



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

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

### Regular Meeting

September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### 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 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025. 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: Emilie Stander; Tony Sacino; Christopher Gussman; Heath Hofmeister; Ben Harris
- Not in attendance: Juan Alvarez; Olga Metaxas; Adam Armahizer, Council Liaison

3) Flag Salute

4) Approval of Minutes from August 28<sup>th</sup>

Mr. Harris made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Hofmeister seconded the motion. The minutes passed with no revisions.

5) Report from Borough Council

Councilman Armahizer was not present, so there was no report.

6) Report from Planning Board

Planning Board has been informed about a proposal to erect a digital billboard. Borough Council may have voted on it at the last meeting. A variance would need to be approved to allow it to move forward.

There is no news on the Raritan Mall proposal yet. The Agway redevelopment is likely to come before the Planning Board first. It looks like the Batteries and Bulbs building is currently being demolished.

7) Public Comment

There were no members of the public present.

8) Discussion Items

- Green Communities trainings – looking for a volunteer (Adam)
  - Mr. Hofmeister will give Councilman Armahizer a call to get more information on this before the next EC meeting.
- Planning upcoming outreach events
  - Composting workshop, Oct 4
    - 1-3pm, hopefully at Frelinghuysen Park
      - Mr. Hofmeister will call the assistant borough administrator for permission since Mr. Sibilia is no longer running the Recreation Committee.
    - Purchasing materials
      - Mr. Hofmeister will purchase materials in cash and keep receipts to get

reimbursed. Mr. Sacino suggested getting worms at sporting goods stores.

- Advertising
  - Mr. Harris will create a flyer and doublecheck the registration form that Ms. Stander set up. He will share the flyer with Ms. Stander so it can be posted on the borough website.
- River clean up, Sept 27/28
  - Mr. Harris has not heard back from Duke Farms yet. He did notify RHA's watershed ambassador, who may pull in other ambassadors who need service hours.
  - Mr. Hofmeister will notify the local scout troop.
  - Mr. Pepe sent the flyer to the school district to notify school groups.
- Update and status of proposed revision of bylaws
  - Did the new lawyer have a chance to review? (Adam)
    - Mr. Hofmeister will raise this issue with Councilman Armahizer when they speak. He may also reach out to the borough administration for an update.
- Ordinance review planning (Emilie)
  - Ms. Stander updated the group on her conversation with Ms. Knowles about incorporating a public health review of existing environmental ordinances to look at potential updates that are needed for both public health and environmental-related
  - Mr. Hofmeister made a motion to vote to move ahead with the contract. The group unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Hofmeister will notify Councilman Armahizer about the vote and inquire about next steps.
  - Questions for Ms. Knowles: TMDL's and NTE \$3,000, will a deliverable be in a format that's digestible for Council, perhaps an executive summary or some sort of visual presentation.
  - Mr. Harris will reach out to a RHA contact to find out if Rutgers Cooperative Extension still has funding to assist municipalities with Watershed Improvement Plans.
- Social media update and planning (Ben)
  - Mr. Harris is ramping up activity now that it's fall.
- Raritan Mall redevelopment
  - Volunteers needed to work on site-specific checklist for Planning Board
  - Outreach to LSRP to better understand timing of remediation and construction
  - Ms. Stander suggested the group appoint a sub-committee to work on these two functions. Mr. Harris, Mr. Gussman, and Ms. Stander volunteered to help with this.
- RVCC tree/forest health communication materials: update (Ben)
  - Mr. Harris will put this on his to do list after the publicity materials for the composting and yoga workshops.
- Hydration station at JFK splash park or Nevius St bridge using Clean Communities funding: update (Heath)
  - Mr. LoMedico is planning to install the station. Timing is currently unknown.
- Cameras for real-time flash flood monitoring: update (Emilie)
  - Ms. Stander spoke to a contact who used to be with Somerset County Emergency Services. He thought the county's Public Health and Safety department could be interested and connected her to a contact at that department.
  - Ms. Knowles thought that the borough could require the Raritan Mall developer to install the cameras and include that in the redevelopment plan. If there is a plan that's already approved, it could be modified to include this.
- Plans for upcoming visits to EC meetings
  - Ed Carrington (Duke Farms): Mr. Harris invited Mr. Carrington to an upcoming meeting and is waiting to hear back which one he intends to attend.
  - Borough engineer: this will be scheduled once Mr. Carrington's visit is on the books.
  - Outreach to scouts

9) New Business

Matt D'Alessandro from NRCS will visit the EC meeting next month.

10) Adjournment

Mr. Harris made a motion to adjourn at 8:36pm. Mr. Sacino seconded the motion.