



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

MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
22 FIRST STREET  
RARITAN, NJ 08869  
PHONE: (908) 231-1300 FAX: (908) 231-0810

[www.raritanboro.org](http://www.raritanboro.org)

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

March 17, 2016

Chairman Kovac called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Chairman Kovac read the following Open Public Meetings Act 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 the posting on the bulletin board at the Borough Hall and transmitted to the officially designated newspapers indicating that this Meeting would take place at the Borough Hall, Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m. on March 17, 2016. In addition a copy of this notice is and has been made available to the public and is on file in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.”

The roll call was as follows:

Present: Bryanna Danyluk, Council Liaison, Michael DeCicco, Jerry Kovac, Chairman, Ann Marie McCarthy, Secretary, Eric Wilde, Rick Zack, Planning Board Liaison  
Absent: Thomas Delacruz, Olga Metaxas

Everyone present participated in the Salute to the Flag.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Kovac presented the following minutes for approval: March 17, 2016. The aforesaid minutes were approved upon motion by Mr. Zack, seconded by Mr. DeCicco and carried upon voice vote.

### REPORT FROM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Councilwoman Danyluk reported the Borough is doing an environmental assessment of the soccer fields. She also reported she is participating in the river cleanup scheduled for April 16.

## **REPORT FROM PLANNING BOARD**

Mr. Zack reported he has not opened the most current package from the Planning Board and does not have a report for this evening. He spoke of an application regarding a two-family residence that does not have any environmental issues.

Chairman Kovac spoke of a rumor regarding the demolition of Washington School. It was reported the Borough is interested in acquiring the school back from the County pending demolition. It was reported the Borough Engineer reported the building is in poor condition. The Commission spoke on asbestos concerns regarding the school.

## **PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

A motion was made by Ms. Danyluk, seconded by Ms. McCarthy to open the meeting to the public. Said motion carried unanimously upon voice vote.

There being no comments from the public at this time, a motion was made by Ms. Danyluk to close the meeting to the public. Said motion was seconded by Ms. McCarthy and carried unanimously upon voice vote.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **Rain Barrel & Garden Rebate Program**

Ms. McCarthy reported Robert A. O'Neill from NJ Water Supply Authority was scheduled for the February meeting. The Commission did not meeting in February as there was no quorum. Ms. McCarthy stated she would reach out to Mr. O'Neill to reschedule.

### **Draft 2015 Annual Report**

Upon motion by Mr. Zack, seconded by Ms. McCarthy, the following Annual Report was approved by the Environmental Commission and the Secretary was directed to submit it to the Township Council:

**BOROUGH OF RARITAN  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2015**

**MARCH 2016**

### **2016 Environmental Commission**

Jerry Kovac, Chairman  
Ann Marie McCarthy, Secretary  
Bryanna Danyluk, Council Liaison  
Rick Zack, Planning Board Liaison  
Michael DeCicco  
Thomas Delacruz  
Olga Metaxas  
Eric Wilde

## **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT 2015**

In accordance with the provisions of Borough Code Chapter 5, Boards, Committees and Commissions, Article II, Environmental Commission establishing an Environmental Commission for the Borough of Raritan, the Environmental Commission is pleased to submit this annual report for calendar year 2015 to the Mayor and Township Council. The organization, responsibilities, powers and activities of the Commission adhere to the provisions of the Ordinance as well as the State legislation (NJSA 40:56A) passed in 1968, governing the establishment of environmental commissions.

### **Powers and Responsibilities**

As per the Municipal Code, the Environmental Commission shall have power to study and make recommendations concerning space preservation, water resource management, air and water pollution control, solid waste management, noise control, soil and landscape protection and environmental appearance.

As per State Statute, an environmental commission organized under this act shall have power to conduct research into the use and possible use of the open land areas of the municipality and may coordinate the activities of unofficial bodies organized for similar purposes, and may advertise, prepare, print and distribute books, maps, charts, plans and pamphlets which in its judgment it deems necessary for its purposes. It shall keep an index of all open areas, publicly or privately owned, including open marshlands, swamps and other wetlands, in order to obtain information on the proper use of such areas, and may from time to time recommend to the planning board or, if none, to the mayor and governing body of the municipality plans and programs for inclusion in a municipal master plan and the development and use of such areas.

## **Activities and Accomplishments**

The Environmental Commission held a total of 7 regular official meetings during 2015. Minutes documenting the activities of each meeting were recorded and posted on the Borough website. Principal activities and accomplishments for the year were as follows:

- Reviewed and commented on a total of 2 site plans for proposed residential and commercial development within the Borough.
- Continued to support and work with the Borough staff to provide Environmental Commission information for posting on the Borough website.
- Sponsored and participated in the Annual River Cleanup on April 25, 2015.
- Addressed concerns to the decreased membership of the Environmental Commission and recommended amending the Code to provide for two alternates on the Commission.

## **Membership**

There were several changes in Commission membership in 2015:

- Two alternate members were appointed to the Commission: Keith Abrams and Charles Toye.
- Two members who had not attended meetings in over a year were removed from the Commission by the Borough Council: Karen Baez and Candance Bauer.
- The two alternate members were appointed as regular members, each to an unexpired three-year term ending December 31, 2015: Keith Abrams and Charles Toye.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

It was the consensus of the Commission to schedule their annual river/canal cleanup on Saturday, April 23, 2016 at 11 am starting at Canal Park. Ms. McCarthy stated she would inform the Borough and contact the Somerset County Parks Commission. Ms. McCarthy stated she would try to find a local business to donate sandwiches for the event. Mr. Zack stated he would purchase the gloves and water for the event. He also stated he would contact the girl scouts as they had participated last year.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Chairman Kovac recommended discussion regarding the disposal of pharmaceutical waste wait until the next meeting when Mr. Delacruz would be in attendance and may have a report for the Commission.

Discussion ensued regarding an open DEP permit at the Dye Factory property and the demolition of a building on Route 202 where Golden Wok used to be.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Ms. Danyluk, seconded by Mr. DeCicco to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m. Said motion carried unanimously upon call of the roll.

Approved:  
Date:

Ann Marie McCarthy, Secretary