

Holland Township Environmental Commission Minutes

April 5, 2023 7 PM Meeting

Chairman Keady called the meeting to order, "I call to order the April 5, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Holland Township Environmental Commission. Adequate notice of this meeting was given pursuant to the Open Public Meeting Act Law by the Environmental Commission Secretary by:

1. Posting such notice on the bulletin board at the Municipal Building
2. Publishing the notice in the December 8, 2022 edition of the Hunterdon County Democrat
3. And faxing to the Express-Times for informational purposes only. "

All recited the pledge of allegiance.

All were reminded to turn off their cell phones or put them in silent mode.

Members Present: Regina Barna, Jerry Bowers, Mike Keady, David Harrison, Davina Lapczynski (arrived 8:25 pm from another meeting), Ray Note, Township Committee Liaison Duane Young, and Land Use Administrator (LUA) Maria Elena Jennette Kozak.

Excused Absent: Dwight Pederson and Township Committee Alternate Liaison Bush

Let the record show we have a quorum.

Minutes: The approval of the March 1, 2023 minutes was tabled.

Old Business:

- 2023 Goals discussion. LUA Kozak submitted to the 2023 Environmental Commission a statement of the EC's 2023 EC Goals as prepared by a subcommittee of the EC, and reviewed/revise by all members of the Commission. LUA Kozak passed the EC approved Goals statement to Liaison Young and Clerk Tigar. Liaison Young distributed the goals as submitted to the Township Committee during a Township Committee meeting. Jerry Bowers was at the Township Committee meeting when the Environmental Commission 2023 goals were presented by Liaison Young. Mayor Bush thanked everyone for the submittal and offered praise for the Environmental Commission. There was no official action taken and Chairman Keady stated that it is more informal in presentation. Liaison Young stated that it was well received and acknowledged. For the future, the EC will include the goals as part of the year end report. The submitted 2023 goals statement was as follows:

Holland Township Environmental Commission Goals 2023

Mission Statement: As stewards of the natural habitat of our community, the Environmental Commission seeks to protect and enhance the Township's natural resources and to educate the community about their care and recreational use.

Goals

- Water and Waterways
 - Musconetcong River: Inform the community regarding its Federal designation as a Wild & Scenic River. Encourage recreation and protection.
 - Continue to participate in the Musconetcong River Management Council.
 - Delaware River: Promote access, responsible use and clean up.
 - Stormwater: Promote understanding and adoption of best practices.

- Wildlife & Plants
 - Recognize the value of and encourage use of native plants.
 - Provide information about invasive plants and discourage the purchase and installation of invasives.
 - Protect and promote wildlife-friendly habitats.
- Trails
 - Promote use of Township trails.
 - Support upkeep and maintenance of Township trails.
 - Continue placement of Birds and Trees checklists at trail kiosks.
 - Plan trail trips for O’sakame and Holland Trail using Birds and Trees checklists.
- Trees
 - Identify trees and facilitate public learning about Township trees.
 - Continue to implement activities included in the Community Forestry Plan.
- Community Education and Outreach
 - Update the Environmental website and social media.
 - Continue the Environmental Commission Speakers Series.
 - Provide articles for Holland Happenings.
 - Seek publicity in local media by issuing news releases.

Submitted March 7, 2023

New Business:

- River Clean-up – MWA - - April 15th Saturday. Holland Township has a more active involvement with the other River cleanup. The Musconetcong Watershed Association runs this annual event and we help spread the word for volunteers to help. The event is fantastic and Holland Township will receive an overview regarding participation and collection. Historically, Holland Township is supportive of the MWA cleanup in many ways. LUA Administrator Kozak will resend the march 9th email from the MWA regarding the April 15th river cleanup. Sign up is outlined in that news blast.
- ANJEC - - grant discussion - Regina Barna explained that we tried last year and we did not get this grant. Davina Lapczynski asked if we should still explore the \$1500 grant for something else. Chairman Keady suggested that the EC skip it and Regina Barna stated that the grant is a good idea but not for this year maybe in the future. A suggestion is that since this is usually an annual offering from ANJEC that maybe if we want to do it in the future that we start looking at what could be done and start planning early in the year so we could be ready for the future.

