



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

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

May 16th, 2019

### AGENDA

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 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 May 16, 2019. 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:

Mark Clark (present); Michael DeCicco (not present); Christopher Gussman (present); Olga Metaxas (present); Diana Russo (present); Emilie Stander (present); Joni McKelvey (First Alternate) (not present)

Denise Carra, Planning Board Liaison (not present); Paul Giraldi, Council Liaison (not present)

3. Flag Salute

4. Approval of Minutes: *April 18, 2019*

Ms. Stander introduced a motion to approve the minutes, Chris Gussman seconded, all were in favor.

5. Report from Borough Council

None (Paul Giraldi not present)

6. Report from Planning Board

(Denise Carra not present)

Mr. Clark attended the last Planning Board meeting when the Board discussed the Orlando Dr. property application. The meeting was quite involved; the developer brought engineers and their own stenographer, etc. The developer made the case that they had not made enough changes from the original proposal, so their position is that the preliminary approval should still be in effect. Their application was in good order; they completed the green checklist, they made the case that they were proposing stormwater mitigation beyond what was required, etc. They addressed all the comments from the previous meeting. Community members across the way from the property attended and voiced concerns about privacy, traffic flows, etc. Flooding hazards were discussed; the developer acknowledged there could be flooding in portions of the parking lot. Mr. Clark requested the EIS, stormwater runoff and drainage plans, etc. Everything the RBEC requested was provided. They're allowing the trail connecting to Duke Island Park and Duke Farms to go through via an easement on the property.

a. Site plan review: Adjacent property next to new Quick Chek at the circle, 119 Route 202, 1.65 acres; same owner as Quick Chek, currently grassy area (was part of the Gateway Motel before). The owner is claiming a reduction in impervious cover because they're counting the entire lot (including Quick Chek) and comparing to when the hotel was on the site.

The developer is proposing a new "The Learning Experience" Academy of Early Education

(tutoring service)

The developer is not proposing any particular green features other than LED lighting in the parking lot, a CDS manufactured device (centrifugal device) to settle out sediment, and a SNOUT manufactured device to capture oil/grease (separation baffle)

We will request completion of the green development checklist and a swale along the border with Frelinghuysen Ave to infiltrate runoff from the parking lot.

- b. Apr 23 notification letter that the Hunt Property, Block 117 Lot 4, requested a freshwater wetlands letter of interpretation from NJDEP. DEP welcomes comments within 15 calendar days of date that DEP published the notice of the application in the DEP Bulletin. It looks like the property is between the canal and the river. The letter did not specify, but we're guessing the "development" is probably for the installation of the county trail. So we're all in support of this project and don't need to submit a formal comment to DEP.

7. Public Comment

No one present from the public.

8. Discussion Items

- a. Eco Day recap: We made the best of a bad situation regarding the weather and soggy conditions of the field. Commission members reviewed the photos of the event published in the Breeze, and remarked on the good attendance at the event considering the weather conditions. The Art Contest winners are posted upstairs in Borough Hall.

b. Next steps for the Commission:

- a. Impervious coverage assessment: We need to find grant funding. Our first step is to look through the list of grant programs that Von Scully shared with us.
- b. Electric vehicle charging ordinance
- c. Environmental Speaker Series: Mr. Clark is willing to repeat some of his previous presentations. Ms. Knowles is interested in presenting about Sustainable Jersey.

**Action item:** Mr. Clark will send an email out to the South County Green Teams email distribution list. He will inquire as to whether other towns are interested in collaborating on the speaker series and if any are interested in looking into partnering on the impervious coverage assessment.

**Action item:** Ms. Stander will ask contacts at the NJ Water Supply Authority if someone would like to speak about River Friendly Resident certification at the Speaker Series.

9. New Business

None

10. Old Business

- a) Sustainable Jersey Green Leadership Hub Sustainability Summit, Friday June 14; Ms. Stander will attend, Mr. Clark will initiate a PO to get borough funds to cover the registration fee.
- b) Somerset County Green Leadership Hub meeting was postponed, has not yet been rescheduled.

11. Green Team

- a) Sustainable Jersey review; we will table this until next month since Ms. Knowles is not present
- b) Creative place making grant – commissioners need to identify contacts who know local artists.

12. Adjournment – Ms. Metaxas made a motion to adjourn, Ms. Russo seconded.