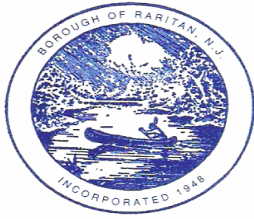


Na sleep already



**B O R O U G H O F R A R I T A N**  
**MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**22 FIRST STREET**

**RARITAN, NJ 08869**

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**Minutes - June 19, 2013**

**Meeting Call to Order at 7:09 by A. Soriano**

**Sunshine Act read by A. Soriano**

“This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. Notices of this meeting were sent to The Courier News and the Star Ledger on February 28, 2013. In addition, copies of notices were posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building, on the Raritan Borough website and filed in the Office of the Borough Clerk. Notices on the bulletin board have remained continuously posted. Proper notice having been given, the Borough Clerk is directed to include this statement in the minutes of this meeting.”

**Roll Call**

K. Baez Present

C. Bauer Not Present

E. Horvath Present

A. McCarthy Not Present

O. Metaxas Present

L. San Giacomo Present

R. Zacks Not Present

A. Soriano Present

D. Maski Present

### **Flag Salute**

### **Report From D. Maski**

D. Maski is here to talk about the Green Development checklist, a project that started last year under the last group of Environmental Commissioners. It is designed to add to Raritan's Sustainable Jersey credits. It is funded by an ANJAC Grant of \$2000, which Raritan is matching.

Because it is funded by ANJAC, it is one of their requirements is that the EC is one of the key players in the creation of the Green Checklist. The next step is to have a public information session. That is an ANJAC requirement. It will eventually have to go to the Planning Board and the Council.

#### *What is the Green Development Checklist?*

Right now, in the town ordinance, when somebody goes to the planning board for a permit, there are a number of environmental and geographic requirements they must meet. This would add another checklist. The major difference being that while the other ones are required before you get an application, this is optional. The applicant would be required to fill it out, but they wouldn't have to do any of the things suggested here. It gives the town a way to see what's going on with development -- are they using green technology and green development methods? It also gives developers ideas for how to green their building.

Basic format for the checklist is taken from Sustainable Jersey and other towns that have adopted a Green Checklist. This one created seems to fit Raritan the best. The items with a red SJ next to them are the ones required by Sustainable Jersey for credit. The Checklist can be revised over time.

The next step is for the Environmental Commission to organize a public information session to inform the community and make possible revisions. ANJAC must be invited and D. Maski will also attend. Then it will go to the Planning Board for comment and then the Council will have to adopt it.

The meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 17<sup>th</sup>. The Environmental Commission will post on the website, in the paper and in the kiosk and bulletin boards around town and D. Maski will email ANJAC once the date is set.

### **Report From Borough Council**

Recreation is looking at opening the pools the week of June 24<sup>th</sup>. The date of the Riverfest is Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, Raindate is Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **Report from Planning Board Liaison**

Not Present. The Second Avenue site was approved by the planning board. They might look at removing the impervious coverage from the sidewalk to the building and plant grass down the road, but the wells are capped.

### **Public Comments/Questions**

Opened at 7:43 – Closed at 7:43

### **Correspondence/ Articles of Interest**

Raritan/Millstone River Flood Commission is doing on June 26<sup>th</sup> a tour of the historical flood zones of the Somerset section of the Millstone River.

### **Rain Barrels Workshop**

Rutgers contacted us to spread the word. The workshop will be held Saturday, June 22 from 10am-12pm at Frelinghuysen Park, Sherman Avenue. Cost is \$60/barrel. No rain date because they have a canopy.

### **Shred Day Confirmation**

E. Horvath spoke to Linda Doyle, who is concerned about the safety and liability issues of bringing children. K. Baez will attend on behalf of the Environmental Commission.

Shred Day will be happening from 9-2am Saturday June 22.

### **In Defense of Animals**

E. Horvath has been receiving emails from the organization about a week ago with the subject line “I Oppose Your Decision to Kill Canada Geese” concerning killing 15 Canada Geese in the Hidden Pond area off of Vandervere. The IDA thinks the condo association is behind this and says that a citizen of the area called in to tell them this was happening. E. Horvath suggested the citizen should come to a meeting to explain what’s going on. E. Horvath will update us on the situation next month.

### **Tip of the Month**

O. Metaxas brought a book called “Who Knew?” to show chemical-free ways to clean your house and “Spring Greening” Article from Family Circle, April 2012, that talks about how to reduce your carbon footprint easily.

A. Soriano went to NJ American Water website to get tips for water conservation.

L. SanGiacomo brought Martha Stewart’s Piggy Bank Idea.

O. Metaxas says take the inside of the banana peel and rub it on poison ivy to take out the sting and itch.

These tips will start going on the website once a month.

### **Water Education Flyer**

A. Soriano suggests we put something together to create a flyer that shows tips for water conservation. We'll get points towards Sustainable New Jersey for the flyer. Raritan is charged for all the water that flows down the drain and into the water sanitation facility. The more water that flows, the higher the bill. And that could result in either higher taxes or cuts to another Borough program. A. Soriano will spearhead this effort.

### **Approve Meeting Minutes For May**

E. Horvath makes motion to approve, K. Baez Seconds, O. Metaxas votes aye. Passed.

### **Other issues/concerns**

E. Horvath has been in contact with Eagle Scout Tire Cleanup. They have a Facebook page and have picked a date. She will find out more information and will pass it along. Any tires they pull out of our section of the river will be our responsibility to dispose of properly.

### **Meeting Closed 8:14pm**

O. Metaxas Motions, E. Horvath Seconds. Voice Vote Aye