

## **Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes**

January 4, 2023 7 PM Meeting

Land Use Administrator Kozak called the meeting to order. I call to order the January 4, 2023 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 8, 2022 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, Township Committee Liaison Dan Bush (arrived 7:15 pm), Mike Keady, David Harrison, Davina Lapczynski, Ray Note, Dwight Pederson, and Land Use Administrator (LUA) Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Excused Absent: David Harrison, Township and Township Committee Alternate Liaison Thurgarland

Let the record show we have a quorum.

Oath of Office: Land Use Administrator Kozak administered the oath of office to Mike Keady and Ray Note. Congratulations and welcome back.

Minutes: The approval of the November 2, 2022 and December 7, 2022 meeting minutes were tabled.

2023 Subcommittee conversation: After discussion, all agreed that the established subcommittees will continue for the 2023 season. LUA Kozak just reminded everyone that the lecture series is under Community Education and Outreach and not a separate subcommittee.

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

David Harrison talked about the Annual report being due February 2023 and that he will work with LUA Kozak for submittal. David Harrison will send LUA Kozak the 2023 Community Forestry Management Plan goals that are outlined in our Community Forestry Plan for the minutes as well as to serve as a reminder of items needed to be addressed in 2023. LUA Kozak reminded everyone of the timeline and that we need the report

completed by the end of January so that the township committee can have this on the first February meeting agenda to authorize the mayor to sign the annual report for submittal. She reminded the board that she will send to the EC to review the report in February after she and member Harrison work on the report. LUA Kozak will follow up with the Mayor's signature and submit to the state. Please submit your 2022 volunteer hour sheet pertaining to the tree project ASAP. LUA Kozak to distribute what Regina Barna submitted for 2022.

LUA Kozak reminded everyone that if when they participate in a CEU program to please send her any confirmation of attendance so she can work with the state to make sure we receive the proper credits.

Tree Map update – LUA Kozak is working with Dwight Pederson. The Google account has been created. Dwight Pederson will review this.

Trees of Holland changes to the website. A redesign has been in the works.

Stormwater Education – Mike Keady, Jerry Bowers, Davina Lapczynski and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak –

Nothing new to report.

Highlands Conformance – Jerry Bowers, Mike Keady and Dwight Pederson. –More information will follow as updates are available. Discussion about the EC responsibility took place which circled back to there is nothing to report at this time as the professionals are working on proposals.

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 –

Regina Barna discussed the January 19, 2023 lecture with presenter Zac Cole discussing the Highlands Trail. Davina Lapczynski will try to go to the school to see if they can help spread the word. The flyer is created and, on the Website, the official Facebook page as well as on other Facebook pages. The flyers are posted around town. Davina Lapczynski is working with LUA Kozak on a lecture series sign up email list. Details to follow. Reminder, please remove all information promoting the lecture series after the event takes place. If we put it up it is also our responsibility to remove it. Davina Lapczynski will work on having everything set up for the meeting and will meet with Chairman Keady by 6:30 pm to have the doors open. The lecture series line up at the RRCC will be: April 26, June 28, July 10 and October 18. Flyers are being worked on. Regina Barna will send out the list once revised which will be distributed to the EC members and once accepted then posted to our website. Davina Lapczynski and LUA Kozak are working on a Lecture Series tab on the EC webpage of the Holland website.

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

Dwight Pederson discussed the results from the Road Salt Monitoring project. Dwight Pederson was the representative for the Holland Township location which was in Bloomsbury where the Dam was and below the 519 Bridge by the Warren Glen Deli as well as the Riegelsville Boat Launch. Test strips were at each location and data was collected. The findings....The Holland Township section was the only section not impaired! Liaison Bush reminded everyone that the locations were technically Pohatcong locations and that Pohatcong

uses cinders and not salt during winter maintenance of the roads. It was also mentioned that Holland Township has a catch basin off Route 519 headed towards the old mill property that was designed to filter run off. The system is maintained and cleared every 3 (three) years. Dwight Pederson also talked about a project that will offer improvements to areas along the Muskey. This will start in Asbury. MWA is trying to make the town more walkable and improve tourist accessibility. MWA received a grant for this project and Bloomsbury and Finesville have been mentioned in meetings as locations of interest. Dwight Pederson also asked about the Holland Solar Project as this has been a topic of interest at the MWA meetings. Discussion of off site mitigation and an amended site plan being needed. Mr. Hunt has discussed a grant where money would be available to do a study for a municipal report. The grant would be with Princeton Hydro. Liaison Bush asked Dwight Pederson to send the information to LUA Kozak who will distribute.

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

Board Comment:

- Should the Holland Township EC be involved with projects such as public comments on the DEP's Inland Flood Protection Rules of January 11, 2023 or comments December 7, 2022 on Hunterdon County Growth Management Plan. After much discussion, Liaison Bush reminded everyone that as a resident you can respond as an individual but if you want the township action that needs to be reviewed. The EC cannot be an intervener but the Township Committee can. They just have to review and make a decision if that is how they want to proceed. The best summary of how to proceed was expressed by a few members. Let's fight the battle that you can fight and take a strong opinion on the other topics.
- EC Annual Report for 2022 – discussion took place on how to proceed. Last year the annual report was presented to the TC which consisted of the report of the year with goals for the following year. Jerry Bowers and Mike Keady worked together on this for 2021. All agreed that they can work on this again for 2022 with the help of everyone reviewing and tweaking the submission. LUA Kozak to redistribute the 2021 accomplishments and goals.
- Mayor Update – Liaison Bush thanked everyone for 2022 and looks forward 2023. He announced that he would probably be the Alternate Liaison for 2023 and Duane Young would be the 2023 TC EC liaison. We will be in continue to be in good hands. Liaison Bush also mentioned that the Green team is restructuring and is looking at solar projects with the hope of a solar installation on the Municipal Building, The DPW, and the new police Department. Solar could be a roof mounted system. We are Sustainable Jersey certified till 2024 and can look at grant opportunities in 2023. The Fire House is another Township building being explored for a solar project that would be for perimeter lighting. Liaison Bush has reached out to Direct Install to discuss options. The Fire House could be a model for solar perimeter lighting with the next goal to be other township owned buildings and exploring covered parking areas. Another future discussion could be with solar and street lights. More information to follow.

At 8:05 pm Dan Bush made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

*Maria Elena Jennette Kozak*

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Environmental Commission Secretary