

Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

January 6, 2016 – 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, Chairman Michael Keady, Dwight Pederson, Richard Schrack, Robert Thurgarland, and Secretary Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Absent: n/a

Township Committee Liaison Absent: Ray Krov

Township Committee Alternate Liaison Present: Tom Scheibener

Let the record show we have a quorum.

Minutes: The reading of the minutes of December 2, 2015 were tabled..

2016 Environmental Goals:

Secretary Kozak will look for old notes and distribute.

Proposed Penn East Natural Gas Line through Holland Township – Update of the Pipeline Subcommittee (Dan Bush, Larry LaFevre, Mike Keady and Ken Vogel).

Discussion took place about what is next for PennEast. Help will be needed to analyze and offer suggestions. Chairman Keady will talk with Deb Kratzner who penned the 2007 Holland Township ERI. Ms. Kratzner also recently interviewed with Holland Township by the PennEast subcommittee. They are looking at a professional to review the ERI when it is released. Naturally any commentary will be distributed to all. Chairman Keady will work with Ms. Kratzner on preparing a budget for review. He will also work with the citizens group to see what other groups are doing.

PennEast has proposed two major changes in the Holland Township route. The resource reports have been filed. There is “stuff” missing. FERC has asked for classification. PennEast submitted additional information. PennEast is now showing the blasting areas. Holland Township is in the Blasting Zone. The latest development is that agreements have been sent out to homeowners with a price. There was an easement discussion. If the homeowners sign the agreement it does not mean that just the pipeline has access. The Pipeline can sell the easement or they can relocate using eminent domain. What the homeowner is “selling” or “agreeing can be used” is not necessarily clean cut. There are no provisions on how the company can use the easement. Discussions took place about the proposed new route. It has been moved closer to the river and parallels the high tension wires. The current right of way will probably be extended. Secretary Kozak will send Deputy Mayor Bush and Utilities liaison Ken Vogel the maps that have been sent out recently to see if these can be posted on the web. Chairman Keady is suggesting that we need to be prepared for the ERI and be able to review and comment as soon as it is released. There were DEP and EPA conversations. Tom Scheibener asked if there have been any studies regarding the streams which went into a discussion about the various reports about C1 streams, trout reproduction, stream silt etc.

Community Day – expansion of the EC involvement in community day took place. The possibility of combining a Green Day celebration took place and all were in favor of the idea. The Rain Barrel contact: Stephanie Bacskai sbacs@hollandschool.org representing the Rutgers Cooperative extension for Rain Barrels is still interested in participating in Community Day with the EC. If the Pipeline is still a hot topic then the

Holland Concerned Citizens Against the Pipeline will probably be interested in attending. Chairman Keady will see if Professor Onstott from Princeton, the arsenic expert, would also be interested. More info to follow.

Hunterdon County Open Space Plan - - The plan was submitted to the Planning Board and Environmental Commission by secretary Kozak who noted that no comments were received back. Discussion took place about the plan. Questions came up about county owned property on page 35 and the goal to support park systems. Jerry Bowers stated that he thought the county supported municipal projects but the report constantly refers to county projects. A County Open Space Tax discussion took place. The object of the plan was discussed and Holland needs to look at where the county can use the open space money. An example discussed would include Holland Park and if you put in horse trails you will need parking and potential bathroom facilities. Discussion went back and forth on how to devise a list of projects, however, a list is not what is being requested. Bob Thurgarland asked all to look at page 36 to look at wording....goals continued support... more discussion took place about expanding the wording in the document. After additional discussions, all were advised to submit their comments to Chairman Keady who will shape it to be advantageous for Holland Township and submit accordingly.

Sub-Committees:

Stormwater Education – Mike Keady, Robert Thurgarland and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak as Secretary Kozak. Secretary Kozak will have the final report for 2015 submitted to the Township Engineer by the end of the week. The report will be sent to the EC members and the summary page will be in the next minutes.

Trails – Ted Harwick (chair), Robert Thurgarland and Richard Schrack.

