

Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

June 4, 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, Chairman Michael Keady, Dwight Pederson, Richard Schrack and Secretary Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Absent: Township Committee Liaison Ray Krov (Alternate Liaison Thomas Schiebener was also unavailable)

Township Committee Liaison Present: N/A.

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 May 7, 2014. Motion carried.

Sub-Committees:

Stormwater Education – Mike Keady, Ted Harwick and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak as Secretary Kozak.

Holland Township Community Day – September 6, 2014. County Community Day June 21, 2014 and all decided to just attend the event and not participate. Dwight Pederson and Robert Thurgarland to attend and report back. Jerry Bowers will notify the Holland Township Volunteer Fire Company that their services will not be needed for the event.

Trails – Ted Harwick (chair), Robert Thurgarland and Richard Schrack. Nothing to report. There are grant opportunities and they will be investigated.

Web Page – Jerry Bowers, Dwight Pederson, and Rick Schrack – the links are up. Nothing to report. Secretary Kozak to make sure the www.treeownersmanual.info page link is on the website.

Highlands Conformance – Jerry Bowers (chair), Mike Keady and Henry Gore. Chairman Keady has been working on Green Team certifications with Sustainable Jersey. Nothing to report. The goal is to get the document to the Township Committee by the September meeting.

Shade Tree and Community Forestry Plan Sub-Committee – Henry Gore, Robert Thurgarland, Dwight Pederson and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak as secretary. Round 3 of the proposed plan and members had comments. The township has to make decisions with the plan. Suggestions include creating a written procedure to address township tree maintenance & removal. Henry Gore explained in detail his memo dated June 4, 2014 explaining it referenced the prior draft (round 2) and not the current draft (round 3). He would revise his comments and they will be included in the minutes. See below.

Comm. Forestry Management Plan Draft – Additions, Comments and Corrections

Henry Gore
June 8, 2014

1. Who is responsible to maintain trees on public right of way?

Page 33 4a. Private landowners responsible.

Page 18 7a. Property owners notify twp. of hazard trees, implying the twp. is going to do something and eventually remove them.

Page 20 Twp. maintenance and removal policy unwritten. Should we have a goal under CSIP #8 (page32) to have written procedures?

Page 33 objective for CSIP#8. Since the twp. probably does not budget for tree maintenance, removal and planting, should we include an objective to apply for a grant for these purposes?

Page 17 Enviro Comm role in twp. tree maintenance. What are the roles of the EC? Shouldn't these be included in the written procedures to be developed?

2. Applying for CSIP grants is a key feature, but we need a mechanism for identifying possible grants, applying for them, prioritizing them and managing them. A plan to develop this grant program should be included possibly on page 36.

3. Others sequentially.

a. Page 9. Delete "The township petitioned...entire...preservation..." Twp. did not petition.

b. Page 14. In tact to intact

d. Page 17. inter alia to "among other things" would avoid confusion.

e. Page 19. Public Utilities. How do we get them to work with the twp. and EC? Can a goal to develop and improve this cooperation be included in the plan?

f. Page 20. Volunteer pool. How do we grow this? Should it be included in the plan? What decision is needed by the Twp. Comm?

g. Page 20 1c. Trees ordinance . Do we need to expand Ch. 164? The ordinance is limited.

h. Page 24. 1b DPW training. Rewrite- workers are more specialized and cross training is not emphasized.

I. Page 26. Contractor Safety training for tree work. Delete reference to Morris Co. training. Should these requirements be included in the written procedures to be developed?

J. Page 26. panning to planning

l. Page 30. The twp. had no fatal tree accidents? This should be rewritten to reference nearby twps.

m. Page 33. Add "CSIP" to title

n. Page 34. fry to dry

o. Page 38. CSIP#15 first para. Complete last sentence.

q. Page 45 CSIP 9 ???

r. Page 46. Storm Water Management – Should this be expanded to natural drainage and other stream improvement projects?

4. Some EC members are concerned that "We are biting off more than we can chew." It was suggested that tasks and CSIP grant applications be prioritized. The plan needs to show this simply.

Mike Keady and Jerry Bowers need to editorially review the draft before final

Jerry Bowers also sent comments on Round 3. Primarily he wants to know the priorities. Bethany Ridge should be a priority. He believes we need to know the line-up of the tasks. What is the sequence? Henry Gore did remind everyone this is a working document. The timeline needs to be worked on. Jerry Bowers stated that this is up to Holland Township and Henry Gore reminded everyone that we hired the consultant. Secretary Kozak has more information to send to Consultant Farr.

Robert Thurgarland suggested moving the document along. The budget section was discussed. Robert Thurgarland questioned being specific or making more of a broad statement. The Subcommittee agreed to meet either June 6th at 9 am or June 9th at 5pm. All submitted comments to be filtered to the subcommittee for review.

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

Ted Harwick –nothing to update regarding t-shirts.

Henry Gore – the house near him has some issues. Secretary Kozak gave him the zoning complaint form for the Zoning Officer to follow up with.

Chairman Keady reminded everyone of the past effort to get local businesses to recycle. The letter went out in the past and Recycling Coordinator Al Turdo did visit several of the locations. There are still outstanding issues. A second letter was drafted but then there were scheduling conflicts with the follow up for the coordinator. There was no time to execute the follow up. Chairman Keady sent out a report. Committeeman

Vogel recently mentioned that he has noticed that other businesses are not recycling. The Township Committee was reminded that the recycling coordinator had no time to follow up.

Robert Thurgarland presented a newsletter created by West Amwell Township. Everyone was very interested in the newsletter and it was suggested that Holland Township could create something similar. More information to follow for the August meeting.

At 8:50 Ted Harwick made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

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Environmental Commission Secretary