

# Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

July 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, Ted Harwick, Mike Keady, Susan Meacham, Dwight Pederson, Rick Schrack and Secretary Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Absent: Township Committee Liaison: Robert Thurgarland

Guest: Mayor, Dan Bush

Let the record show we have a quorum.

Minutes: A motion was made by Jerry Bowers and seconded by Susan Meacham to approve the June 6, 2017 minutes as presented. All present were in favor with the exception of Ted Harwick who abstained. Motion carried.

PennEast Pipeline Update: Mike Keady and Susan Meacham reported that the NJDEP refused the PennEast extension request for permits. It is all in the hands of Washington now. The 2 nominees for FERC did come out of committee.

Some of the required studies were not able to be completed and were time sensitive. PennEast had hoped to have things ready for 2018 but that does not sound feasible. Since the DEP rejected the application, PennEast has to start all over again. Chairman Keady spoke with an attorney about Eminent Domain and that they cannot make preserved farms “go away” even if the farmer wants to let them on the property. He was told it would still have to go thru the courts. Susan Meacham stated that you can challenge the terms they will pay you but you cannot challenge the under lying “taking of the land”. Preserved land is a public entity at times so the township would have a say in the process. Protecting the public good vs protecting the public good was discussed. All agreed that it will take time for Eminent Domain to come into play.

Conservation Blueprint Project:

Mike Keady and Susan Meacham attended this event.

## **The Conservation Blueprint Project**

*Land Priorities for Farms, Habitat, Water and People*

***Information Session &  
Wine-Tasting***

***Tuesday, June 27  
6:00pm***

Four Sisters Winery

785 County Road 519 Belvidere

Join ANJEC and partners to learn about the Conservation Blueprint Project. Blueprint is a GIS tool designed to assist municipalities with meeting their open space goals to protect clean water, habitat, improve access and enhance resiliency in the face of climate change.

The Nature Conservancy and New Jersey Conservation Foundation have teamed up with Rowan University and a consortium of 21 conservation-focused groups both governmental and non-profits, to develop a shared, living blueprint of lands to be protected in the next few decades. Together, they have charted a blueprint of conservation priorities **to ensure a healthy New Jersey for future generations.**

This living blueprint is displayed on Rowan University's NJ MAP, an on line, interactive mapping tool that allows everyone to work with GIS data in a way that is easy to understand.

Project partners will share live digital mapping options with participants, all are welcome to bring laptops to access maps live.

It was about preserving valuable land. Both said the event was very educational and eye opening.

Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards:

We do not apply for this as it does not really pertain to us.

Sub-Committees:

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

Trails – Ted Harwick, Jerry Bowers and Richard Schrack. –

Mayor Bush explained to the committee that there is a potential wetland issue and Engineer Roseberry said we would have to get a permit. Engineer Roseberry walked the trail and has marked the trail but has stayed away from the wetlands. We will move forward with the trail grant and then we can look at future grants for additional trail projects. This is the first baby step. The Park Association has paid for the designs of the parking lot at the Holland Park. They worked with Maser on the design. Aqua is working with the Mayor on a project

involving moving the water tower to get more pressure that is needed to service the town. Aqua might be able to help the township with the parking lot project since all the projects are in the same area of the township property. More information to follow. Mayor Bush is getting quotes from contractors. Secretary Kozak will forward the quotes she has on file. All were encouraged to see if they have some before the trails pictures that they can send to Secretary Kozak. Secretary Kozak will reach out to Engineer Roseberry to see if he has some before pictures as well. Secretary Kozak will also work with DPW Supervisor Al Turdo to see if he has any pictures.

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 encouraged to think about how to publicize the Trails. Mapping will need to be created etc.

Highlands Conformance – Jerry Bowers (chair) and Mike Keady. Darlene Green of Maser Consulting was present after attending the Ag Committee meeting before the Environmental Commission meeting. She talked about deadlines with everyone as well as moving forward with the different tasks.

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

Discussion took place about the Training Seminar with Henry Gore on Township Property. All agreed that September 23, 2017 is the best date. The morning is also a good time. Secretary Kozak and Chairman Keady are working with Henry Gore and the state. More information to follow. We need additional people to participate from last year.

Just a reminder, if you participate in a webinar please provide Secretary Kozak with your certificate so she can work with the state on keeping track of the hours. We will also need to discuss having someone move forward with CORE Training.

Secretary Kozak to reach out to the Emerald Ash Borer representative to see about a presentation. The board is looking for a night aside from the meeting night. More information to follow. Mayor Bush also has a friend that he will reach out to and see if he is interested in doing a presentation at Community Day.

ANJEC report – Ted Harwick was impressed with page 3 of the report and the mention of hunting and fishing.

Public Comment: No comments were expressed.

Mayor Bush was thanked for his attendance and he also thanked everyone for their dedication to the Township.

At 8:20 pm Jerry Bowers made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

*Maria Elena Jennette Kozak*

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Environmental Commission Secretary