Subcommittee Reports

Trails Subcommittee – Jerry Bowers, Ray Note and Regina Barna - O’sakame Preserve – The county is working on the updated map which we can then use to update the Holland Township website.

Community Forestry Management Plan – Ray Note, David Harrison, and Secretary Kozak

CFP 2023 Goals (as outlined by Member Harrison)

- 1) Arbor Day Tree Planting
- 2) Explore the feasibility of Tree City USA certification
- 3) Track hours and expenditures for Community Forestry Program
- 4) Complete annual training requirements - minimum of 8 CEU's
- 5) Identify and label individual trees on township properties
- 6) Continue and improve outreach efforts at community events
- 7) Submit 2 tree or forest related articles to local and regional newspapers and township website

- 8) If funding is available, apply for a township seedling giveaway
- 9) Apply for CSIP funds to develop a Forest Stewardship Plan for township owned land and a baseline study and mapping project on conservation easements
- 10) this is the extra one from 2024 - Reevaluate hazard trees and update the list.

Tree City conversation – Not feasible, based on the township’s review in prior years. Member Harrison has notes from past discussion and Chairman Keady said he remembered the program as basically putting restrictions on property owners and based on past conversations neither the township committee nor the environmental commission are supportive of that action.

LUA Kozak asked everyone to keep track of their hours pertaining to trees for the whole year. Tracking sheets are available upon request. This is important for our annual report. Please keep track. Also, LUA Kozak reminded everyone that if they participate in a CEU program to please send her any confirmation of attendance so she can work with the state to make sure we receive the proper credits.

Seedling Distribution. The giveaway of Saturday April 22, 2023 with tree pickup of April 20th. Ray Note and Jerry Bowers will pick up the seedlings at Parsippany Troy Hills on the 20th and will work with LUA Kozak for drop off and information needed to be printed for the event. LUA Kozak will have the bay at the Recycling Center ready for the seedlings and for distribution. There will be tables, chairs, table cloths, literature and signage. The EC will need to set up by 8am with distribution being 9am at the Recycling center. The Boy Scouts will help with this event as well. If we use the OEM bay, please remember that no one is allowed in the bay! LUA Kozak will provide the finalized details as the date is approached.

Arbor Day/Earth Day - - the actual day is April 28th. The HTEC celebration will be April 29th which is a Saturday. The Township Committee did the proclamation. Two trees will be planted at O’sakame. LUA Kozak has secured one Sweetgum Tree and is trying to locate a Black Oak or Hackberry per the Township’s request. LUA Kozak and Liaison Young are working on this project and the second tree will be secured for the celebration. Everyone suggested that we read the book called Finding the Mother Tree by Suzanne Simard as it is an interesting and educational read. The planting celebration will take place at 11 am at the preserve. Arrival time is 10:45 for the EC members as well as the Boy Scouts. The DPW will have the trees in the ground and mulch on the side for topping off the planting. Liaison Young will have the shovels there. All are encouraged to take pictures and to please send to LUA Admin Kozak. Chairman Keady has done a follow up press release in the past so hopefully this can be done for 2023 as well.

Gore Tree Planting and celebration of life: LUA Kozak is still working with David Harrison and the Gore Family. Details of the event will be shared with the EC members upon confirmation. Since an American Chestnut is not being located, David Harrison suggested LUA Kozak locate a Red Oak to be planted for Henry Gore as this was another favorite tree of his. LUA Kozak is working with Liaison Young to locate the red oak tree to be planted at the ridge.

Tree Labels – David Harrison has labels and needs to mount them to the trees. He will also see if labels need an adjustment. David Harrison and Dwight Pederson will work on the 2023 label project for ordering, if approved by the Township Committee. Once the list is received, LUA Kozak and Liaison Young will work on seeking yearly tree label purchase approval.

Tree Map update – LUA Kozak is working with Dwight Pederson as the new trees need to be updated. The Google account has been created. Dwight Pederson will review this.

Trees of Holland changes to the website. A redesign has been in the works.

