



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

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

January 20th, 2022

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 January 20th, 2022. 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; Emilie Stander; Tony Sacino; Christopher Gussman; Pablo Orozco, Council Liaison

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

3) Flag Salute

Approval of Minutes: O c t o b e r 16th, 2021

Mr. Sacino made a motion to approve, Mr. Alvarez seconded; all in favor

4) Report from Borough Council

No official report from the Council. Mr. Orozco introduced himself to the Commission members. The group discussed the need to modify existing, or propose new, ordinances. The process is that we would come up with the ordinance, share it with the attorney, and if we're happy with it after attorney review, then Mr. Orozco would bring it to the Council. We need to have a stronger working relationship with the Planning Board through our Planning Board liaison. The EV station really needs to happen.

5) Report from Planning Board

Planning Board liaison was not present. The last Planning Board meeting in December was canceled. The group discussed the need for redevelopment in town, but agreed that it must be done properly (see Discussion item below).

6) Public Comment

No members of the public present.

7) Discussion Items

Initiative to strengthen the borough's stormwater ordinance: Committee members agreed that existing ordinances are not strong enough to compel redevelopment projects to manage stormwater in any meaningful way. We would like to find a model ordinance that we can modify (probably the enhanced stormwater ordinance, Ms. Stander will look for this on ANJEC's website). If the council agrees that we can move forward, we can work with the borough engineer to modify the ordinance to the borough's needs. Mr. Alvarez made a motion to research model stormwater ordinances and initiate a discussion with the borough engineer. All members present voted in favor.

8) New Business

Future projects

- Stormwater ordinance initiative: see Discussion section above.

9) Old Business

- Rain barrel purchase: Mr. Alvarez found another supplier of clean barrels. The diverter kits are still on back order.
- Proposed splash park: The recreation director is pursuing a grant to fund this project, but the project is still in its infancy. There will be more opportunities to provide input in the future.
- Planning board was asked to consider the redevelopment of the Dollar Tree area: The site has come up before Council as an area in need of redevelopment. At this point, this is the only action that has been taken.
- EV charging station: There are plenty of grant opportunities; the BPU grant program will reimburse up to 80% of costs to install a charging station on private property and 100% on municipal property (up to a certain amount). Mr. Alvarez recounted his conversation with the borough engineer about the EV charging model ordinance and modifying it to meet the borough's needs. Mr. Orozco noted that there is power in the Thompson St municipal lot, it's just that the light fixture was never installed. As long as we have the grant agreement to get reimbursed, the town will be able to spend the money to do the installation, that won't affect the budget. Mr. Orozco will approach the borough engineer about the Thompson St municipal lot, and he will report back to the Commission at the next meeting. He will also be working on a county-led EV charging initiative with County Commissioners Drake and Singleterry.

10) 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

11) Adjournment

Mr. Sacino made a motion to adjourn at 8:47pm, Mr. Gussman seconded

