

Environmental Commission Meeting
Monday February 6th 7:00 pm
Borough Hall

Minutes

Meeting Start Time: 7:05 pm

In Attendance: Trent Levitt, Chris Runion, John Kearney, Freddy Mejia, Jae Hoff, Mayor Karrow

Reading of OPMA clause

Member Introductions

Discussion of Commission Officers

Mr. Runion shared his desire to have two commission officers, vice chair and secretary, in addition to a commission chair. He described the primary responsibilities of each of these roles. No voting was taken on these positions. Members have until next meeting to consider which, if any, position s/he would like to adopt and formal nominations and votes will be taken. If a secretary is unable to be secured, members will take turns recording minutes of commission meetings.

Courtesy Review of Storm Water Ordinance

Mayor Karrow led the introduction and discussion of this ordinance that will be up for a second reading at the next council meeting. General consensus was that this ordinance revision (required by the state) will provide for stronger storm water regulations and better prepare the borough for future weather events. It was agreed that Mr. Runion will write a letter to the mayor and council in support of the adoption of this ordinance.

Discussion of Spice Factory Application

Mr. Levitt and Mayor Karrow updated the commission on the status of the Spice Factory application which is up for completeness review before the planning board. A number of key elements of the application are out of date, including a traffic study, and will likely be deemed incomplete. Commission review of this application is pending. Mr. Levitt will keep the commission informed of the status of this application, timeline moving forward, and send updated application documents to Mr. Runion.

Additional Items

Mr. Mejia expressed concern regarding inadequate street lighting in the N. Main street area. Mayor Karrow said she would observe the area after the meeting.

Mr. Levitt spoke about the Raritan Township environmental commission working on a composting program and the possibility of the borough working with them on this project. Mr. Levitt will follow up and report back next meeting.

Mayor Karrow reported that the Planning Board Attorney, Ms. Kara Kaczynski, discussed at the Planning Board reorganization that to prevent any litigation, Board members of any board which opines on site plan matters by state statute of Borough ordinance, which include the Joint Land Use Board, the Environmental Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission, should recuse themselves if they have any conflict or even the appearance of conflict with an application. Ms. Kaczynski discussed that any social media postings could lead to litigation and that the Board members should not post or provide comments on any social media. Mayor Karrow acknowledged that everyone has First Amendment Rights, but as members of Borough Commissions, those on social media must be especially careful to not put any application in jeopardy.

Public Comment

Robert Shore spoke about the need for the commission to find project grants and to work with the HPC.

Meeting End Time: 7:55 pm