

Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

January 8, 2014 – 7 pm Meeting

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, Dwight Pederson, Richard Schrack and Cathy Miller for Secretary Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Absent: N/A

Township Committee Liaison Present: Ray Krov.

Guest: Ron Farr (consultant)

Let the record show we have a quorum.

Minutes: A motion was made by Jerry Bowers and seconded by Henry Gore to approve the minutes of December 4, 2013 as received. All present were in favor of approving the minutes with the exception of Jerry Bowers and Ted Harwick who abstained. Motion carried.

Oaths of Office: The Oaths of Office were given to Mike Keady and Richard Schrack.

Sub-Committees:

Stormwater Education – Mike Keady, Ted Harwick and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak as Secretary Kozak. Secretary Kozak forwarded this memo as a summary:

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TO: Chairman Mike Keady
FROM: Maria Elena Jennette Kozak
Environmental Commission Secretary
DATE: January 7, 2014
RE: 2014 Tier B Municipal Stormwater General Permit Points-PROJECTION

Annual Points needed: 10

As of Today: 1 point (ALREADY DONE)

- Web postings - 1 point
 - Please look at the web site. Some information is available on the home page of the web site as suggested by the past township engineer. If anyone has suggestions please let us know so we can work with our web administrator Melissa Tigar.

Immediate Future: 2 points (CONFIRM WHO IS ON THE SUBCOMMITTEE AT THE JANUARY MEETING - I will then post on the web!

- Created Committee (CSAC) - 2 points
 - 2013 Members: Ted Harwick, Michael Keady, and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak (as secretary)

To be worked on as year progresses.....

- Stormwater Display - 2 points
 - Community Day - September 2014

- Display at Municipal Building - THIS IS ALREADY UP!!!!
 - Posters obtained by State (like TIP cards)
 - Mounted in Black frames
 - Displayed on the lower level of the building
- Partnership Agreement/Local Event - 3 points
 - A cleanup of the River Musconnetcong Watershed Association.
 - Boy scout/girl scouts/School Group - road clean ups. All approved by Al Turdo -
- Mass mailing - 3 points
 - The Stormwater information sheet will be mailed with the 2013 animal registration package distributed to residents in December. The 2013 directory was not done this year and the animal registration is our only other mass media distribution other than taxes.
- Stormwater message on water bottle distribution to Holland Township School - 2 points
 - cost comes out of grant money!
 - Distribution to take place first quarter

Secretary Kozak will forward the subcommittee names to Melissa Tigar for posting on the web. The list will include: Mike Keady, Ted Harwick and Secretary Kozak as the secretary. The outline above was easy to follow by all and agreed upon by all.

Trails – Ted Harwick (chair) and Henry Gore. Discussion took place regarding what is the Environmental Commission looking to accomplish with this subcommittee. Past ideas included: Identification of the trails in Holland Township, locating the gaps between the trails and creating a printed handout for the public where there would be a map with links for more details. It was suggested that Mr. Harwick contacts other people involved with trails to cane assistance, knowledge and guidance on what is out there in terms of help. Mr. Harwick can also investigate the grants available.

Web Page – Jerry Bowers, Dwight Pederson, and Rick Schrack – the links are up. Nothing to report.

Highlands Conformance – Jerry Bowers (chair), Mike Keady and Henry Gore. At the Planning Board of November 11, 2013 the Highlands Council MPE & ERI were adopted. The next step is to review the Land Use Plan preliminary conformance documents prepared and accepted by the Highlands Council in May 2011 and compare to the current Highlands Council model document to see what is the same and what has changed. Planner Mueller could do this but the subcommittee wants a more hands on approach. The current members of the subcommittee want to remain on this subcommittee and believe that the EC has a vested interest in dedicating time to working on the documents. The Planning Board and the Township Committee have the ultimate control over the documents. It was decided that a list of questions need to be developed for a conversation to take place with our liaison Keri Benscoter at the Highlands Council. It was further suggested that the subcommittee should meet first and then schedule a meeting with the Highlands Coalition to obtain their input as well which could also mean a meeting with ANJEC as well. This should take place prior to the February EC meeting so then the findings could be discussed with the EC and then a plan developed. All present were in favor of moving forward with this idea.

Shade Tree and Community Forestry Plan Sub-Committee – Henry Gore, Dwight Pederson and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak as secretary. Henry Gore, Dwight Pederson and secretary Kozak did meet and had comments and questions that needed to be transmitted back to Ron Farr, our consultant on this project. Secretary Kozak met Al Turdo, the supervisor of the Department of Public Works whose questions have also been forwarded to Ron Farr. The document with the comments has been shared with everyone and is attached to the minutes.

Mr. Farr has started a preliminary review of the document and discussions were had by all. It is believed that the document has to be tailored to fit the unique needs of Holland Township. Mr. Gore spoke about passive recreation of municipal lands. There are also public lands involving different agencies. The EC does want to touch on how to utilize the easements of the land which means they have to be identified. It was discussed that some of the document is based on existing funding available with the contingency that other funding could be available in the future. Mr. Bowers believes that we should prioritize what is actually critically important and then identify the drop dead tasks we really

need to do. Mr. Farr explained that the list is a placeholder which then got into a discussion of training and also the possibility of using existing students from local colleges with Landscape and Forestry programs to help with our project. Mr. Farr is in receipt of a Block and Lot listing of our preserved land. Mr. Gore still believes we need a plan managing our desires as we have a stake in the land. It was suggested that Mr. Farr contact Tom Thorsen at the Hunterdon Land Trust at 908 237 4582 to discuss what Hunterdon Land Trust is doing to help maintain the land they have acquired.

After more discussion, it was decided that Mr. Farr will work on draft 2 of the plan (after reviewing the comments and addressing the concerns expressed etc.). This document will be forwarded to the subcommittee. The subcommittee will also have the plan forwarded to the board members. This is to all take place before the February meeting. Chairman Keady did mention that he will not do his "edit" review until the document is more consistent to the goals of the subcommittee and the environmental commission. Per Mr. Keady....He was born to edit so we will see his edits and that of Mr. Bower at a future date.

Mr. Bowers is to forward Mr. Bowers comments regarding draft 1 of the plan. (*****Secretary note::: Mr. Bowers – I could not find your comments but would love to include what you have for Mr. Farr here. If you send them I can insert!)

Additional conversation took place regarding the utility companies and the cutting of trees near wires. Mr. Farr explained that there are two basic issues: the cutting of trees above the wires and the cutting of trees and brush below the wires.

Public Comment: There was no one present in the audience for comment.

At 8:55 Jerry Bowers made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

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Environmental Commission Secretary