



Verona Environmental Commission

600 Bloomfield Avenue
Verona, New Jersey 07044

Minutes: January 18 2011 - Verona Community Center.

Members: Cinzia Cortese, Gerard Shimonaski, Gloria Machnowski, James Loudon, Tom Freeman, Teena Schwartz, Virginia Citrano , Anthony Saltalamacchia, Tara Bratek, and Marjorie Williams

- I. The November 2010 minutes were approved without any corrections
- II. Jerry explained to the members the status of paper, cardboard and co-mingle collection at VHS and HBW. The members were informed that discussions with Recycle America about doing paper collection could not be done gratis as first thought because the volume of paper produced was insufficient. They did send a proposal to place 8 yard container for weekly pick-up at VHS and HBW at a cost of fifty dollars per month per school. Paul McDevitt, Director of Verona School Facilities declined the offer because it was not in the School Districts budget. In a recent e-mail Paul informed me that additional containers were placed at VHS and HBW for the collection of co-mingle. VHS and HBW will continue to use Ragonese for their paper collection. A part time groundsman is picking up cardboard on a weekly basis. He also consolidates the paper at VHS and HBW bi-weekly for the Ragonese pick -up. Bottles and cans are being picked up curbside at all schools .
- III. Jerry told Tony that Joe Martin, the Township Manager would sponsor a field trip for the VHS and HBW Environmental Clubs to either Covanta or Recycle America. Tony will discuss this idea with Carl Cascone, the VHS Environmental Club advisor for a firm date.
- IV. Gloria Machnowski suggested that Verona Environmental Commission work with the Hilltop Conservancy on securing an ANJEC Planning Grant. Jerry told the members that he had received from the Hilltop Conservancy their accomplishments . In that report the Hilltop Conservancy had two grants that they would be working on in 2011. Virginia Citrano said she would discuss with Gordie Smith if there were project that the VEC could work on with the Hilltop Conservancy .Jerry Shimonaski said he supports a project with the Hilltop Conservancy and would send an e-mail to Anne Stires about such a venture.
- V. Jerry informed the members that the recycling container give away by the Township over three Saturday's was a success . Jerry had worked for three hours each Saturday with Mike to remind residents to pick up their free recycling container .One of the members asked Jerry if he knew how many containers still remained but he did not know the answer. Jerry did tell the members that

residents sometimes do not know the correct dumpster to place their recyclables. Jerry told the members that Mike asked for information on where to bring used CFL bulbs and what were the hazardous materials that could not be left at the Recycling Center. Jim Loudon came by on Saturday Jan. 15th. He saw the information I gave Mike and asked that I send it to his office so he could enlarge to 11x17 and do in color. I told Mike and Jim I would then get them laminated.

- VI. Jerry showed the members the 23 laminated "Idle Free" posters made by the Elementary School children. The discussion moved to how they would be mounted on the poles. Jim told the members of his idea to use foam core as a backer board and a screw and bolt. Gloria raised the question of the cost to purchase foam core and that it was not an environmental product, Jim told the members the foam core was recycled material from his office and would not cost the VEC any money to purchase. Jerry mentioned his idea to use cardboard but it would fall apart in the rain. Jerry also mentioned polystyrene was recyclable but was not being done in Essex County. Virginia suggested using plastic ties for mounting to the poles. Jerry will use that idea for mounting the posters. That Mr. Sampson approved of the suggestion by Tara Bratek to have the principals remind new Kindergarten parents of the dangers of idling at the schools. Also that Mr. Martin will propose an Idling Ordinance for the Township of Verona in February.
- VII. The discussion on Earth Day was not completed. One idea was to do a project with the Hilltop Conservancy, another was to give away recycling bins at the Recycling Center. Jerry suggested having art students do environmental drawing at the VHS parking lot. He also suggested posters to remind residents to recycle the plastic bags that they dump in the trash at the recycling center.
- VIII. Etan Hindin, our Americorp representative attended our meeting for feedback on an idea he had to get religious leaders in Paterson to work on an environmental project. Jerry suggested to Etan to check out the GreenFaith web site that he said he would send to him.