 2022 and September 7, 2022 minutes was tabled.

Mill Debriefing – The old mill at the bottom of Route 519, commonly referenced as the Warren Glen Mill, was broken into. Hunterdon County Hazmat contacted Chief Gutsick ASAP with an update that there was a sheen on the river. A sheen is oil that appears as a glaze on water. All agencies assessed the situation. The NJDEP was also on site and there was no threat to wild life, plant life or people. If there was a threat then the situation would have been handled differently. This is a NJDEP site. Our Office of Emergency Management (OEM) does not do major hazmat as that is under the direction of the Hunterdon County Health Department. Because of the mill's location on the border between Warren and Hunterdon Counties, the call identifying the problem alerted both counties to assess the situation. The issue was located on the Holland Township, Hunterdon County side. The NJDEP recommendation was that no notification was required. There was not a need to add more people to work in the office for a non-emergency. If the situation was an emergency, then additional workforce would have been brought in. It was determined that the public did not need to get concerned over something that the NJDEP determined was not an emergency. There are tools in place to notify the public if there is an emergency. On a local level, the best message that can be conveyed to the public....If you see something call the police or 911. They will follow protocol with the proper agencies. Let them handle the situation.

Final evaluation- the oil spill was mineral oil. Scrapers (searching for metals such as copper) were the cause. A larger transformer was opened and drained by a scrapper who tried to get the coils out which cause oil to spill on the concrete which did not have a spill barrier (remember the equipment is old and certain requirements were not in place). The spill then worked its way down to the old raceway (canals from the dam that go under the plant or facility that continue past County Route 519 to Cyphers Rd). IPPE, the owners of the mill, are aware of this and are cleaning up the outside. The scrapers are trying to steal the copper in the transformer. The prosecutor was contacted and because of the situation, no one was interested in spending time to locate the scrapper(s). The mill property abuts the County Park behind it. There is fencing but there are holes. When the raceway has water in it then the raceway acts as a moat around it. Again, this is a DEP site. The same positives of the mill being close to the river as viewed in history are also the negatives and challenges presented today. Removal is a constant conversation and tricky at best. The owners would like to press charges but the

situation prohibits finger pointing. The old vacant Phillipsburg Mall is experiencing similar scrapping vandalism and destruction. The police are all aware of this.

Everyone circled back to if you see something then report it. Call the police or 911 and let them handle the situation.

Just a reminder, the police and fire depend on the hazmat team who in turn depends on the NJDEP. It's a process.

Discussion came back to what can we do to make IPPE remove everything or drain fluids? That is tricky. Chief Gutsick mentioned that Hurricane Sandy destroyed the building. There are collapsed windows and ceilings. Security needs to happen but also consideration to safety. Liaison Bush requested Land Use Administrator Kozak to reach out to the State Construction Office to perform a site visit and request IPPE to better secure the building. The NJDEP has a handle on the property, however if it is a local issue then we work with IPPE directly. When it comes to a major public safety issue then an agency larger than Holland is letting us know how to notify the public. There are mechanisms in place at a higher level. If it is elevated to that level then Holland has the capabilities to let the public know what is going on. We have strong plans in place.

Chief Gutsick is happy to attend our meetings after a situation to answer any questions. All agencies are happy to work with the Environmental Commission but not during an event. Again, see something please report it to the police or 911 and let them handle it.

Land Use Administrator Kozak will work with DCA regarding the safety issues. There is not real fix in sight!

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.

Land Use Administrator Kozak was asked by the State to be a panelist representing Holland Township for one of the discussions at the Shade Tree Convention. The Township Committee supported attendance and continuing education credits will be earned.

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, on behalf of Holland Township. EC volunteers helped make the event a success. Mayor Bush was interviewed for Channel 69 news. A thank you is extended to all. This will earn Holland Township 4 points in Category 4.

