



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

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

### Regular Meeting

September 15<sup>th</sup>, 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 September 15<sup>th</sup>, 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; Olga Metaxas; Emilie Stander; Tony Sacino; Michael DeCicco; Christopher Gussman; Heath Hofmeister
- Not in attendance: Pablo Orozco, Council Liaison; Denise Carra, Planning Board Liaison

3) Flag Salute

4) Approval of Minutes: August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Mr. DeCicco made a motion to approve the minutes; Mr. Sacino seconded the motion.

5) Report from Borough Council

Councilman Orozco was not present. Mr. DeCicco was not able to attend the most recent Borough Council meeting. Mr. Alvarez informed the group that the next Borough Council meeting will be next Tuesday at 6:30pm, and the plan is for Mr. Orozco to bring the EC's proposed bylaw change to the Council that evening. EC members are invited to attend if they are able.

6) Report from Planning Board

Mr. DeCicco has not received any notices for meetings this month. No agendas have been posted. The conversion of the Shell gas station to the convenience store has been approved.

7) Public Comment

No members of the public present.

8) Discussion Items

9) New Business

- Brainstorm ideas for future outreach projects
  - Mr. Alvarez suggested we put together a budget proposal in accordance with the projects we have in mind.
    - Rain barrels: Mr. Alvarez will research costs.
    - Tree planting: Mr. Gussman will research costs.
    - Printing brochures/banners/fliers
    - Giveaway items like reusable bags (Mr. Hofmeister will research costs), silicone straws (Ms. Stander will research costs), etc.; Mr. DeCicco suggested asking TD Bank to

underwrite the cost, or J&J, Lab Corp, etc.

- Put together environmental stewardship videos for outreach; could put together a TikTok contest for B-R students, include prizes in the budget
- Earth Day scavenger hunt; include prize in the budget
- Include \$ for door prizes for various events in the budget

Mr. Alvarez put forward a motion to submit a proposed budget for \$2,000 or less. Ms. Stander seconded the motion. All members were in favor.

Mr. Alvarez will reach out to the Economic Development Committee to see if they would like partner on an outreach project/event.

#### 10) Old Business

- Enhanced stormwater ordinance: Next steps  
There were no updates at this meeting because Mr. Orozco was not present.
- Mr. Hofmeister asked if anyone had a contact with the Somerset County recycling program. Mr. Sacino suggested contacting Nathan Ruby, Public Information Officer for Somerset County, Colleen Mahr, the county administrator, or Paul McColl, the head of the county public works department.

#### 11) Green Team

##### a) Review of status spreadsheet

Ms. Stander reviewed the status spreadsheet and is unsure how many actions have now expired. The group agreed it would be helpful to have support from the Van Clef representative to evaluate the status of our Sustainable Jersey actions. Mr. Alvarez will reach out to the borough engineer to ask who is the current Van Clef representative.

#### 12) Adjournment

Ms. Metaxas made a motion to adjourn at 8:24pm. Mr. Hofmeister seconded the motion.