

Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

March 6, 2024 7 PM Meeting

Chairman Keady called the meeting to order, "I call to order the March 6, 2024 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 21, 2023 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, Dwight Pederson, Tony Rizzello, Township Committee Liaison Duane Young, and Land Use Administrator (LUA) Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Excused Absent: Davina Lapczynski and Township Committee Alternate Liaison Bush

Guest: Wes Aber

Let the record show we have a quorum.

Minutes: The reading of the February 7, 2024 minutes was tabled.

Old Business:

- List EC members' Accomplishments supporting 2023 EC Goals
The final version included pictures and was distributed to the Township Committee. Liaison Young reported that the it was discussed and the EC was thanked for all their work.

New Business:

- Proposed Goals for EC in 2024. To be finalized and sent to LUA Kozak for distribution to Liaison Young and the Township Committee.
- Discussion of feasibility of using volunteers to help with the EC projects – Regina Barna reported that a someone who attended the lecture series reached out to her to see about helping. They had email exchanges and the volunteer is helped secure the speaker for the October 16th presentation. Discussion evolved to tracking volunteer hours and how to engage help. The projects would be site specific. LUA Kozak reminded everyone that tracking hours for the Community Forestry Program is what is required to be viewed with the submittal of the annual report. Tracking volunteer Environmental Commission hours for other projects is voluntary. Liaison Young reminded everyone that outside assistance is fantastic but could open up Holland Township to concerns. Guest Aber mentioned that he knows someone who is interested in being a guest lecturer in Holland. His contact would be willing to do this in April and we all realize it is spur of the moment. The contact who would be interested in doing a foraging walk is scheduled to speak at the NY Botanical Gardens and will come to Holland Township for the cost of transportation and a \$50.00 stipend. He also runs a Chocolate business in Hawaii. Member Barna will speak with Wes Aber to discuss the possibilities. The two parks in consideration would be O'sakame and/or Holland Park.
- Warren Glen Mill – it was reported that the mill has been sold. The MWA received a \$210,000.00 grant from the NJDEP for the dam removal study. This study ties to the Dam above the mill. Further discussion took place regarding the sale of the mill relating to the dam being one step closer to removal. Rumor is that the silt will take about 10 years to be removed. Alan Hunt has left the MWA and will work with the National Park Association. There are more conversation about converting the Delaware area to a national park however the Indian tribes has issues with it being sacred grounds. A demolition company was brought into the mill and are scrapping materials inside. The product is supposedly worth

millions. No one is aware of when the mill will be demolished. Alan Hunt said that our engineer should see what they can do. Member Pederson has spoken with Holland Township Agriculture and Historic Chairman LaFevre about purchasing the land owned by the mill along the river. Larry LaFevre is to discuss with Dan Bush. Member Pederson stated that Dan Bush thought that the land was going to be turned into solar, however the township has not received confirmation to that statement. Guest Aber discussed Micro Hydro which would be better than solar along the river. Discussion of the concept plan that appeared before the Planning Board years ago was also discussed, which was for a power generating plant on the mill property. Nothing “new” has been submitted to Holland Township for consideration and this is NOT an item before the Land Use Board.

- ANJEC Grant – Chairman Keady mentioned that the grant would be about \$1500.00 and applications are due in April. Guest Aber mentioned that he did a quick review of the grant and was wondering if it was worth exploring the grant for education. He was thinking about invasive species and doing a talk that ties to that. He is willing to look at past recipients to see what has been done and if applicable for Holland Township. Grant writing and submission is something he and many of his colleagues are well versed in. He will work with Member Barna.
- Holland Township tree removal/replacement ordinance. This has been mentioned in the past and now that Holland Township was reassigned for stormwater from Tier B to Tier A, this ordinance is a requirement. The Township Engineer is reviewing and working an ordinance that incorporates the model ordinance with consideration of the Township’s ordinances and Township’s resources. The ordinance is to be adopted by May 1st. More discussions took place on societal impact and regulations. Many members are participating in training that is focused on the ordinance and many people are leaning towards an ordinance that is regulatory. Readington is an example of a very focused and challenging ordinance. Member Barna expressed that sometimes you need a regulation to get things started in order to accomplish greatness for the overall society (the benefits are for the whole public).
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- Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic Council update. Tony Rizzello reported that the grant was submitted and we got approval. There are some tweaks with the funding terms that need to be discussed. There was never mention of the requirement to have the sign translated to Spanish. LDW&S also wants the signage to acknowledge their support. Tony Rizzello is working with LDW&S to discuss a few ideas. LUA Kozak is working with Liaison Young and Liaison Bush with a translator for the sign. More updates to follow.

Subcommittee:

Trails – Regina Barns and Tony Rizzello – nothing to report at this time.

Community Forestry Management Plan – Tony Rizzello, David Harrison, and Secretary Kozak
CFP 2024 Goals (as outlined by Member Harrison)

1. Arbor Day Tree Planting
2. Submit 2 tree or forest related articles to local and regional newspapers and Township website
3. If feasible, apply for Tree City USA re-certification
4. Track hours and expenditures for CFMP
5. Complete annual training requirements - 8 CEUs
6. Identify and Label individual trees on Township properties
7. Continue and improve outreach efforts at community events
8. Reevaluate hazard trees and update the list
9. If funding available, apply for and execute a township seedling giveaway
10. Begin Strategic planning and goal development for third CFMP and evaluate the successes and failures of the second CFMP
11. Apply for Green Communities funding for the creation of the third five-year CFMP
- 12 Map and complete baseline surveys on properties with conservation easements

13. Implement removal of invasive species on township owned land if CSIP (Community Stewardship Incentive Program) funding is received to implement the program.

