



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

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

June 16th, 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 June 16th, 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

- Present: Juan Alvarez; Olga Metaxas; Emilie Stander; Tony Sacino; Michael DeCicco; Christopher Gussman
- Not in attendance: JennieRose Saunders; Pablo Orozco, Council Liaison; Denise Carra, Planning Board Liaison

3) Flag Salute

4) Approval of Minutes: April 21st, 2022

Ms. Metaxas made a motion to approve the minutes; Mr. Gussman seconded the motion.

5) Report from Borough Council

Councilman Orozco was not in attendance so there was no report from Borough Council. Mr. Alvarez let the group know that Mr. Orozco asked Mr. Alvarez to call him tomorrow to brief him on the results of tonight's meeting.

6) Report from Planning Board

Mr. DeCicco did not have a formal report because he was unable to attend the most recent Planning Board meeting. The prior Board meeting was not substantive because the developers were not adequately prepared for the meeting. The group discussed the existing proposals for the 8-unit, 3-story apartment building on Colfax, the apartments next to the Lena, and the convenience store addition to the gas station next to the post office. The group reviewed the plans for the apartment next to the Lena and noticed that the plans call for pervious pavers in the proposed parking area. The group indicated it will be necessary to review the details for the pavers when they become available, because the details of how the paver system is designed and intended to drain is very important, given likely flooding of the area in the future.

7) Public Comment

There were no members of the public present.

8) Discussion Items

Mr. Gussman notified the group that he's overdue for getting reappointed to another term.

9) New Business

- Review of Environmental Commission's bylaws

Ms. Stander introduced a motion to amend the bylaws to read that the members of the Commission should all be homeowners in Raritan. Mr. Gussman seconded the motion. Mr. Sacino asked that the amendment read that the Commissioners should all be residents or homeowners in Raritan. The group agreed voted on the amended motion; Mr. Alvarez recused himself from the vote. All were in favor of the amendment to the bylaw. **Action item:** Ms. Stander will forward the motion to Administrator Colvin for his review. At the same time, Ms. Stander will also inquire about whether the Discovering Raritan event is happening this summer.

10) Old Business

- Electric car charging station

Mr. DeCicco informed the group that the Colfax proposal includes electric car charging stations. Ms. Stander informed the group about her meeting with Dini Checko from ANJEC and Jeff Lamborn from the Somerville Environmental Commission. At that meeting, Ms. Checko suggested that we reach out to RideWise to see if they can advise us on the process for moving the EV charging station initiative forward. **Action item:** The group sounded positive about this possibility, so Ms. Stander offered to reach out to RideWise to see what assistance they can provide. Mr. Alvarez offered to attend any meetings that result from that outreach.

- Enhanced stormwater ordinance

Mr. Alvarez summarized our discussions so far, reminding the group that we are simply proposing to amend the borough's existing stormwater ordinance. Mr. Alvarez introduced a motion to present the enhanced stormwater ordinance prepared by The Watershed Institute to Administrator Colvin for his review. Mr. Sacino seconded the motion. All members were in favor. **Action item:** Mr. Alvarez will send the document to Mr. Colvin, and he asked Ms. Stander to write up a short paragraph providing some context for this initiative.

Ms. Stander informed the group about her discussions with the Somerville EC regarding local stormwater initiatives in Somerville, Manville, and at the county. The group discussed inviting representatives from these towns and the county to visit future meetings to discuss their plans in more detail in order to show our Council the work that's happening in surrounding towns. **Action item:** Ms. Stander offered to reach out to her contacts at Manville to start that process.

11) Green Team

- a) Review status spreadsheet to determine activities to pursue over the next year

This item is still outstanding. Unfortunately, the Green Team missed the deadline for applying for Sustainable Jersey certification this spring. Mr. Alvarez reminded the group that some of our previous actions may have expired, so we may need to plan future events to update our actions. Along those lines, the group discussed plans for a future rain barrel workshop. Mr. Alvarez will look into purchasing discounted barrels; he also identified a possible rain barrel kit that workshop participants could use.

- b) Discuss funding needs and possible sources

12) Adjournment

Mr. DeCicco made a motion to adjourn at 8:22pm; Ms. Metaxas seconded the motion.