Jerry Bowers – Hunterdon Land Trust suggested GPS plotting and mapping of the Holland Highlands Trails (the Kolonia and Saeger property). Nothing new to report. Jerry Bowers is working on the interim report for the ANJEC Grant. Please submit your hours to Jerry Bowers for his report. Bob Thurgarland will do the GIS after Brittany Wieder and Mr. Thorson blaze and mark the trails.

Another goal for the trails committee is to obtain additional grants to plan on additional projects.

Web Page – Jerry Bowers, Dwight Pederson, and Rick Schrack –updating to the website is taking place. If you see additional corrections that are needed please send them to Secretary Kozak.

Highlands Conformance – Jerry Bowers (chair), Mike Keady and Henry Gore. Chairman Keady will work with Secretary Kozak and Group Melvin. More information to follow.

Shade Tree and Community Forestry Plan Sub-Committee – Henry Gore, Robert Thurgarland, Dwight Pederson and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak as secretary. Secretary Kozak forwarded an email received from the state regarding the plan. The update is as follows:

Good morning Ms. Kozak,

Congratulations! Your community's Community Forestry Management Plan (CFMP) has been approved. Please find attached to this email an electronic copy of the approval letter for the 2015-2019 CFMP and certificate of approval. The hard copy of your approved CFMP and accompanying documentation is being delivered through the traditional post, so be on the lookout for it.

We look forward to working with you to bring your community into compliance with the Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act. The approved plan is the first step, now comes the training. For details on the training requirements please refer to the program guidelines available at www.communityforestry.nj.gov.

The State Forestry Service has partnered with the Rutgers Urban Forestry program to bring you the most up to date and comprehensive education through CORE training and continuing education unit (CEU) courses. For more information on CORE and course opportunities, please contact Pam Zipse at the Rutgers Urban Forestry Program at pam.zipse@rutgers.edu.

If you are a participant in the Green Communities grant program you can now request payment by electronically submitting the following documents to richard.leopold@dep.nj.gov :

- 1.The attached payment voucher with section (F) signed by the Chief Financial Officer.
- 2.Invoices documenting work performed for this GC grant.
- 3.A copy of cancelled check(s), as proof of payment. (Invoices supported by payment orders are also acceptable)
- 4.Proof of in-kind match with printed and signed signature, on municipal letter head. eg. Names of volunteers, volunteer hours, and rate.

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please let me know. You can also feel free to reach out to our State Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator, Carrie Sargeant, at Carrie.Sargeant@dep.nj.gov or 609-633-2320.

Sincerely,

Richard Leopold

Urban and Community Forestry

NJDEP, State Forestry Services

Email: Richard.Leopold@dep.nj.gov

Office Phone: (609) 292-2532

All are being asked to send secretary Kozak a listing of the hours they spent on this project as well as what they did (justification of the hours). Once received Secretary Kozak will work on getting reimbursed from the state.

Public Comment: No comments.

Board Members Ted Harwick distributed a handout about Bears.

Oath of Office: Committeeman Scheibener administered the Oath of Office for reappointments to:

Dwight Pederson, Henry Gore, Robert Thurgarland

All were thanked for their ongoing dedication to the Environmental Commission.

Secretary Kozak reviewed the approved 2016 meeting schedule as follows:

Township of Holland
Environmental Commission

2016 Meetings

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Environmental Commission, Township of Holland, County of Hunterdon, New Jersey, will hold their regular meetings on the following dates in 2016 at 7:00 P.M. at the Holland Township Municipal Building, 61 Church Road, Milford, NJ. Meetings are open to the public.

Meeting Dates

January 6, 2016 (Reorganization Meeting)
February 3, 2016
March 2, 2016
April 6, 2016
May 4, 2016
June 1, 2016
July 6, 2016
August 3, 2016
September 7, 2016
October 5, 2016
November 2, 2016
December 7 2016
January 4, 2017 (Reorganization Meeting)

At 8:55 pm Bob Thurgarland made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

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Environmental Commission Secretary