



BOROUGH OF RARITAN, SOMERSET COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
February 15, 2018

Chairman Clark called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Chairman Clark 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 February 15, 2018. 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: Mark Clark (Chairman), Olga Metaxas, Diana Russo (Secretary), Paul Giraldi (Council Liaison), Michael DeCicco, and Carrie Tozzi

Absent: Eric Wilde and Rick Zack, Planning Board Liaison

Everyone present participated in the Salute to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Tozzi, seconded by Mr. DeCicco that the minutes from the Environmental Commission (EC) meeting of January 18, 2018 be approved. Said motion was carried unanimously upon voice vote.

REPORT FROM BOROUGH COUNCIL

No report was made at this time.

REPORT FROM PLANNING BOARD

The Planning Board discussed the proposed housing development/mixed use building on Orlando Drive. There are concerns that this proposed structure(s) is in a known flood zone. The EC was advised that it may submit any opinions in writing or through the Planning Board liaison, Mr. Zack.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

No members of the public were present at this time.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Chairman Clark would like a widespread advertisement of the Earth Day event.

Chairman Clark proposed the Earth Day event be coordinated with the borough's 70th anniversary event. Chairman Clark to reach out to Linda Schulte to discuss the Environmental Commission's potential involvement in the event. Ms. Tozzi discussed having an environmental display with the following ideas discussed among the group:

- Raritan through the years
- Rain barrel information
- Recruiting information
- Prizes: trees, rain barrel
- Water conservation information
- Partner with Duke Farms or Rutgers for information sharing

Chairman Clark proposed that the EC not hold a separate Earth Day event and instead, the EC will be represented at the 70th anniversary event. EC agreed to this proposal.

Chairman Clark to submit a request for 2,000 saplings from the State of New Jersey, which can then be used as a giveaway at the 70th anniversary event. Chairman Clark to send an email to Council Liaison Girdali with a request for the Department of Public Works to pick up and store the saplings overnight (potentially May 4th to 5th).

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Ms. Tozzi, seconded by Ms. Metaxas that Ms. Russo be the Secretary for the Environmental Commission. Said motion was carried unanimously upon voice vote.

The Orlando Drive Green Acres will be up for approval in front of the board on March 15, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. The team discussed attending the hearing in lieu of the regularly scheduled EC meeting, but decided against attending. A link to the notice may be found here:

<https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/Home/ShowDocument?id=27964>

Chairman Clark discussed the Roots for River Reforestation Grant and has already spoken with Angela Knowles, who will research appropriate locations. Chairman Clark to pursue the grant, which will assist with Sustainable Jersey certification. It was discussed to use the funds to potentially create a nursery at either canal park or on Orlando Drive or at the former Washington School location. This nursery could then supply trees to the borough when needed.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Clark discussed the Sustainable Jersey certification and that the team should start towards the certification by implementing the "low-hanging fruit" from the certification list. Chairman Clark asked each EC member to review the Sustainable Jersey Master Action List and to choose an action to own and implement.

Chairman Clark discussed the Raritan Headwaters Association Annual Stream Cleanup which is to take place April 14, 2018. The area to be cleaned up will be the John Basilone Park area, south of the JFK School. Chairman Clark to reach out to the girl or boy scouts to see if they'd like to assist in the cleanup. Ms. Russo to ask Duke Farms to potentially help. Information will be posted on the borough bulletin boards. A link to the Raritan Headwaters Association Annual Stream Cleanup can be found here:

<https://production.gobigriver.com/store/Category.seam?commerceCampaignFormId=3667&categoryId=360&cid=4472>

Chairman Clark reviewed the Electric Vehicle Charging Station Grant Application. Chairman Clark has submitted a grant asking for \$25,000 for implementation of two stations. There is no date on when the decision will be made. Additional information regarding the grant is that grants may be submitted yearly for 10 years.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Chairman Clark, seconded by Ms. Russo to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m. Said motion carried unanimously upon voice vote.

Approved:
Date:

Diana Russo, Secretary