

Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

August 2, 2017 7 PM Meeting

Acting Chairman Bowers 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, Susan Meacham, Dwight Pederson, Rick Schrack and Secretary Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Present: Township Committee Liaison: Robert Thurgarland

Absent: Mike Keady

Guest: Henry Gore (arrived 7:20 pm)

Let the record show we have a quorum.

Minutes: A motion was made by Ted Harwick and seconded by Susan Meacham to approve the July 6, 2017 minutes as presented. All present were in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

PennEast Pipeline Update: Susan Meacham reported that there is little to update.

Elizabethtown Gas is expanding the 10 inch pipeline to a 12 inch pipeline which will run at 950 PSI. The pipe we are talking about goes to the Gilbert Plant and was installed in 1971. The 12 inch pipe will accommodate a PIG (imaging system) that is used for safety checks in the pipeline. Susan Meaham is gathering information as she has concerns that this update could be linked to the proposed PennEast Project. There is discussion that with the amount of pressure being produced within the new pipe that this could change directional flow. More information to follow.

Community Day/Green Fair: Saturday September 9, 2019. Dwight Pederson will be working on our yearly Clean Water project. Jerry Bowers will work with the Fire Company to fill the fishing ponds. Susan Meacham will work on having representation from the local group(s) opposed to the pipeline but will remind everyone to keep it informative and educational. Rick Schrack will bring solar exhibits that will also include a game. Mike Keady is reaching out to our rain barrel contact at the school to see if she is interested in participating. Secretary Kozak has the giveaway ready for pickup along with some literature.

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. –

A reminder that the trail needs to be completed by April of 2018. The information gathered from Rick Schrack was forwarded to Mayor Bush. Secretary Kozak reported that she was able to work with Mayor Bush and Al Turdo on looking at the proposed trail and progress was made. The proposed trail was blazed by Maser Consulting. Mayor Bush and Al Turdo did some tweaking in the area that was overrun by brush and would have required lots of work. Al Turdo went back out with a Brush Hog to clean up the proposed trail so that contractors could come in and give a proposal to complete the job.

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. The Highlands Council Land Use Ordinance has been worked on and tweaked by the subcommittee. Jerry Bowers is hopeful that a draft copy will be submitted soon for review. The goal is to also have the Highlands Council approved Zoning Map available for review with the Land Use Ordinance and both will be adopted by the Township Committee at the same time. The documents will be submitted to the Township Committee along with the Planning Board and Environmental Committee. The Township Committee will introduce the documents on first reading. The Planning Board will then weigh in on the documents for consistency with the master plan. The Township Committee will then hold a public hearing of which all are welcome to attend and then they will take action. This action should be that they adopt the documents as presented.

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

Henry Gore is present to discuss the class. The class is September 23 at 10 am and all decided it will happen rain or shine. It is a 2 hour class. Henry Gore and Secretary Kozak are working with the State on finalizing the approval of the class. Secretary Kozak will order the “tree” books needed as well as some magnifying glasses. Henry Gore and Dwight Pederson will work together on locating trees at the Ridge that will be what we will be learning about at our class. Henry Gore is also looking at different hybrid trees. He would like to start with a Sweet Gum and then move towards the pool edge. He wants to talk about the ecology of the edge. He wants to discuss gymnosperm vs angiosperm and is looking to stress the scientific name along with the common name. Henry Gore also suggested looking at Google Earth to get an idea of the trees in the area. He hopes to find an Ash Tree as well as a Norway Spruce. He wants to discuss what trees repopulate. He believes that a tree inventory will be helpful to Holland in the future and that although water is important to us so are the trees and the vista. The trees are a part of Holland especially when you consider the Paper Mill and that creates a Historical importance to the Township.

For the record, Henry Gore did explain that he had health concerns and had to take care of his irregular heart, thyroid, and knee issues. He expressed thanks to being involved in another tree educational class. The first one was outstanding and we are looking to keep building on the program. Hopefully in the future we can actually get placards made with tree identification on the proposed trail. Baby steps are needed but hopefully we will continue growing and making it educational for those who want to look at the beauty of Holland Township. For this class, we are inviting the EC members, the Township Committee and friends and family of each. Please let Secretary Kozak know if you are planning on attending. We are hoping to have new attendees participate as well as past members. A sign in sheet will be needed to submit to the state for credit.

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. Dwight Pederson has expressed interest. Secretary Kozak will forward information about training when it is received.

Emerald Ash Borer - - Bob Thurgarland had a handout for everyone from Rutgers. We do have a County Ag Agent who might be helpful. Secretary Kozak has tried to establish contact with the State Ag representative who stopped by the office. We would like to see if someone could participate in Community Day. Rutgers might be interested in working with us.

Public Comment: No comments were expressed.

At 8: pm Susan Meacham made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

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Environmental Commission Secretary