

Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

August 6, 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, Richard Schrack and Secretary Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Absent: Ted Harwick and Dwight Pederson

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 Robert Thurgarland to approve the minutes of July 2, 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 is working with Riegel Ridge Director Jessica Neglia regarding the size of the area needed for the Stormwater education project similar to last year. Rick Schrack and Ray Krov have the little pools needed for this event. The Environmental Commission will also have a table with information. The handouts are ready along with the education project prizes.

Trails – Ted Harwick (chair), Robert Thurgarland and Richard Schrack. Ongoing reference to grant opportunities was discussed. Rick Schrack found grant information but nothing is available for now. This is something that you can start planning for next year and Rick Schrack has the links to follow up with. Robert Thurgarland has been asked to work with the group that is forming to look at what can be done with the Bethany Ridge/Holland Park property. He will act as the Trail liaison for the Environmental Commission and mention the hope for developing more trails in Holland Township.

Web Page – Jerry Bowers, Dwight Pederson, and Rick Schrack – the links are up. Nothing to report. No new firm has been hired for enhancement of the Holland Township website. Liaison 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 and will schedule a meeting. Chairman Keady is also working with Agricultural Committee Chairman LaFevre to finalize any questions pertaining to the agricultural portion of the document. Mr. LaFevre is to also look at Scenic resources. It was also mentioned that the Planning Board needs to work on a historic checklist and that Planner McKenzie has worked on something that will be brought to the attention of the planning board. The Zoning Map element has been discussed and secretary Kozak has tried to obtain old documents. After much discussion, Robert Thurgarland did mention that we could work with the county GIS mapping unit. Secretary Kozak will work with various people including the mayor and the township engineer on how to move forward. Mike Keady has been working with the Highlands Coalition and is planning on setting up a meeting with John Thonet to get a better understanding of calculating nitrate dilution. More information to be provided.

At 7:30 pm Liaison Krov left the meeting for a prior engagement.

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 and a new draft was submitted to the sub-committee. This will be forwarded to all the members by Secretary Kozak. Ron Farr was unable to attend this meeting and will be contacted about attending the September meeting. The subcommittee will review and send to secretary any questions of concerns which will then be forwarded to Mr. Farr.

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

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 the Gas Company was ok with building trails near the pipeline but it would be the owner who has the final say about the public being on their private property. This is something that is being encouraged but cannot be enforced without the approval of the property owner. .

At 8:30 Jerry Bowers made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

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Environmental Commission Secretary