



BOROUGH OF RARITAN, SOMERSET COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
March 15, 2018

Chairman Clark called the meeting to order at 6:57 p.m.

Chairman Clark 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 February 15, 2018. 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: Mark Clark (Chairman), Olga Metaxas, Diana Russo (Secretary), Paul Giraldi (Council Liaison), Michael DeCicco, and Rick Zack, Planning Board Liaison
Absent: Carrie Tozzi and Eric Wilde

Everyone present participated in the Salute to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Metaxas, seconded by Mr. DeCicco that the minutes from the Environmental Commission (EC) meeting of February 15, 2018 be approved. Said motion was carried unanimously upon voice vote.

REPORT FROM BOROUGH COUNCIL

No report was made at this time.

REPORT FROM PLANNING BOARD

Mr. Zack presented the Planning Board discussion on the proposed variance increase for the Bongiovi Funeral Home which will increase the impermeable property. Mr. Zack to present the proposed drawings to the EC and the EC will evaluate and determine if remuneration is necessary (e.g. water recovery/collection solution).

Additionally, Mr. Zack discussed the upcoming building site, Block 81, which lies on the corner of 1st Ave. and 3rd St. Work on the site is to begin by removing public services and then to start demolition with the intention of building 227 units and 400 parking spaces.

Additionally, Mr. Zack will share copies of the updated borough Master Plan.

Additionally, the Planning Board discussed the LabCorp expansion, which is expected to have no environmental impact.

Additionally, the Planning Board discussed the property at 21 Orlando Dr. (also known as the dye building). As this site is in a known flood zone, selling the property to a private investor has stalled and the borough intends to sell 52 acres, including the dye building, to Somerset County to convert the space to Green Acres. The hearing on the Green Acres took place the same day as this EC meeting (March 15, 2018) and public comment closed on March 29, 2018.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

No members of the public were present at this time.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Chairman Clark's request for 2,000 saplings has been granted. The Department of Public Works has agreed to pick up and store the saplings until the borough's 70th anniversary event on May 5, 2018.

In regards to the 70th anniversary event, the following ideas were discussed as prizes for the EC to present:

- Rain barrel
- Composter
- Low-flow showerhead
- Water testing kits
- Solar walkway lights
- Nest thermostat

It was discussed that one larger value prize and one smaller value prize be raffled off during the event. Chairman Clark to determine with Linda Schulte how the raffle for prizes can be arranged. It was also discussed that a tent would be needed, that the EC would have a sign-up sheet for new members and/or Green Team members, and that the EC would present information on rain barrels and the county-wide shredding event.

NEW BUSINESS

In the previously agreed upon EC goal of attaining Sustainable Jersey certification, the following items were discussed:

1. A Green Team: A motion was made by Mr. Zack, seconded by Ms. Russo that a Green Team be organized in the borough as part of the EC goal of attaining Sustainable Jersey certification. Said motion was carried unanimously upon voice vote. A proclamation has been drafted and presented to Mayor McMullen for approval.
2. Community education and outreach including, but not limited to, presenting items in the

Breeze and having guest speakers at the library.

3. Energy education
4. Green Fair: EC will be present at the 70th anniversary event presenting environmental topics
5. Inventory of borough buildings and energy audits
6. Green development checklist
7. Rain gardens
8. Public Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure
9. Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan: EC to determine if this part of the borough Master Plan
10. Historic preservation element
11. Transit Aid: Block 81's proposed parking deck with 400 spaces may help support access to the Raritan Train Station. Mr. Zack to assist with this submission to Sustainable Jersey.
12. Natural Resource Inventory: Stan Schrek has already completed this task and a write up will need to be submitted to Sustainable Jersey.
13. Environmental Commission: This is established in the borough.
14. Tree planting programs
15. Paper recycling
16. Green grants
17. Recycled material
18. Municipal communication strategy: There is one in place and a write up will need to be submitted to Sustainable Jersey
19. Improve public engagement in government
20. Prescription drug safety: This was discussed and it occurs at the county level.
21. Waste reduction and recycling compliance
22. Commercial and institutional recycling: It was discussed that statistics on this can be obtained from Dan Jaxel.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Clark discussed the Roots for River Reforestation grant and it was discussed that the EC could potentially partner with Ortho regarding planting trees on "high importance" property, including on the Orlando Drive Green Acres land.

Chairman Clark discussed the Raritan Headwaters Association Annual Stream Cleanup which is to take place April 14, 2018. An update was given that six members of the UNICO group would be available to help and the call for volunteers was also placed in the Breeze.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Metaxas, seconded by Mr. DeCicco to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Said motion carried unanimously upon voice vote.

Approved:
Date:

Diana Russo, Secretary