



**BOROUGH OF RARITAN, SOMERSET COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
May 17, 2018**

Chairman Clark called the meeting to order at 7:01 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 May 17, 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), Michael DeCicco, Olga Metaxas, and Diana Russo (Secretary)
Absent: Carrie Tozzi, Eric Wilde, Rick Zack, Planning Board Liaison, and Paul Giraldi (Council Liaison)

Everyone present participated in the Salute to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. DeCicco, seconded by Ms. Metaxas that the minutes from the Environmental Commission (EC) meeting of April 19, 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

No report was made at this time.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

No members of the public were present at this time.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Chairman Clark, Ms. Russo, and Ms. Metaxas represented the Environmental Commission (EC)

at Raritan's 70th Anniversary Event on May 5, 2018.



Chairman Clark shared that the EC was able to hand out all of the 2,000 tree seedlings that it received from the state of New Jersey. Ms. Metaxas discussed an opportunity for improvement would have been to have the D.J. announce that free tree seedlings are available at the EC table. There was also a missed opportunity with the Bridgewater Eco-Blast occurring on the same day; this could have potentially increased attendance. It was also discussed that a press release can be issued for the rain barrel rebate program. Ms. Russo mentioned that the EC collected names and email addresses for borough residents interested in helping the environment and becoming members of the Raritan Green Team.

Chairman Clark shared that the Green Team Proclamation has been signed by Mayor McMullin, and we can begin to form a Green Team which will contribute towards our goal of Sustainable Jersey certification.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Clark informed the team that the bike path along Orlando Drive has been opened.

Ms. Metaxas shared helpful green tips:

1. Buy local fruit and vegetables
2. Walk more
3. Limit fast food purchases

Ms. Metaxas's tips led to a discussion about a Raritan Farmers Market. Since the site of the Stop-n-Shop is not in use, it was proposed that this would be a perfect location for a farmers market. Ms. Russo to email Mayor McMullin with this idea.

Ms. Russo informed the EC that she has accepted a short term assignment at work which will

take her to Japan for six months. Therefore, she will vacate her position on the commission for that time. A departure date has not yet been determined.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Russo, seconded by Ms. Metaxas to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Said motion carried unanimously upon voice vote.

Approved:
Date:

Diana Russo, Secretary