



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

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

### Regular Meeting

July 23, 2021

### Minutes

1) Open Public Meetings 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 posting on the Raritan Borough website indicating that this Meeting would take place at the Raritan Municipal Building at 7:00 p.m. on July 23, 2021. In addition, a copy of this notice is and has been available to the public and is on file in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

2) Roll Call:

In attendance: Juan Alvarez; Tony Sacino; Olga Metaxas; Emilie Stander; Justice Ifan, Council Liaison

Not present: Michael DeCicco; Christopher Gussman; Jennie Rose Saunders; Denise Carra (Planning Board Liaison)

3) Flag Salute

4) Approval of Minutes: June 17, 2021

Ms. Metaxas made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. Sacino seconded.

5) Report from Borough Council

The group welcomed the commission's new Council liaison, Councilman Justice Ifan, and brought him up to speed on the work of the Commission and the Green Team.

6) Report from Planning Board

No report from the Board, and no applications to review.

7) Public Comment

No members of the public present.

8) Discussion Items

None

9) New Business

a) Information for homeowners about the Spotted Lanternflies – File attached

Ms. Stander provided copies of lanternfly factsheets that her students put together last spring. We agreed we can give some of the factsheets away at the Discover Raritan event; Mr. Alvarez will be able to print them out in color before then. We could also put together a large poster for the event. Does Agway sell the traps? Mr. Alvarez suggested we find some organizations, such as Duke Farms, to partner with to do more homeowner education; perhaps Duke Farms. Mr. Alvarez will reach out to Melissa Almendinger at DF to see who we should talk to.

- b) Councilman Ifan brought up the electric car charging stations initiative. Mr. Sacino and Mr. Alvarez mentioned the municipal public parking lot on Thompson St. as a possible location to target for this effort. Mr. Alvarez had spoken to the Burlington store before COVID but business was not good enough for them to be interested. We would need to talk to the property owner for the entire development. Mr. Alvarez repeated that we should collaborate with the Economic Development Committee to move this forward, as they may be able to determine who the owner is and possibly help us reach out. Mr. Sacino suggested that LabCorp could be a good private business interested in putting in an electric car charging station. Ms. Stander will look into whether BPU is still accepting applications to get reimbursed some or all of the costs associated with installation of Level 2 chargers. There may also be federal incentives for electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the future.
- c) Ms. Metaxas mentioned that in previous years EC members had received documents from the Borough with the names and faces of all the committee members in town. Councilman Ifan said he would bring the idea to Council. It could be as easy as putting together a PowerPoint file that could be emailed around.
- d) Mr. Alvarez will set up a gmail account so that residents can contact the EC. Mr. Alvarez does not have access to the EC Facebook account yet.

#### 10) Old Business

- a) Discover Raritan event – July 31<sup>st</sup>, 4-9pm. Mr. Alvarez will bring the EC's table and canopy. He will also bring a sign up sheet for anyone who's interested in joining the Green Team. Mr. Alvarez has a case of light bulbs to give away. He indicated that we won't be able to purchase the tree seedlings from the Pinelands nursery in time, unfortunately. Mr. Alvarez will print out color copies of the lanternfly factsheets. Ms. Stander will send him some other graphics to print out. Ms. Stander will bring the materials for the plant pots. If EC members can bring extra newspaper, that would be helpful. Mr. Sacino and Mr. Alvarez can attend the event. Ms. Stander can attend the first half, and Ms. Metaxas will check her calendar. We will reach out to Mr. Gussman to see if he's available.
- b) Street tree survey on main street: EC members will take a few minutes during the Discover Raritan event to walk along main street and see where new trees are needed or existing trees need to be replaced. Ms. Stander can report back to DPW.
- c) Sendoff for Mr. Clark: The group had a nice time at the picnic. Mr. Clark will certainly be missed, but we're all happy for him to have found a nice house in Readington for him and his family to enjoy.

11) Green Team: Mr. Alvarez will get the Sustainable Jersey status spreadsheet from Mr. Clark. We will discuss at our next meeting which actions we should start to work on next.

#### 12) Adjournment

Ms. Metaxas made a motion to adjourn at 8:10pm, Mr. Sacino seconded.