

BOROUGH OF RARITAN
Virtual Land Use Board Meeting
MINUTES
April 22, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

The virtual meeting was called to order on Zoom at 4:30 p.m. The Board Secretary read the Open Public Meetings Act Notice into the record and provided an overview of virtual meeting protocol.

FLAG SALUTE

ROLL CALL

Present

Chairman Gausz
Mayor Bray
Councilman Carra
Mr. Miller
Mr. Cunningham
Ms. Thomas
Ms. Carra
Mr. Delacruz
Ms. Goetsch
Ms. Sherwin*(arrived late)
Mr. Singara
Mr. Krajewski

Also Present

Frank Linnus, Board Attorney
Stan Schrek, Board Engineer
Angela Knowles, Board Planner
Lou Gara, Zoning/Construction Official
Larry Cohen, Esq.* (Executive Session Only)

Absent

Mr. DeCicco

*Ms. Sherwin arrived at 4:37.

*Mr. Cohen was present from 5:02-6:19 only (Executive Session).

ENGINEERING REPORT

Mr. Schrek spoke about concerns over complying with Executive Order 122 with respect to ongoing projects.

CONSTRUCTION/ZONING OFFICIAL REPORT

Mr. Gara indicated that he had nothing new to report/his report could wait until the next meeting.

PLANNING REPORT

Ms. Knowles advised that there had been a kickoff meeting with the NJTPA and consultants for the Somerset Street Economic Development Plan. She explained that the NJTPA hired FHI and that she was working with the Economic Development Committee on making recommendations for stakeholders/interviewing stakeholder groups. She also spoke about the NJEDA grant application with respect to their 21st Century Redevelopment Challenge Program which looks at stranded assets and explained how this relates to the Raritan Mall site and the connection to the Somerset County Priority Framework. She thanked the contributors.

The Chairman asked if there were any questions. Seeing as there were none, he moved on to the Ad Hoc Committee updates.

AD HOC COMMITTEES

TRC MEETING UPDATE

Chairman Gausz advised that there had been no TRC meetings held and that there were none scheduled.

PEDESTRIAN BIKE & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Ms. Knowles indicated that the plan was ready for review by the full Board. Deadlines for adoption were discussed. Ms. Knowles explained that while there were no deadlines, it would be best to try to adopt it sooner than later since it ties in with the NJDOT work and the TPA grant. Deeming it non-essential work, the Board concluded to review as a subcommittee for discussion at the next meeting in anticipation of a public hearing in June. Ms. Knowles clarified that the subcommittee was done with it and as such, felt that it was time for it to come to the full Board. There was further discussion about timeframes prompted by questions from the Board Attorney. Mr. Schrek offered that it was appropriate to wait.

CANNABIS COMMITTEE

Mr. Cunningham confirmed that there had been no meetings/updates.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Gausz explained that the items listed under old business were placeholders only so as not to lose sight of them for future discussion.

ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Linnus confirmed that the annual report was not an essential item and as such, did not need to be discussed this evening. The Board concluded to move discussion of the annual report to the May agenda.

Debbie Thomas recused at 5:00.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Mr. Delacruz, **seconded** by Mr. Cunningham and unanimously carried to move into Executive Session in order to discuss pending litigation at 5:02. The Board Secretary read the resolution to adjourn to closed session into the record:

WHEREAS the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey permits the public to be excluded for certain matters to be discussed by the Planning Board; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Board desires to discuss pending litigation which is a matter where the exclusion of the public is permitted; and

WHEREAS, public disclosure of the results of this discussion will be made as soon as the matter discussed has been resolved by the Governing Body of the Borough of Raritan.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Planning Board of the Borough of Raritan that the aforesaid matter shall be discussed in closed session upon adoption of this resolution.

Roll Call:

Aye: *Chairman Gausz, Mayor Bray, Councilman Cara, Mr. Miller, Mr. Cunningham, Ms. Cara, Mr. Delacruz, Ms. Goetsch, Mr. Krajewski, Ms. Sherwin, Mr. Singara*

Nay:

Abstain:

The Board temporarily logged out of the public meeting and into a separate [virtual] meeting where public access was prohibited.

The Board returned from Executive Session and moved to resume the regular meeting at 6:19. Ms. Thomas was not present.

Roll Call:

Aye: *Chairman Gausz, Mayor Bray, Councilman Cara, Mr. Miller, Mr. Cunningham, Ms. Cara, Mr. Delacruz, Ms. Goetsch, Mr. Krajewski, Ms. Sherwin, Mr. Singara*

Nay:

Abstain:

PUBLIC COMMENT

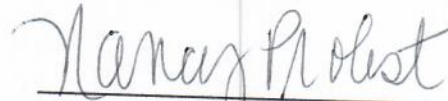
Chairman Gausz opened the floor to public comment. There was none. Chairman Gausz lost audio at 6:21.

Mayor Bray thanked the Board Secretary for coordinating the virtual meeting. Rick Miller announced that he would be moving and as such, resigning prior to the next meeting. He was thanked for his service.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mayor Bray, **seconded** by Mr. Cunningham and unanimously carried to adjourn at 6:22.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy Probst, Board Secretary

APPROVED 5/27/20