



BOROUGH OF RARITAN, SOMERSET COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
June 21, 2018

Chairman Clark called the meeting to order at 7:10 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 June 21, 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), Eric Wilde, Olga Metaxas, Diana Russo (Secretary),
Absent: Michael DeCicco, Rick Zack, Planning Board Liaison, and Paul Girdaldi (Council Liaison)

Everyone present participated in the Salute to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Metaxas, seconded by Ms. Russo that the minutes from the Environmental Commission (EC) meeting of May 17, 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

The groundbreaking for the Block 81 project was mentioned. The construction effort is anticipated at 15-18 months.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Angela Knowles was present from the public. Ms. Knowles, Borough Planner, shared that Mayor McMullin expressed a desire for the Environmental Commission to become involved with stormwater management plan and potential assistance to the Department of Public Works. A conversation ensued about the best way for the Environmental Commission to be involved. Two ideas shared were (1) partnerships with local schools and (2) a resident “adopt a stormwater drain” program. Further

discussion and data is required to determine the needs of the borough and develop an effective program. It is desired to submit the resulting effort for Sustainable Jersey credits.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Ms. Metaxas brought a news article (Star Ledger June 1, 2018) concerning the use of plastic straws. The article highlighted that several large companies are starting to eliminate plastic straws. A discussion ensued regarding single use disposable items and that reusable or biodegradable alternatives are preferable.

NEW BUSINESS

The following topics were covered:

- a. There has been a change in Environmental Commission membership. Carrie Tozzi has resigned her position. A call for a new members has yielded a new candidate. The responder was presented to Mayor McMullin who has indicated he will bring the candidate forward for appointment confirmation during to the next Borough Council meeting currently scheduled for June 26, 2018.
- b. Chairman Clark received a forwarded email request from the NJ DEP office of Air Quality, Energy, and Sustainability via Mayor McMullin regarding recycling contamination. Chairman Clark contacted the Somerset County office of Recycling and Solid Waste Management for comment. The representative contacted indicated that they did not have any concerns with Raritan Borough residential recycling compliance. When asked, the representative indicated that there were not excessive warning (i.e. “red tagging”) nor patterns of contamination issues. It was discussed by the Environmental Commission members, however, that it could be beneficial to promote a “free cycle” type model to increase re-use over recycling or landfilling of unwanted items.

The Somerset County representative indicated that their primary concern was with responses to the recycling tonnage reports required by local businesses. The Environmental Commission will explore ways to communicate this to borough businesses (i.e. flyer).



Recycling Contamination Letter_Baldauf.pdf

- c. Two planning board applications were reviewed:
 - i. Information Technology J&J 1003 US Highway 202; Block 31 Lot 4.01 application for a walking trail. J&J IT requested a waiver from the Environmental Impact statement component of the application. There was some discussion around the appropriateness of this and the consensus was considering the intent of the project and environmental measures proposed that there were no concerns.
 - ii. East Ridge NJ LLC 119 US Highway 202; Block 29 Lot 1 application for subdivision of retail space on site adjacent to new QuickChek location on the Route 206/Route28 circle. The application does not include the green development checklist. The consensus of the commission was to request this checklist be submitted.



Planning Bd Request for Comments East Ridge and Information Technology.pdf

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Clark, seconded by Ms. Russo to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m. Said motion carried unanimously upon voice vote.

Approved:

Diana Russo, Secretary

Date: