

Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

April 3, 2013 – 7 pm Meeting - Reorganization

Chairman Keady called the meeting to order. He read the Open Public Meeting Act. All stood for the pledge of allegiance. All were reminded to turn off their cell phones or put them in silent mode.

Members Present: Jerry Bowers, Henry Gore, Ted Harwick, Chairman Michael Keady, Christopher Meyers, and Secretary Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Members Absent: N/A

Township Committee Liaison: Ray Krov.

Let the record show we have a quorum.

Minutes: A motion was made by Jerry Bowers and seconded by Ted Harwick to approve the minutes of December 5, 2012, January 2, 2013 and February 6, 2013 as present. All present were in favor. Motion carried.

Sub-Committee:

Stormwater Education – Mike Keady, Ted Harwick and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak as Secretary Kozak. Some discussion took place regarding the assembly programs planned for the Holland School as some other ideas for community day. Secretary Kozak will also find out more information from some governmental programs such as the Ambassador program to see if they can provide information or attend out community day. Rutgers Extension has the Rain Barrel program and this can also be explored. Secretary Kozak will also see if the waste haulers have any programs for community day.

Trails – Chris Meyers (chair), Henry Gore and Ted Harwick. Past ideas included publicity on existing trails. Additional discussion has taken place about connections needed for trails that end and begin again with nothing connection them. This gets into an open space and acquisition of land discussion. The Dennis Road/519 trail to the Delaware River is a major focus on connection. After a lot of discussion about trails, Freenways, Hunterdon Land Trust and other agencies, it was decided that public education was priority. A suggestion has come up that this subcommittee create a Trail Map of current trails which would help future discussions of future trails. The subcommittee will work on the map. Henry Gore asked about the proposed Riegel Ridge walkable trail and Liaison Krov said he would look into what progress is being made.

ERI – Jerry Bowers (chair), Mike Keady and Henry Gore. Progress is being made. A meeting with the Highlands Council and the Planner has taken place with more information to follow. The goal is to have something to the subcommittee to review. Chairman Keady will accept all the changes that were made in the original document forwarded to the township and to add the subcommittee comments to the document for Planner Mike Mueller to review. Once Mr. Mueller has reviewed then this document will go to the Highlands Council for their review. The ultimate document will come back to the Environmental Commission for review and recommendation to the Planning Board for adoption. The Planning Board will handle the adoption process which includes a public hearing. Chairman Keady explained that Mr. Mueller will also be working on the Master Plan document and that the Planning Board would follow the adoption process of the ERI and the Master Plan at the same time. One Public Hearing for both documents. Liaison Krov asked for clarification of the process. Everyone has agreed that the public should have the opportunity to review the documents. At the current time, because Holland Township adopted the checklist ordinance we are protected as the Highlands Council does review our applications.

Web Page – Chris Meyers (chair), Jerry Bowers – Nothing to report as the Township still has to determine what they want to do.

Shade Tree and Community Forestry Plan Sub-Committee – Henry Gore and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak as secretary. The DEP has verbally approved the grant. A discussion will need to take place regarding selecting a consultant. We do not have money in place. The DEP will recommend people to perform the service (a list will be provided as these people are committed to the project and have worked with the DEP on the criteria). The Environmental Commission wants to send out proposals and be involved with the selection. Liaison Krov stated that if the amount is just \$3,000.00 then the EC can make the recommendation and then have Secretary Kozak submit a voucher. The Holland portion is in Kind. Once the commitment is received then plans can be made on how to move forward.

2013 Long Term Goals for the Environmental Commission: _____

Jerry Bowers presented a “TO DO” list. It is as follows:

To Do List:

- Complete the ERI
- Complete business notification process re recycling
- Develop a Shade Tree and Community Forestry Plan
- Institutionalize EC review of site plans (with PBP)
- Complete webpage for the EC
- Develop a current/proposed trail map
- Identify HC resources available for site mitigation at Warren Glen and Hughesville mills

Mr. Bowers stated that he noticed that other bodies have established a goal list that defines them. Is this something the EC should look into? Mr. Gore prepared something he thought would help everyone. Mr. Gore believes that it's good to establish goals and to have specific ones rather than general ones. Mr. Bowers had emailed some ideas as well but his were general in nature. Mr. Keady thinks a list helps you make good judgments. Mr. Harwick stated that a “to do” list enables you to have a good list of accomplishments at year end. Mr. Bowers thinks a list nails what the EC is planning to do and thinks a mission statement is good and asked if the EC has one. A suggestion was made regarding the EC

creating an annual work plan thus giving assignments for the year so everyone is aware of the expectations for that year. An additional meeting for brainstorming was suggested but Secretary Kozak reminded everyone that that meeting is still governed by the Open Public Meeting Laws and would have to be noticed (an additional expense for the Township) and that Holland Township policy and procedures need to be followed. The board was asked to come back at the next meeting with their own lists to discuss.

ANJEC trainings – Mr. Bowers has taken the class and recommends it. It is very helpful. The role of the Environmental Commission is advisory. The next training session is March 23, 2013 and all are encouraged to attend. Please let Secretary Kozak know if you are interested in attending.

Mr. Harwick asked for an overview of the EC. Secretary Kozak handed him a book prepared by ANJEC that talks about the role of the Environmental Commission. Mr. Harwick asked if Historical Commission member Joe Becker was asked to serve on the EC. Chairman Keady stated that he is working on a press release for the township regarding volunteer positions available.

Public Comment:

There was no one present in the audience for comment.

At 9:10 Jerry Bowers made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

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Environmental Commission Secretary