



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

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

### Regular Meeting

December 16th, 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 December 16th, 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; Olga Metaxas; Emilie Stander; Tony Sacino; Joan Hutzler, Council Liaison

Not in attendance: Michael DeCicco; Christopher Gussman; Jennie Rose Saunders; Denise Carra, Planning Board Liaison

3) Flag Salute

4) Approval of Minutes: October 21st, 2021

Ms. Metaxas made a motion to approve, Ms. Hutzler seconded; all in favor

5) Report from Borough Council

The Borough Council has not met since Ms. Hutzler took over from Mr. Ifan. However, Ms. Hutzler reported back that she was at the last Borough Council meeting in which former Councilman Ifan spoke to the Council about electric vehicle charging stations. Ms. Stander added that the state is now requiring municipalities to pass an enabling ordinance for EV infrastructure; she will share the model ordinance from the state with Ms. Hutzler so she can bring it to the next Council meeting. The group discussed approaching the owner of the large retail complex on the Somerville Circle as a likely location for the charging station. The Board of Public Utilities still has grant funding available to reimburse private owners up to 80% of the installation costs. The EC is willing to help the owner prepare the application.

6) Report from Planning Board

Planning Board liaison was not present. However, Mr. Alvarez attended the last Planning Board meeting and shared engineering drawings from two proposed developments.

- a) The proposed redevelopment of the building next to borough hall (16 unit apartment building): The plans are still in the very early stages, as heating and cooling units for the individual apartments and storage areas have not yet been included in the plans. An Environmental Impact Statement was prepared but has not been provided to the EC yet. There is a buried oil tank that will need to be removed. A number of local residents attended the meeting to discuss street parking and parking issues in the neighborhood. The group discussed the need to update the borough's ordinances so that future redevelopment projects require stormwater retrofits and redesign, otherwise we will never see any stormwater improvements and streets and neighborhoods will continue to flood in the future.
- b) The second redevelopment (8 unit apartment building) on 17-19 Colfax St. is still in the very early stages of planning. There was not much to see on the limited existing plans, and nothing for the EC to comment on yet.
- c) The Planning Board will have its next meeting on Wednesday, December 22 at 6:30pm in the courtroom.

7) Public Comment  
No members of the public present.

8) Discussion Items

9) New Business

Future projects

- Electric car charging station: This item was already discussed during the Borough Council report above.
- Rain barrel purchase: We will need to wait until the kits become available at Home Depot to purchase them using the EC's budget. The barrels would need to be purchased out of pocket (by Mr. Alvarez at \$20 per barrel) and then workshop participants would have to pay for the barrels (not the kits) so that Mr. Alvarez could get reimbursed.

10) Old Business

- Electric Charging station in town: discussed above
- Splash park discussion: we'll table this discussion for next time.
- Planning board was asked to consider the redevelopment of the Dollar Tree area: we'll table this discussion for next time.

11) Green Team: This items was tabled until the next meeting.

- a) Review status spreadsheet to determine activities to pursue over the next year
- b) Discuss funding needs and possible sources

12) Adjournment

Ms. Metaxas made a motion to adjourn at 8:21pm, Mr. Sacino seconded.

