

Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

December 6, 2017 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, David Harrison , Ted Harwick, Mike Keady, Dwight Pederson, Rick Schrack and Secretary Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Present: Township Committee Liaison: Robert Thurgarland

Absent: Susan Meacham and Rick Schrack

Let the record show we have a quorum.

Minutes: The approval of the minutes of November 1, 2017 was tabled.

PennEast Pipeline update: Susan Meacham and Mike Keady – Not much has happened. A lot of activity with comments with FERC. A recent article appeared and attacked FERC. The public good has not been established and that is why there is a lawsuit.

Sub-Committees:

Stormwater Education – Mike Keady, Rick Schrack and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak as Secretary –nothing new to report. Secretary Kozak will prepare a status report.

Trails – Ted Harwick, Jerry Bowers and Richard Schrack. – Progressing. Pictures are being taken and all are aware that the project needs to be completed by April. Suggestions are still being offered that we need to post basic rules in the park.

Community Education and Outreach – Jerry Bowers, Dwight Pederson, and Susan Meacham – If you see additional corrections that are needed please send them to Secretary Kozak. The link is as follows: <http://www.hollandtownshipnj.gov/14-ec/46-environmental-commission.html>. All were still encouraged to think about how to publicize the Trails. Mapping will need to be created etc.

Highlands Conformance – Jerry Bowers and Mike Keady. The Township Committee adopted the Highlands Land Use Ordinance and Zoning Map at the scheduled meeting of November 8, 2017. Planner Green did a presentation similar to the presentation before the Planning Board. Although there were a few members of the public present for the public hearing some people did ask questions and expressed concerns and opinions. EC member Ted Harwick wanted to continue the discussion of his opinion that land values have been depreciated but was advised to contact the Highlands Council to discuss Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) and to talk about other options landowners might have.

Shade Tree and Community Forestry Plan Sub-Committee – Henry Gore, Ted Harwick, Dwight Pederson and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak as secretary.

Tree Markers – Teamwork has enabled progress to be made. The team is working on creating the plaques and in creating an interactive map. This all evolved from the tree seminar at the Riegel Ridge Community Center and has us creating plaques to identify 6 different trees which will have the ability to have a QR code on them that when someone uses their personal smartphone with a map that identifies the code will link them to our township website with a tree page created for each tree species we are identifying. Together we are working on information that will appear on the webpage as well as an interactive map that will also link to the webpage. The project is very exciting and is something that we can continue to build upon. We would like to do an Arbor Day Celebration, proclamation and a plaque reveal. Arbor Day is April 27, 2018.

Inventory on Fauna and Flora subcommittee - David Harrison, Rick Schrack, Dwight Pederson - Fauna is all of the animal life of any particular region or time. The corresponding term for plants is **flora**. **Flora, fauna** and other forms of life such as fungi are collectively referred to as biota. David Harrison used a flowchart similar to the one used by the Tree subcommittee. After much discussion, it was suggested that this subcommittee confine the area to that of the Holland Park property as a good starting place for this project. The focus will be on birds and trees for 2018 and each year the subcommittee can build upon the field of study. The project will take a lot of time and will also need many volunteers. Once data is gathered, the Holland Township website can be used similar to the Tree project.

Henry Gore asked the members to consider ordinances that would apply to township parks and township owned land regarding protection. The Highlands Council is working on a forestry plan which would translate to potential grant money being available for towns. The Highlands Council is of the opinion that they should have something in place within the year. If Holland has some patience then if grant money and model ordinances becomes available then that would help Holland with this project.

Public Comment: No comments were expressed.

At 8:45 pm made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

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Environmental Commission Secretary