

Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

April 2, 2014 – 7 pm Meeting

Chairman Keady called the meeting to order. He read the notice satisfying 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, Robert Thurgarland (sworn in later), Chairman Michael Keady, Dwight Pederson, Richard Schrack and Secretary Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Absent: N/A

Township Committee Liaison Present: Ray Krov.

Let the record show we have a quorum.

Minutes: A motion was made by Jerry Bowers and seconded by Richard Schrack to approve the minutes of March 5, 2014 as received with the comments of Ted Harwick eliminated. All present were in favor of approving the minutes. Motion carried.

Oaths of Office: Township Committee Liaison Ray Krov administered The Oath of Office for Robert Thurgarland. All welcomed Robert Thurgarland.

Sub-Committees:

Stormwater Education – Mike Keady, Ted Harwick and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak as Secretary Kozak. The Musconetcong Watershed Association will be hosting its annual river clean up on April 12, 2014. Member Rick Schrack has signed up to attend this event.

Trails – Ted Harwick (chair), Henry Gore and Richard Schrack. Discussion took place regarding the next steps on the trails. In recent email sent by Secretary Kozak there was mention of a grant regarding the railroad bed right of way usability for trails. Deputy Mayor Bush is going to talk to the County to see what can be done. Discussion about sidewalks came up with a safe route being the focus from the Ridge to the school. There are two big railroad properties that could be developed. Hunterdon Land trust has been working on the use of easements in the township to develop a state trail.

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. Progress is being made in creating a final version of the Highlands Council Land Use Ordinance plan that can be adopted by the township committee. Chairman Keady spoke with Larry LaFevre of the Agricultural Commission to review Agricultural Practices and Historic Preservation. Chairman LaFevre will review the document. The subcommittee is interested in having a discussion with High Bridge or Glen Gardner to see how they have handled the Highlands Council Land Use Ordinance previously approved in comparison to the current version. Basically how did they

integrate the documents so as to make one clean document for approval. Chairman Keady has spoken with the Highlands Coalition about the Nitrate Delusion process as well as to discuss rumors regarding water absorption and the consequences of using the different techniques regarding water calculations. Ted Harwick stated that methodology can be changed from time to time. More conversations took place with Chairman Keady stating he would follow up.

Shade Tree and Community Forestry Plan Sub-Committee – Henry Gore, Dwight Pederson and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak as secretary. The second draft was sent to the subcommittee for review. They have to meet to discuss. The subcommittee has reviewed the second draft and this has been forwarded to consultant Farr. There are some additional comments needed to be reviewed. Liaison Krov has some pages that he needs to review. Pictures are still needed and Ted Harwick has also offered to take some pictures. Henry Gore reminded anyone taking pictures that the pictures should reflect some of the problems as well as some of the characteristics of Holland Township. The properties should be held by the township. The emphasis will also be on the right-of-way. The goal would be to have Mr. Farr address what the subcommittee brought to his attention and to have back to the Secretary Kozak for distribution for the next schedule Environmental Commission meeting.

Organic Lawn Maintenance Techniques – Dwight Pederson was interested in knowing if the Township considered organic lawn maintenance techniques for township properties. He has noticed the flags for pesticides. He is not in favor of that practice. Liaison Krov said we could obtain a quote however after an additional discussion which included “GREEN” discussion it was indicated that this practice is coast prohibitive.

Gas Pipeline Project – Jerry Bowers questioned the project at the end of Cyphers Road. The drainage ditch is larger than before. There is a clean ditch down to the Musconnetcong. It looks like Stormwater is gathering into the ditch and channeled to the Musconnetcong. Questions came to be about the water from the Hughesville plant going under-ground to the ditch and out to the Musconnetcong. Fluid from the now defunct plant is being captured in the new ditch. Ted Harwick stated that the ditch on the west side has always been there and he does not see the potential from “bad stuff” from the paper-mill as being a new issue. Both Ted Harwick and Jerry Bowers will look into this.

Open Space ANJEC class – if anyone is interested in attending please contact Secretary Kozak.

County GIS discussion – Robert Thurgarland asked if Holland Township has contacted the County to work with their GIS system. Secretary Kozak will ask consultant Farr if he has contacted the County with regards to the Forestry Plan.

NJ Fish & Wildlife Deer Survey – Secretary Kozak forwarded the request to complete this survey to all members. Henry Gore stated that he hoped everyone would take the time to do the survey. There are some concerns with wildlife and he thinks this should be an agenda item for the Environmental Commission. We should volunteer for programs that exist.

Land Acquisition – discussion took place about property for sale in Holland with emphasis on the 40 acres available on the corner of Route 519 and Route 614. After much discussion, liaison Krov stated that he would take back to the Township Committee that the Environmental Commission expressed their opinion that we should be a stakeholder.

Ted Harwick – talked about the Environmental Commission purchasing their own t-shirts to be worn at community events. Each member would pay for his own shirt. More information to follow.

Public Comment: Cheryl Thurgarland was in the audience and had no comments. There was no one else present in the audience for comment.

At 8:25 Jerry Bowers made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

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Environmental Commission Secretary