



**BOROUGH OF RARITAN, SOMERSET  
COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
*December 20, 2018***

**MINUTES**

Chairman Clark called the meeting to order at 7:06.

Chairman Clark read the following Open Public Meetings Act Statement:

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 the posting on the bulletin board at the Borough Hall and transmitted to the officially designated newspapers indicating that his Meeting would take place at the Borough Hall, Council Chambers at 7:00pm on September 20, 2018. 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.”

The roll call was as follows:

Present: Mark Clark (Chairman), Olga Metaxas, Diana Russo, Emilie Stander

Absent: Michael DeCicco, Paul Giraldi, Eric Wilde, Rick Zack

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Ms. Stander, seconded by Ms. Metaxas, that the minutes from the meeting September 20, 2018 was carried unanimously upon voice vote.

**REPORT FROM BOROUGH COUNCIL**

There was no report from Borough Council.

**REPORT FROM PLANNING BOARD**

Mr. Zack contacted Mr. Clark via email his decision to resign from the Environmental Commission.

**ACTION:** Mr. Clark to contact chairman of Planning Board for updated liaison.

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

No members of the public present

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

There were no discussion items.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- a) The 2019 meeting schedule was discussed with a consensus to maintain the current schedule of the third Thursday of each month at 7:00pm. A voice vote was carried unanimously.
- b) Mr. Clark read a draft annual report for the Raritan Borough Environmental Commission. The report establishes the Commission's objectives, 2018 accomplishments, and 2019 goals.  
**ACTION:** Mr. Clark to send to Environmental Commission members for review  
**ACTION:** Ms. Stander to reach out to colleagues in ANJEC & Bridgewater Environmental Commission for examples of Annual Reports.
- c) No new planning board applications were available for review.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

No old business was discussed.

### **GREEN TEAM**

- a) There was a discussion about holding a 2019 Earth Day/Green Fair. Ideas included:
  - a. Invite Watershed Ambassador
  - b. Hold a rain barrel workshop (requires ~10 people minimum), include artistic element
  - c. Environmentally friendly kids art tent
  - d. Invite Somerset County Environmental Education Center
  - e. Composting workshop (Duke Farms partnership?)
  - f. Launch the Adopt a Storm Drain Program
  - g. Local business/organization outreach (Police, Fire Dept, schools, Economic Development group)
  - h. Prizes
  - i. DJ
  - j. Vendors
  - k. Green Team Shirts (part of art contest?)**ACTION:** Mr. Clark to meet with the Raritan Programs & Events Committee to begin planning
- b) Discussed having a stormwater assessment for Raritan completed  
**ACTION:** Ms. Stander to reach out to Rutgers Coop. Extension for cost associated with this. Available grants?

- c) Assoc. of NJ Environmental Commissions (ANJEC), Effective Environmental Commissions webinar update:
  - a. Attended by Ms. Stander and reported to Green Team.
  - b. Reviewed how to ask the right questions during planning board application reviews.
  - c. Reviewed stormwater management actions and the stormwater utility concept.
  - d. Reviewed Environmental Resource Inventories (ERI). Raritan's was completed in 2013 and considered up to date.
- d) Community Solar webinar review:
  - a. Attended by Ms. Stander and reported to Green Team.
  - b. Summary: Community Solar is a new pilot program that allows community members (residents, organizations, businesses) to opt into a shared solar PV installation to take advantage of economies of scale. Each member owns part of the system and/or electricity produced and receives credit on electric bill. Benefits those who cannot afford the cost or do not have property to install.
  - c. It is a reimbursement program meaning that there would be an upfront cost burden on the location sponsoring the solar installation.
  - d. Online maps (GIS) are available with layers showing what properties are eligible and where the electric grid would support such installations. This info should have been sent to the mayor.
  - e. Mr. Clark recommended that the opportunity in Raritan could be to spread the word to residents to possibly take advantage of a program organized separately.

**ACTION:** Ms. Stander to inquire with RVCC if they plan join a county Community Solar plan.

**ACTION:** Mr. Clark to inquire if Mayor McMullin has received a letter that should have been send out by the program organizers.
- e) Discussed a renewed membership drive.
  - a. Quarterly newsletter?
  - b. Website?
  - c. Facebook page?

**ACTION:** Mr. Clark to revisit gaining access to legacy RBEC facebook page.

### ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Metaxas, seconded by Ms. Russo, to adjourn the meeting at 8:06pm. Said motion carried unanimously upon voice vote.

Approved:

Date: