

Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

January 2, 2013 – 7 pm Meeting - Reorganization

Chairman Keady called the meeting to order. He read 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.

Township Committee Alternate Liaison Thomas Scheibener swore in new member Ted Harwick (appointed at the January 1, 2013 Township Committee reorganization meeting) along with the reappointments of Henry Gore and Ruth Kinney. All stood to recite the Oath. Chairman Keady welcomed all.

Members Present: Jerry Bowers, Henry Gore, Ted Harwick, Chairman Michael Keady, Ruth Kinney, Christopher Meyers, and Secretary Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Members Absent: N/A

Township Committee Alternate Liaison: Thomas Scheibener announced that Ray Krov will be the Liaison and will be present at the meetings while Thomas Scheibener will serve as alternate and will attend as needed.

Let the record show we have a quorum.

Minutes: The approval of the minutes from the December 5, 2012 meeting was tabled.

Sub-Committee:

Stormwater Education – Mike Keady, Ruth Kinney, Ted Harwick and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak as secretary.

Trails – Chris Meyers (chair), Henry Gore and Ted Harwick. In December Mayor Bush sent out an endorsement from the Township Committee for trails in Holland Township. Chairman Keady is to send out the letter to everyone with the Trail committee doing a follow-up.

ERI – Jerry Bowers (chair), Mike Keady and Henry Gore

Web Page – Chris Meyers (chair), Jerry Bowers, and Ruth Kinney

Shade Tree and Community Forestry Plan Sub-Committee – Henry Gore and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak as secretary. The focus will be on town owned property. Thomas Scheibener expressed that the Township Committee thought it was interesting. No one is looking to tell people what they can do with the trees on their property.

Henry Gore requested that the sub-committees be listed on the monthly agenda so that people will know what is going on. He believes that people need reminders for what they committed to.

Environmental Commission Open Positions:

Some past member names were discussed. Secretary Kozak reminded everyone of the process. Anyone who is interested in a volunteer position in Holland Township needs to fill in the Volunteer Form available on the township website or at the Municipal Building. After turning the submitted form into Cathy Miller, the forms are reviewed by the Mayor. The forms are kept on file. The Mayor and Township Committee may review the file at any time. Mike Keady said he would reach out to his Friends of Holland Highlands member to see if anyone is interested. Environmental Commission members are appointed by the Mayor.

Secretary Kozak will work with Cathy Miller and Melissa Tigar to place the volunteer form on the front page and to also put something together that would inform people what is available. The Environmental Commission is suggesting a BLOG style for the home page. They suggest letting the public know what is needed and what is happening.

ANJEC and Commercial Solar Installations on Farmland:

Chairman Keady will follow up. The board wants to know if there are ways to balance the “inherently beneficial” designation for solar installations with a recognition that farmland and food are also “inherently beneficial”. As a reminder, an applicant can always go before the Board of Adjustment. The new law gives local jurisdiction more cards and we are looking towards ANJEC for more guidance. We do not want to reinvent the wheel.

Recycling:

The Environmental Commission questioned the Township Alternate Liaison Thomas Scheibener on how we can accomplish our initiative to get more Holland businesses and institutions to recycle when our recycling coordinator has seemingly too many job duties to work on this project? Secretary Kozak was asked to contact Mr. Turdo and to follow up with him and to cc Mr. Scheibener.

Public Comment:

There was no one present in the audience for comment.

At 8:40 Christopher Meyers made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

Environmental Commission Secretary