



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

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

February 15th, 2024

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 February 15th, 2024. 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; Christopher Gussman; Heath Hofmeister; Ryan Bellinger
- Not in attendance: Michael DeCicco; Adam Armahizer, Council Liaison; Denise Carra, Planning Board Liaison

3) Flag Salute

4) Approval of Minutes from January 18th

Mr. Gussman made a motion to approve the minutes, and Mr. Bellinger seconded. The minutes were approved with no revisions.

5) Report from Borough Council

The EC's Borough Council liaison was not present.

6) Report from Planning Board

The EC's Planning Board liaison was not present.

7) Public Comment

There were no members of the community present.

8) Discussion Items

- Clean Communities event planning for Sat, April 27
 - How to better market the event this time?
 - Market it as an Earth Day and Arbor Day event
 - Reach out to local businesses to sponsor the event and donate some swag. Mr. Bellinger will reach out to Valley Wellness.
 - Ms. Metaxas met the Somerset County recycling coordinator, Melissa Harvey, who said that the county purchases composters and possibly rain barrels that they provide to county municipalities at cost or even free. We could obtain a composter and hold a raffle to give it away. Ms. Stander will reach out to her.
 - Mr. Bellinger suggested reaching out to the Recreation Committee about holding a small carnival at the canal park at the same time.
 - Mr. Alvarez and Ms. Stander will work on putting together a flyer.

forestry practices either online or in person in October through Rutgers.

- Then the town needs to earn 8 CEUs among two employees.
- Once all that is accomplished, then the borough would be eligible for \$150,000 grants.
- Status of invitation to Eugene DeStefano to attend RBEC meeting
 - The group will wait to hear from Mr. Armahizer next month.

9) New Business

- Mr. Hofmeister will reach out to Mr. Russo, the principal of JFK, to see if he's had a chance to talk to the superintendent about applying for a future NJDEP reforestation grant. Ms. Stander suggested reaching out to Michael Pepe, our Board of Ed rep, because he indicated his interest in finding ways to collaborate.

10) Green Team

a) Report out from ongoing efforts and planning future activities

- Mr. Bellinger's Community Forestry efforts (described above) are relevant to this agenda item.

11) Adjournment

- Ms. Metaxas made a motion to adjourn at 8:30pm. Mr. Gussman seconded the motion.