



Verona Environmental Commission

600 Bloomfield Avenue
Verona, New Jersey 07044

Minutes: March 15, 2011 - Verona Community Center

Members: Gerard Shimonaski, Gloria Machnowski, Tom Freeman, Virginia Citrano, Anthony Saltalamacchia, Tara Bratek, and Marjorie Williams

AGENDA ITEMS

- I. The February minutes were approved without any corrections.
- II. Members agreed on the following: To have Tom get in touch with Our Lady of Lake and find out if they have an affiliation with Greenfaith, <http://greenfaith.org/>. GreenFaith's mission is to inspire, educate and mobilize people of diverse religious backgrounds for environmental leadership. Also, if they would like the VEC to give their third and fourth graders a presentation on recycling.
- III. Jerry mentioned that the VEC Recycling presentation would be given at FN Brown on March 30 at 1:00 and 2:00 PM (This date was later changed to April 14.) Brookdale Avenue School is scheduled for April 5th at 2:00 PM.
- IV. There was some discussion on posters to be display for Earth Day. Marjorie presented a poster she made about recycling plastic bags (where they can be recycled, what they can be recycled into, and the dangers to the environment they pose if not recycled). Tony will submit a poster as will Jerry .Our Earth Day theme will be plastic bag reduction and recycling. Posters would be put on display at the Recycling Center .
- V. Members were asked to comment on Jerry's suggestion to create a water quality guide for Verona. The goal of the guide would be to educate the residents about the good quality of Verona's water in an effort encourage less dependency on bottled water therefore reducing the amount of plastics that would enter the waste & recycling stream. The members felt it would be redundant to what is sent to resident yearly.
- VI. There was discussion about possibly using the VEC website to communicate to residents on how to efficiently water lawns. Marjorie would prepare the copy for the website.
- VII. Opinions were solicited Jerry on whether or not the VEC should apply to ANJEC for an Environmental Achievement Award for the Idling Program. The members of the commission agreed that we should make a submission. Deadline submission is in September and awards are given in October.

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- VIII. Gloria mentioned that Safe Lawns Montclair has asked if the VEC could write a letter in support of the Child Safe Playing Fields Act, which restricts the use of lawn care pesticides at schools, child care centers and recreational fields. Jerry gave the approval to write the letter.
 - IX. Gloria proposed writing an article in the newspaper informing residents about where plastic bags can be recycled.
 - X. There was discussion on a possible no littering campaign. A suggestion was made about having a “Cleanup Verona Day”. It was suggested by Marjorie to involve civic groups and/or the public works department to help out. This is a plausible idea for a May activity.
 - XI. An update was given by Tony on the middle school recycling efforts and it’s success.