Highlands Conformance – Jerry Bowers, Mike Keady and Dwight Pederson. – a Holland Township Highlands subcommittee meeting took place on September 22, 2022. Mayor Bush, Jerry Bowers, Mike Keady and Land Use Administrator Kozak were in attendance. Mike Keady reported that the meeting was very successful. The Highlands Council is considering financial assistance with developing a plan to help assist Holland Township as we transition with the Stormwater Permit process from Tier B to a Tier A municipality. Herb August who distributes the funding was present. Collier Engineering is working on a scope of work for consideration. A scope of work for Phase 2 of the Water Use and Conservation Plan has also been prepared by Colliers. Holland Township is working on its scope of work as well. Phase 2 will be how to make people use less water so we do not have a deficit. The Environmental Commission will have a role but not at this moment. More information will follow.

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

Speaker #2 Jean Miller - Bees

September 25 2022 at 1pm at the Meeting Room in the Municipal Building.

Here is the bio for Jean Miller:

Jean Miller

Beekeeper since 2014.

Cornell University Master Beekeeper since 2021.

Member of following beekeeper organizations:

Northwest New Jersey Beekeepers Association
New Jersey Beekeepers Association
Eastern Apiculture Society

Have traveled twice to Kenya to study beekeeping there. Spent a month in Thailand with the University of Florida studying half the world's honey bee species in May-June 2022.

Rutgers University Master Gardener since 2012. Have logged over 1600 volunteer hours. Well versed in deer resistant plants that provide nectar and pollen for bees.

Was a substitute teacher in the Flemington area for 20 years. Have taught all grade levels and all core subjects but preferred teaching Math and Science in grades 6th-12th

Process Control Manager for Nestle's Freehold manufacturing facility (in my former life, that is before motherhood.)

Graduated with high honors from Lehigh University with a BS in Industrial Engineering (1985)

I'm also an avid life-long naturalist and have visited and hiked in over 50 National Parks. Also enjoy traveling internationally (Ecuador {Galapagos Islands}, Peru, Iceland, Kenya, Tanzania, Egypt, China, Mexico, Thailand, Costa Rica...).

Regina Barna reported that the lecturer was excellent. She had a hive available outside for the audience's viewing pleasure. There were tables filled with information. Turnout was light with 14 in attendance which included various EC members as well as family and friends. Ms. Miller was ok with the turn out and appreciated the opportunity to speak. Liaison Bush reminded everyone that it was still a great event and that the more that is presented to the public the better attendance will be. Advertising with this was better than the last lecture series. Davina Lapczynski will create a sign in that will help us create a database for an email list. Davina Lapczynski is helping to fine-tune the process including technical review of our equipment, room setup, getting the word out and day of process with meeting the guest lecture and securing the room being opened. Jerry Bowers said it the best....the key is getting bodies to attend. The one belief was that Sunday afternoon was a bad time. Discussion then went to the newsletter and having a "mark the calendar" approach to our future series.

The subcommittee will move forward with contacting future speakers and securing dates.

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
Nothing new to discuss.

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

Board Comment:

- O'sakame Park - O'sakame improvements
 - Mayor Bush and LUA Kozak are working on a quote regarding 2 benches and a kiosk. When available, an update will follow.
- Street Light Solar Project – Davina Lapczynski is working with the Township Committee on exploring a solar street light project. Additional discussion will also be to see if the newly acquired Police Station to be located on Milford Warren Glen Road can also use solar for outdoor lighting. The goal is to help reduce our electric bill and provide continued safety. More information to follow.

- Solar Decommissioning Agreement – Jerry Bowers expressed concerns about the process regarding the following of the Solar Ordinance with emphasis on the solar decommissioning agreement with the developers and operators of the solar mill project on the actual old Hughesville mill site. LUA Kozak shared that the decommissioning agreement was signed by the Township Committee and EC Member Bowers expressed his dissatisfaction with the agreement being signed without the environmental commission reviewing the document to make sure it captured the essence of the ordinance. Much discussion took place regarding views on the process.
- Holland Happenings
 - The article was submitted. Regina Barna has reviewed prior articles and suggested that bylines be added to the EC article. She likes to see who writes the article.

At 8:45 pm Jerry Bowers made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

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Environmental Commission Secretary