

Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

July 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, Robert Thurgarland, Chairman Michael Keady, Dwight Pederson, Richard Schrack and Secretary Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Absent: Ted Harwick

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 Rick Schrack to approve the minutes of June 4, 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. Dwight Pederson will contact Riegel Ridge Director Jessica Neglia to let her know the size of the area needed for community day for the Stormwater education project similar to last year. Rick Schrack and Ray Krov have the little pools needed for this event. No one was able to attend the County Community Day but Chairman Keady will contact Larry LaFevre as a follow up.

Trails – Ted Harwick (chair), Robert Thurgarland and Richard Schrack. Ongoing reference to grant opportunities were discussed. Rick Schrack is looking into more grants. He has spoken with Monroe County and DOT. The one deadline for a grant has passed but by reviewing this year you can be preparing for next year. More discussion to take place at the next meeting.

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. Jerry Bowers and Robert Thurgarland reviewed the site of West Amwell. More investigation to take place on how to incorporate some of their ideas into our website. Liaison Krov mentioned that the Township Committee is looking into firms to redesign the municipal website but to date nothing has happened. The Ridge is also trying to update their website as well. Currently Melissa Tigar is still working on the website and is our contact. Ray Krov will keep us updated on changes with the website.

Highlands Conformance – Jerry Bowers (chair), Mike Keady and Henry Gore. No major update on the progress being made toward adoption of the final version of the Highlands Land Use Ordinance by the Township Committee. The sub-committee has worked on questions for Keri Benscoter and Mike Mueller.

Shade Tree and Community Forestry Plan Sub-Committee – Henry Gore, Robert Thurgarland, Dwight Pederson and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak as secretary. Discussion of the second draft of the plan from consultant Ron Farr has to be worked on with the sub-committee. We need to create one document incorporating all suggestions, comments and concerns. We need consistency. The goal will be to have another draft version for presentation to everyone with Consultant Farr attending a meeting. Sequencing is the priority. The goal will be to have this to everyone the Friday before the August 6, 2014 meeting.

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

New Jersey Shade Tree Federation membership – to be discussed at a future date.

DEP Recycling Award – If someone is interested in doing this please step up. Chairman Keady did the Sustainable Jersey Recycling Center discussion. Our tonnage has increased in part because of Georgia Pacific now reporting its tonnage to us. Someone is welcome to review what Mike Keady has prepared but Mike Keady is not interested in working on this award. After some additional discussion no one else was interested in doing this either.

County update – Deputy Mayor Bush mentioned that the County is looking for partners to help collect packing material for recycling. Holland is exploring this option with the county. As more information comes it this will be discussed.

Planning Board Block 2 Lot 9 – PS&S (Elizabeth Gas Gilbert II Pig Launcher)-Bellis Road & Cyphers – Minor Site Plan – Received into our office May 19, 2014 – 45-day completeness deadline is July 3, 2014. Board Action needed. Deemed Complete June 9, 2014 – public hearing scheduled for July 13, 2014. Secretary Kozak had the file for review. Chairman Keady explained that he listened to the applicant's discussion for completeness determination and that the PIG is basically released once every seven years as required by the government to inspect the pipeline. Henry Gore expressed concern about the landscape and thought that someone needs to find out if gas is being released. Henry Gore also stated that he is interested in the trail and this presents an option to connect the Highlands Trail in the area and that the planning board can ask for them to do this. Secretary Kozak reminded all that the applicant is not the owner of the property. After lengthy discussion, Mike Keady said he would discuss this at the Planning Board hearing but also encouraged members of the Environmental Commission to attend the meeting as residents.

Liaison Krov handed out an invitation to all regarding his retirement party. There is a RSVP date of August 1, 2014 and all our welcome to attend to help celebrate his decision.

At 8:15 Jerry Bowers made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

Environmental Commission Secretary