Stormwater Education – Mike Keady, Jerry Bowers, Davina Lapczynski and Maria Elena Jennette Kozak –

It was explained that Tier B to Tier A is the focus of the Township. There is nothing new to report as progress is being made with seeking funding. The retention/detention basin list will fall into the stormwater project. This project is engineer driven at this time. More details to follow.

Highlands Conformance – Jerry Bowers, Mike Keady and Dwight Pederson. –More information will follow as updates are available. Discussion about the EC’s responsibility took place which circled back to there is nothing to report at this time as the professionals are working on proposals. Everyone understands that most topics that were to be pursued have been put on hold due to the state requirement to reassign us from Tier B to Tier A regarding Stormwater.

Community Education and Outreach – Jerry Bowers, Dwight Pederson, and Regina Barna –
 The EC webpage is: <http://www.hollandtownshipnj.gov/bds-committees/environmental-commission>.
 Everything will first go to someone on Community Education and Outreach for review and then to Secretary Kozak for distribution to the website or Facebook.

Guest Lecture Series is under Community Education and Outreach

Environmental Commission Speaker Series

2023 Talks - See below for more on the current program

| Date | Program | Presenter | Place | Room |
|----------------------|--|--|----------------------------|---------------|
| Jan. 19, 2023 - 7pm | Hiking the Highlands Trail | Zac Cole | Holland Municipal Building | Meeting Room |
| April 26, 2023 - 7pm | Musconetcong Wild and Scenic | Alan Hunt | Riegel Ridge CC | Library |
| June 28, 2023 - 2pm | Walk and Talk about Trees | Hunterdon County Naturalist - Debra Reed | Riegel Ridge Holland Park | Holland Trail |
| July 19, 2023 - 7pm | Coexisting with Coyotes | Debra Reed | Riegel Ridge CC | Library |
| Sept 27, 2023 - 7pm | Create a Wildlife Habitat in Your Yard | Rutgers Wildlife Habitat Kathleen Kerwin | Holland Municipal Building | Meeting Room |

To be informed about upcoming talks or with speaker ideas, sign-up here [Speaker Series Email List](https://cities.formstack.com/forms/holland_ec_cont) (https://cities.formstack.com/forms/holland_ec_cont)

Continued Discussion of the 2023 Speaker Program - the flyer is ready for distribution. Regina Barna has hardcopies. The flyer has been posted to Facebook and the Holland Township website. Alan Hunt has posted to the MWA website. Flyer poster locations were discussed and specific members are to post the flyer. The event is April 26th with Mike Keady, Regina Barna, Jerry Bowers arriving around 6pm. LUA Kozak has set up taken care of but the members will arrive early to handle any last minute items needing to be addressed. Regina Barna will introduce Alan Hunt. The next event is June 28th. Mr Harrison to be there and will hand out the Tree Flyers (he thinks he needs about 30 as well as the Bird flyer.) It was suggested to have those

flyers at the seedling distribution as well along with flyers for the lecture series. Plans are in motion regarding the 2024 lecture series with someone needing to talk about solar in maybe January or February of 2024. David Harrison suggested the speaker from the dendrology course at Duke Farms which would explore the topic of the future of forests in New Jersey in light of climate with an event date of April of 2024. The goal will be to keep the timeline established like 2023. David Harrison was also thinking that maybe he and his wife could do a lecture regarding birds. While David Harrison has been actively involved with the study of birds, his wife has accumulated a variety of bird photos. This could be something that is presented in maybe June of 2024.

Inventory of Fauna and Flora subcommittee - David Harrison, Dwight Pederson, Ray Note – David Harrison is working on a list of birds and trees etc.

Musconetcong River Management Council – Dwight Pederson – nothing new to report.

Holland Township Sustainable Jersey Green Team – Davina, Mr Keady, Liaison Young –Nothing new to report.

Public Comment: There were no members of the public present.

Board Comment:

- Holland Happenings – The EC article was submitted
- Holland Solar Project –An amended site plan application has NOT been submitted.
- Community Day-- EC supports an educational series from Tailwise with the series being “Science Heroes: Saving the Earth Together.” Everyone please mark your calendars to attend Community Day (the first Saturday after Labor Day).

At 8:40 pm Jerry Bowers made a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak

Maria Elena Jennette Kozak
Environmental Commission Secretary