

Raritan Borough
Environmental Commission
22 First Street Raritan, NJ 08869

MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING

September 7, 2011

Present: J. Foohey, Chair
D. Carra, Councilwoman Liaison
J. Holland, Secretary
D. McDonald
S. McDonald
C. Potter

Absent: B. Kaufman

The September 7th meeting of the Raritan Borough Environmental Commission (RBEC) was called to order by J. Foohey at 7:15pm.

Report from Borough Council Representative

D. Carra reported that Meet Your Neighbor Day will be October 9th. Rain date will be 10/16. RBEC will attend with a table and hopefully some giveaways. She also updated us on the following under specific topics below. A Green Market/Farmer's Market will be held in Raritan on September 24. Coinciding with the Basilone Weekend.

Report from Planning Board Liaison

RBEC was notified that John Gausz, the Planning Board Member and RBEC liaison, was 'removed' from both the planning board and RBEC. In attendance, representing the PB, was Craig Potter. He is not currently sworn into either, but hopefully soon. He stated he will be our new liaison, and holds an environmental background.

Public Comments/Questions

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Correspondence/Articles of Interest

J. Foohey stated in a recent Messenger Gazette newspaper article, that he was misquoted. This article referenced the Raritan River dams and environmental interests.

Lube Connection has filed an application to expand its parking lot. Block 49 Lots 8&9. This property is on Sherman Avenue and RT 206. They would like to purchase adjoining land, and build a parking lot. The RBEC raised questions of: impervious coverage, noise and air pollution with flooding and quality of life issues that can deter from the neighboring homes. Tree removal replacement is also a concern. We need more information to have adequate input.

Sustainability Plan

No answers from the Planning Board or Council as to why this plan wasn't adopted when presented to the PB. Craig Potter will look into this issue and hopefully have some answers. The Sustainability Master Plan will be worked into a Sustainability Community Plan by the RBEC.

Natural Resources Inventory

D. Maski to make editorial changes and submit to J. Foohey for future PB approval. This inventory was done in 2009, under a "Challenge Grant". Craig Potter to investigate thru the planning board end.

Raritan River Dams

No updates. There have been meetings, but the Environmental Commission has not been asked/invited to attend any.

Cell Tower – Raritan

No update.

Willow Walk Development

Recycling containers need to be installed by the developer/owner. Ongoing, but still no groundbreaking.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm by J. Foohey, seconded by D. McDonald.