



# B O R O U G H   O F   R A R I T A N

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

### Regular Meeting

October 20<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 October 20<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; Heath Hofmeister
- Not in attendance: Michael DeCicco; Christopher Gussman; Pablo Orozco, Council Liaison; Denise Carra, Planning Board Liaison

3) Flag Salute

4) Approval of Minutes: September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Ms. Metaxas made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Sacino seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with no revisions.

5) Report from Borough Council

Mr. Orozco was not present so there was no report from Borough Council.

6) Report from Planning Board

Ms. Carra and Mr. DeCicco were not present so there was no report from the Planning Board. Mr. Alvarez has not been notified of any applications for the EC to review.

7) Public Comment

8) Discussion Items

9) New Business

- Discussion of proposed budget
  - Mr. Alvarez prepared a draft budget proposal for the group to review.
  - The proposal is for more funding than the group had previously discussed, so the group discussed whether it makes sense to ask for more or to trim down the proposal.
  - The group agreed to keep the proposed budget as is and see what feedback we get from the borough.
  - Mr. Alvarez put forward a motion to approve the budget as prepared. Ms. Stander seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.
- Brainstorm ideas for future outreach projects
  - The group discussed possible freebies to stuff into bags for upcoming events. It would be nice to get free LED light bulbs again. Ms. Stander will ask her contacts at RVCC if the free

LED bulb program that used to happen at the college is still happening. Mr. Hofmeister will also ask around at NJ Transit regarding possible donations. Ms. Metaxas will talk to JT Landscaping about donating cases of LED light bulbs (or other items). Ms. Stander reminded the group that Agway donated a composter that the EC raffled away some years ago. Ms. Metaxas mentioned that Agway donated custom t-shirts some years ago for river cleanups. Ms. Stander noted that we could try to get t-shirts for a tree planting event. It sounds like the group should work on reaching out to small businesses to partner on outreach events.

- The group discussed trying to get the Boy and Girl Scouts involved in a tree planting event around Arbor Day or Earth Day.
- Ms. Stander raised the issue of the borough considering selling the public sewer system to American Water. The group should check out the Patch article about this: <https://www.tapinto.net/towns/bridgewater-slash-raritan/sections/government/articles/raritan-considering-benefits-of-selling-sewer-system-to-new-jersey-american-water>. There may be opportunities at future Borough Council meetings to express our views about this issue.

#### 10) Old Business

- Status of recommendation to adopt enhanced stormwater ordinance
  - Mr. Alvarez has not received an update from Mr. Orozco about this effort. Mr. Alvarez knows that the recommendation was submitted to the borough.
- Status of recommendation to change EC bylaws
  - The Borough Council should have discussed the bylaw change recommendation at their meeting this past Tuesday, October 4. Mr. Alvarez will check the agenda/minutes from the meeting to make sure it was discussed. The Council should have to vote on it at the next meeting.

#### 11) Green Team

##### a) Review of status spreadsheet

Ms. Stander suggested that we reach out to the Van Clef representative to see if they can attend our next meeting in November. It would be helpful to devote most of our next meeting to discussing the status of our outstanding Sustainable Jersey actions and to see what we need to do to prepare for the next certification submission deadline.

#### 12) Adjournment

Mr. Alvarez made a motion to adjourn at 8:08pm. Ms. Metaxas seconded the motion.