



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

## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

### Regular Meeting

August 15th, 2019

### MINUTES

- Chairman Clark called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.
- Chairman Clark read the following Open Public Meetings Act Statement:

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 August 15, 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:

Present: Mark Clark; Michael DeCicco; Christopher Gussman, Olga Metaxas; Diana Russo;  
Paul Giraldi, Council Liaison

Not Present: Emilie Stander; Joni McKelvey (First Alternate); Denise Carra, Planning Board  
Liaison

3. Flag Salute

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

Mr. DeCicco made a motion to approve the minutes, and Mr. Gussman seconded. All were in favor.

- Report from Borough Council
  - **ACTION:** Mr. Giraldi to confirm the Environmental Commission budget can be used for reasonable light refreshments at educational, outreach events.
  - Mr. Giraldi confirmed that the budget can be used for mailers.
  - **ACTION:** Mr. Giraldi requested additional information on the cost of a grant writer if it is desired to use budget for this purpose.
  - Mr. Giraldi has expressed concern with taking up the initiative to convert the abandoned tennis courts at 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. and 5<sup>th</sup> St. to a community garden. This property is owned by Somerset County.
  - Mr. DeCicco suggested that the borough property at the corner of Johnson Dr. and Gaston Ave. has the potential as a community garden. Discussion ensued about flood potential. This is an option but would need to be further vetted.
- Report from Planning Board
  - a) Planning Board Applications Review
    - There were no applications for the commission's review at this time.
- Public Comment
  - No members of the public present.

- Discussion Items
  - No new topics submitted for discussion.
  
- New Business
  - a) Pedestrian & Bike Safety Subcommittee meeting 13AUG19 update
    - Mr. Clark provided an update on the subcommittee meeting held. 13AUG19. All comments from the community walking tour audits have been compiled and entered into an interactive map, see link: <https://rwtm.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=33ba023b876246eda5dc69b7b07df43e>
    - Next steps include developing a mission statement and goals, finalizing the overall bicycle and pedestrian safety plan, prioritizing solutions, and seeking funding opportunities.
  
- Old Business
  - a) Action Item Follow-up:
    - Mr. Clark will reach out to the borough administrator to find out how the borough has done mailings in the past.
      - Follow-up: see section 5, above.
    - Ms. Stander will look at Sustainable Jersey grants for new Green Teams to see if the funding could be used for a community garden.
      - Follow-up still required.
    - Mr. Clark will follow up with Ms. Knowles, Mr. Girdi, and/or Mr. Orosco to find out whether there are other plans in the works for that space.
      - Follow-up: Mr. Clark spoke with Ms. Knowles who plans to follow-up.
    - Mr. Clark will send Ms. Stander the resolution that established the Green Team and she will determine whether we are eligible to apply.
      - Follow-up: Green Team resolution provided. Complete
    - Mr. Clark will ask RideWise what A/V equipment they need.
      - Follow-up: pending additional information on RideWise partnership on Pedestrian & Bike Safety timing.
      - **ACTION:** Mr. Clark to follow-up with RideWise on evening/weekend availability for education/outreach programs.
    - Mr. Clark will ask Ms. Knowles when other public events are coming up related to the bike/pedestrian, as it might make sense to coordinate to improve visibility of the events and seminars.
      - Follow-up: pending additional information on RideWise partnership on Pedestrian & Bike Safety timing.
    - Mr. Clark will bring textile recycling recommendations to the mayor.
      - Follow-up: Locations provided to Mayor. Feedback was that this type of recycling bin may already be at saturation in the borough. Additional survey and information required. Discussion at meeting was that the Raritan Mall has such bins as do the Bradley Garden Fire Dept. and American Legion Hall on York Road in Bridgewater.
    - Mr. Clark will reach out to Ms. Schulte to find out if the river festival is still happening this year.
      - Follow-up: No response from Ms. Schulte yet. Mr. Girdi indicated there is no River Fest this year. Will continue to look for other opportunities.
    - Mr. Clark will ask the borough administrator about the mechanics of hiring an external consultant to assist with Sustainable Jersey certification.
      - Follow-up: Reference section 5, above.
  
- Green Team
  - a) Sustainable Jersey Review
    - Mr. Clark reviewed the various categories of the program and noted that we are currently

- actively working towards many of them.
- The Raritan Borough submission is currently locked in a review state after which submissions can be made to address deficiencies.
  
- Adjournment
  - Ms. Metaxas entered a motion to adjourn, Mr. Gussman seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:42pm.