



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

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Regular Meeting

September 19th, 2019

MINUTES

1) Open Public Meetings Statement:

- a) 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 September 19, 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:

- a) Present: Mark Clark, Christopher Gussman, Olga Metaxas, Diana Russo, Emilie Stander
- b) Not Present: Joni McKelvey (First Alternate), Michael DeCicco, Denise Carra, Planning Board Liaison, Paul Giraldi, Council Liaison
- c) Mr. Giraldi and Ms. McKelvey are not able to attend due to their participation in planning the Basilone parade and activities this weekend.

3) Flag Salute

4) Approval of Minutes: *August 15, 2019*

- a) Ms. Russo made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. Gussman seconded

5) Report from Borough Council

- a) Mr. Giraldi provided a report by email. There are no environmental issues from Borough Council.

6) Report from Planning Board

- a) Planning Board Applications Review: Otto Properties - 83-85 W Somerset St

- i) The commission agreed to work with the applicant to revise the green development checklist to make it more accurate;
 - (1) B2: recommend no – development will not improve the heat island effect;
 - (2) B4: confirm that the lighting structures include a cutoff to direct the light down;
 - (3) C2: this item is more intended for new construction. Recommend a “No” for this one;
 - (4) C3a: provide selected fixtures from EPA approved list;
 - (5) C4: please elaborate;
 - (6) C4b: provide evidence they’re using Energy Star appliances;
 - (7) C5: provide list of selected low-VOC products;
 - (8) C6b: provide plan for recycling of construction debris;
 - (9) C6e: provide evidence that the materials would have a local provenance
- ii) We determined that the proposed addition to the footprint would extend the building to the curb on Nevius St.
- iii) We will include a general statement that green development practices attract more tenants and increase quality of life. We also recommend they look for state incentives and rebates for things like new energy-efficient HVAC systems and energy-efficient lighting at dsireusa.org

7) Public Comment

- a) No members of the public in attendance.

8) Discussion Items

- a) New benches have been installed on Somerset St as part of the bike and pedestrian TAP grant implementation.

Action: Mr. Clark will follow up with Ms. Knowles to find out who the artist was.

9) New Business

- a) Open Space Municipal Advisory Group: Basilone Park (description on page 2, below)
Mayor McMullin approached Mr. Clark about putting a trail through the small Basilone Park. The mayor was approached by neighbors about the issue. The neighbors went to the County to look into it, and the County said they need an advisory group to go before the County. The mayor suggested that we serve as an advisory group. We took a vote and unanimously agreed to participate and to also bring in the Recreation Committee. We identified an area within the park that is considered bald eagle foraging habitat, which would have to constrain potential development.

10) Old Business

- a) None to discuss.

11) Green Team

- a) Sustainable Jersey Review – application still locked online
Mr. Clark checked again just before the meeting and was able to access the application. He began to enter documentation for the Earth Day fair.
- b) **Action:** Mr. Clark will follow up with Ms. Knowles to see if the documentation entered is likely to be acceptable to Sustainable Jersey.
- c) Mr. Clark proposed we have a working meeting to work on Sustainable Jersey documentation.
- d) Ms. Stander provided an update on cost of hiring an external contractor to help us with our Sustainable Jersey application. The potential contractor charged Bound Brook charged a rate of \$50/hour; she provided a list of actions she performed for them. We could use the \$1,000 we still have in the budget for 2019 to pay for a subset of actions this year. Mr. Clark did not get a clear response about whether we would have to get bids for the job.

- 12) Ms. Stander also briefed the group on our eligibility to apply for a capacity building grant through Sustainability Jersey. We will need to have a resolution or ordinance; the proclamation we have from 2018 will not be sufficient. After the resolution, we will need Borough Council to read the names of the Green Team members at the annual reorganization meeting.

- a) **Action:** Mr. Clark will give Mr. Giraldi a heads up that we'll be looking for a resolution for the Green Team.

13) Adjournment

- a) Ms. Russo made a motion to adjourn at 8:09pm, Ms. Metaxas seconded.