



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

**MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**22 FIRST STREET**

**RARITAN, NJ 08869**

**PHONE: (908) 231-1300 FAX: (908) 231-0810**

[www.raritanboro.com](http://www.raritanboro.com)

### **BOROUGH OF RARITAN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION May 21, 2014**

Chairperson McCarthy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Chairperson McCarthy read the following Open Public Meetings Act Statement:

“In accordance with Section 5 of the Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231, Public Law 1975, be advised that adequate notice of this Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset was made by the posting on the bulletin board at the Borough Hall and transmitted to the officially designated newspapers indicating that this Meeting would take place at the Borough Hall, Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m. on May 21, 2014. In addition a copy of this notice is and has been made available to the public and is on file in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.”

The roll call was as follows:

Present: Olga Metaxas, Tom Delacruz, Jerry Koval, Ann Marie McCarthy, Stefanie Gara, Council Liaison  
Absent: Rick Zack, Candance Bauer, Lindsay SanGiacomo and Karen Baez

Everyone present participated in the Salute to the Flag.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Gara to approve the minutes of April 16, 2014 as submitted. Said motion was seconded by Mr. Delacruz and carried unanimously upon call of the roll.

#### **REPORT FROM BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Councilwoman Gara provided an update on the Riverfront Redevelopment Project. Ms. Gara reported on the Riverfront Summit that was held at Duke Farms to review the Borough's "River Town" initiative, a strategic combination of recreational,

cultural, economic development, and infrastructure programs along the Raritan River/Orlando Drive corridor. The summit was attended by approximately 70 people and featured speakers from Raritan Borough, Somerset County, Duke Farms, the Somerset County Business Partnership, Rutgers University, the Central Jersey Stream Team and a noted Hydrogeologist.

Ms. Gara reported that major planning and infrastructure projects being considered along the riverfront corridor include the complete rezoning of the riverfront for recreational, cultural, and supportive retail uses; the ongoing reconstruction of Orlando Drive from Route 206 to Lyman Street; the creation of a wayfinding System that will direct visitors from the Raritan Train Station to the Somerset Street business district and the riverfront; extension of the County greenway/bikeway along the Raritan; and the potential for a northern gateway into Duke Farms from the Nevius Bridge. A completed element of the plan is the removal of the two dams upstream of Raritan that has enabled new ecological and recreational opportunities along the river in proximity to the Borough. Also addressed were the issues to be resolved with the removal of the confluence dam and the many opportunities in fishing, boating and recreation that will be made available.

Ms. Gara reported that a similar summit will be presented in Atlantic City by Michael Kerwin, Somerset County Partnership to promote Raritan and its riverfront.

Ms. Gara reported on the proposed cleanup of the area behind Woodmere where illegal dumping has occurred. She stated that many agencies have become involved to address these issues.

During Ms. Gara's report, Lindsay SanGiacomo came to the meeting and informed the Commission that she would be resigning from the Commission as a result of her husband taking a position in Los Angeles. Everyone wished Ms. SanGiacomo well.

#### **REPORT FROM PLANNING BOARD LIAISON**

No report was made at this time.

#### **PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

A motion was made by Mr. Delacruz, seconded by Mr. Koval to open the meeting to the public. Said motion carried unanimously upon voice vote.

There being no comments from the public at this time, a motion was made by Ms. Gara to close the meeting to the public. Said motion was seconded by Mr. Koval and carried unanimously upon voice vote.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

There were no discussion items at this time.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

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

Ms. Metaxas presented the following articles of interest from the April and May issues of Reader's Digest:

- *8 Ways to Go Green Without Even Noticing*
- *6 Clever Tricks to Make Perishables Last*
- *4 Surprising Uses for Salt in Your Kitchen*
- *Extraordinary Uses for Ordinary Things: Deodorant*

A copy of each article is attached and made part of these meeting minutes.

Ms. Gara administered the Oath of Office to Jerry Koval as Alternate #1 to the Environmental Commission.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Ms. Metaxas, seconded by Mr. Koval to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Said motion carried unanimously upon call of the roll.

Approved: *As Submitted.*  
Date: *June 20, 2014*

Ann Marie McCarthy, Chair