

Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

October 2, 2013 – 7 pm Meeting

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.

Members Present: Henry Gore, Ted Harwick, Chairman Michael Keady, Dwight Pederson, Richard Schrack and Secretary Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Absent: Jerry Bowers

Township Committee Liaison Present: Ray Krov.

Guest: Ronald Farr

Let the record show we have a quorum.

Minutes: A motion was made by Richard Schrack and seconded by Henry Gore to approve the minutes of September 4, 2013 as received. All present were in favor of approving the minutes. Motion carried.

Sub-Committees:

Stormwater Education – Mike Keady, Ted Harwick and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak as Secretary Kozak. Nothing to report.

Trails – Ted Harwick (chair) and Henry Gore. Nothing to report.

Web Page – Jerry Bowers – Nothing to report.

ERI – Jerry Bowers (chair), Mike Keady and Henry Gore. Nothing to report.

Shade Tree and Community Forestry Plan Sub-Committee – Henry Gore, Dwight Pederson and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak as secretary. Consultant Ron Farr was present to discuss moving forward with the Community Forestry Plan. The workshop session is to discuss expectations. Once our plan is approved by the state we have to fulfill the following tasks:

CSIP# 1 Training - request 1 employee and 1 volunteer become core trained. One session is in the spring and one is in the fall. The spring session will be in the northern part of the state and the fall session will be more southern in the Cherry Hill area. This training can be done in one day. The Cherry Hill location is really good training. The Core training takes place on a Friday and a Saturday. Alex McCarthy is the only one left in the NJ DEP forestry department at this time. 200 towns are participating in the plan. The Township Committee needs to pick who they want as the employee designee. Every year you will need 8 education units pertaining to trees. If the designated employee is from DPW, then they often have classes that overlap. Mr. Farr could come in to do a training session if approved by the state. He is less expensive than Rutgers. The Plan has to be done before we start training. Indemnification with the Forestry Plan includes having to do the training pretty quickly.

X CSIP# 2 Community Forestry Ordinance Establishment - Hopefully the RMP that the Highlands Council has will help Holland Township. High Bridge has a tree ordinance that is extensive. Some towns have ordinances that say if you cut x amount of trees then you need to replenish with x amount of trees. We need to look towards the Highlands Council to see if they have some model ordinances. We need to defer to them on this request.

X CSIP# 3 Public Education and Awareness – Basically the goal is to plant trees and receive praise. Working with the school is a good way to get such credit. Need to put the information on the web. We need to

get planting guidelines posted on the web. Mr. Gore had an informative booklet that we need to post on the web. Working together with JCP&L to see if there is any tree information available for protecting the wires would also be informative and a great opportunity to place information for the public on the web.

X CSIP# 4 Arbor Day Activities – this is ceremonial plantings. The Township Committee needs to adopt a resolution formally adopting Arbor Day in April. We will then need to do a planting somewhere in the township. A school event would count. It needs to be a formal adoption. The planting should be native. The state has a program for third graders and we should look into participating and making sure our third graders get a tree.

X CSIP# 5 Tree Inventory – Identification of the trees within the township right of way. This is harder to do. This definitely needs to be looked at for a grant to do this project. It involves species, diameter and location. This is actual accounting. It is all based on available funding. This is street trees along the roads.

X CSIP# 6 Hazard Tree Assessment – You cannot predict when the trees will fall down but you can closely predict it. You can take out the worst of the worst of the bad trees and reduce the chance of problems. It all depends on funding. You would need to work with the regional JCP&L to clean up the trees. Working with the power company is helpful. We are concerned with a tree falling on someone and they are concerned with a tree landing on the wires. We need to work together. It saves money in the end.

X CSIP# 7 Storm Damage Assessment – This used to be storm damage response. Usually there is an agreement with another agency if a disaster happens and someone has to come in to help you clean up for safety.

X CSIP# 8 Tree Maintenance and Removals – pruning and hazard tree survey and grant funding is used to actually do #6 from the list above. This is follow up. Generally it is difficult for the DPW to go around and do clean up with ongoing pruning as there are other jobs that take priority.

X CSIP# 9 Insect and Disease Management – This is if an outbreak takes place. We apply for funding to spray the trees. Any inspection or disease could be handled under a grant in this category.

X CSIP# 10 Wildfire Protection – could be an issue for us. Do we have a plan with OEM? The Fire Company? The state has funding if we want to become a fire wise community. State fire might come out and do training for our firemen. Wild Land Fire training is really what this is often referred to.

X CSIP# 11 Tree Planting – If you want to do tree planting on township property. You can apply for a grant. This can be done for wild life management. Could be used to put trees in to surround a field for shade – we can incorporate the school too.

X CSIP# 12 Tree Recycling – example....take a big tree down and try to make the boards out of it to be used for lumber in a house. There is a company in Newark that actually converts the tree to benches or gazebos etc. The goal is to keep some trees out of the chipper. There is talk about a company in Camden as well. Another option is to cut the tree down and offer the tree to the residents for firewood.

X CSIP# 13 Sidewalk Maintenance Program – nothing really pertains to Holland for this.

X CSIP# 14 Storm Water Management – Holland Township is Tier B. The best practice for Storm Water Management is to plant more trees. Generally Township Engineers are not thrilled about this concept.

X CSIP# 15 Other – The list that Mr. Gore prepared was discussed. It was mentioned that a grant could exist to investigate Township Municipal easements. Bethany Ridge was discussed and how the Diocese was eager to sell and that is why Holland was able to purchase the land in about two months. We could see if there is a grant to explore things that could be done with Bethany Ridge. There could be plantings done on the preserved land. We should look at Township owned land first. Then we should look at land owned by non-profit organizations. We can work with the agencies engaged in active stewardship of the land. The future goal is to better develop trails which ties into grants being

available for such programs. Look at other municipalities that have done this and see how they went about it. Mr. Krov spoke about Bethany Ridge and how it is a wonderful purchase for the township as the access road to the Rigel Ridge Community Center was previously owned by the Diocese but now that the Township owns it we can do more. The new purchase abuts town owned property along with the county and the state. It is a beautiful park setting.

A tree Ordinance was discussed and how that can help with new developments. The Highlands Council is working on something so we should wait for them. Also we need to promote Native Plants first.

We can work with the Hunterdon County Tree Commission. Mr. McCarthy mentioned they have a plan but are revising it. Mr. Farr will check with the county as they also maintain some of the roads.

Discussion of view sheds and how to stop people from interfering with your view. Mr. Keady said he was not sure how to approach that but probably thru land use ordinances.

Infrastructure changes will have to be approached probably thru land use ordinances.

Deer Management eating trees could be discussed under another topic such as forest stewardship.

Recap....Mr. Farr will work on the plan for the state which could be about 40 pages. Secretary Kozak was asked to obtain any history information for Mr. Farr. We will review the proposal before it goes to the state for approval. It's a five year plan. We will do yearly follow-ups. We can seek additional grants to perform tasks. Amendments would need to be approved by the state but are possible. Mr. Farr can work with us on the grant process as well. You will need to identify what you want to do, write it up often following the format and present a budget. It will take about three months to put the plan together. If we want to include pictures we need to take them and Ted Harwick offered to do this. We will need a list corresponding to the pictures – where the tree is located etc.

Misc

Nothing to report.

Public Comment:

There was no one present in the audience for comment.

At 9:10 Richard Schrack made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

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Environmental Commission Secretary