LUA Kozak requests everyone to keep track of their hours pertaining to trees for the whole year. LUA Kozak will resend everyone the tracking sheets which are also available upon request. This is important for our annual report. Please keep track. Also, LUA Kozak reminded everyone that if 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 Labels – Dwight Pederson will continue to work with LUA Kozak to see if revisions are needed for the website.

2024 New Jersey Tree Recovery program – free seedling giveaway

The application was submitted to the state for consideration. The pickup date will be April 11, 2024 at the Morris County facility between 9am and noon with the giveaway being April 13, 2024 usually 9am till noon with the Boy Scouts helping for distribution. Arbor Day is April 26, 2024 and Earth Day is April 22, 2024. Holland Township Arbor Day celebration is Saturday April 27, 2024 at 10 am and Liaison Young is working with LUA Kozak regarding the purchasing of the annual Arbor Day celebration tree. The tree will be placed at the Municipal Building and the annual plaque project will be moving forward. More details to follow.

Duke Farm seminar – Regina Barna and David Harrison are interested in attending and LUA Kozak will register them.

Spring Dendrology Workshop

In this course, we will explore the trees of Duke Farms through the lens of biology, ecology, and biodiversity....

About This Event

In this course, we will explore the trees of Duke Farms through the lens of biology, ecology, and biodiversity.

Course Overview

Lecture material on how trees fit into our local ecosystems—both today and into the future—will contextualize the strong focus on tree identification necessary to understand these complex organisms. Some background in basic tree identification is recommended, but not required. This course will be geared toward educators, land managers, ecologists, conservationists, shade tree commission members, and other professionals.

Featured Topics

- Tree biology, structure, and reproduction
- Biodiversity and tree ID through the lens of biology

Continuing Education Credits

The Spring Dendrology Workshop is approved for credits from the following organizations.

New Jersey Board of Tree Experts: TBD

New Jersey Urban and Community Forestry (NJUCF): 4 CEUs

International Society for Arboriculture: TBD

American Society for Landscape Architects: 4 hours

Prerequisites

This program assumes participants have a basic knowledge of native species identification and understand general ecology concepts. Please note that classes will take place partially outdoors and will require travelling several miles on various trail types (paved and unpaved) and uneven terrain for up to 3 hours.

Program Guidelines

Pre-registration is required, walk-ins are not be accepted. Please let us know if you are no longer able to attend so your space can be offered to someone else. Cancellations received at least 48 hours in advance are eligible for a refund, if applicable. Programs at Duke Farms are RAIN or SHINE, but in the event of severe weather, classes may be canceled. Email notice will be given as early as possible via email and refunds will be issued in the case of cancellations.

We provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities. If a reasonable accommodation is needed to participate, please contact us at registrations@dukefarms.org.

DATE AND TIME

Sat, May 04, 2024
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

LOCATION

Duke Farms

1112 Dukes Parkway West

Hillsborough Township, NJ 08844 United States

[Buy Tickets](#)

Stormwater Education – Mike Keady, Davina Lapczynski and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak – Tier B reassignment to Tier A is the focus of the Township. There is nothing new to report as progress is being made with seeking funding. The retention/detention basin list will fall into the stormwater project. This project is engineer driven at this time. LUA Kozak to work with the engineer in submitting the yearly educational review. More details to follow.

Highlands Conformance – Mike Keady and Dwight Pederson. –More information will follow as updates are available.

Community Education and Outreach – 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

As a reminder please share with the public that an area to sign up for the lecture series email list is on our website. To be informed about upcoming talks or with speaker ideas, sign-up here

[Speaker Series Email List](https://cities.formstack.com/forms/holland_ec_cont) (https://cities.formstack.com/forms/holland_ec_cont)

The 2024 series is:

January 10 2024 – Know the Bear Facts.

April 24, 2023 – Trees how to plant and care for them

July 17, 2024 – Birds of Holland Township

Inventory of Fauna and Flora (Bio-Diversity)subcommittee - David Harrison, Dwight Pederson, – Nothing new to report. Discussion took place with the EC subcommittee and guest Aber.

Waterway Subcommittee –

Musconetcong River Management Council – Dwight Pederson –.Nothing new to report as it was mentioned in the above with regards to the Mill.

Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic – Tony Rizzello – Nothing new to report.

Holland Township Sustainable Jersey Green Team – Davina, Mr Keady, Liaison Young –Nothing new to report.

Public Comment: Wes Aber did not have any comments during public comment.

Board Comment:

1. Member Pederson reported that Hovnanian was before the Land Use Board requesting an extension of time for the Huntington Knolls project.
2. Vacant positions on subcommittees – Chairman Keady mentioned that there are vacancies. Tony Rizzello has been assigned to the trails committee. David Harrison is also on the trails committee. Please review to see if there is something else someone is interested in being a part of.

At 8:25 pm David Harrison made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

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Environmental Commission Secretary