

# Minutes of the VEC meeting, November 15, 2011

Members in attendance: Gerard Shimonaski, Gloria Machnowski, Tom Freeman, Anthony Saltalamacchia, Marjorie Williams and Kerry Bass. Absent: James Loudon, Virginia Citrano, Tara Bratek and Kevin Ryan.

1. VEC members approved the September 15 and October 18 minutes without corrections.

2. Our Chairman mentioned his concerns regarding the lack of a Well Head Protection Ordinance, and that Jim Helb thinks that we don't need such ordinance. Jerry pointed that there is no protection of our well drinking water from chemicals placed on lawns seeping into it. He stated that water was becoming a scarce commodity and that we should do everything in our power to protect it. Some members felt that the ordinance would not be effective since the areas around the wells had been built out. Jerry suggested to give another presentation to our elementary schools about our sewage plant or on the Passaic Water Basin. Tony states he would discuss these topics with Carol Thomas at HBW.

3. Jerry stated that he had contacted our Mayor Frank Sapienza about joining forces with the interim Superintendent of the Verona Schools, Elizabeth Jewett, to support our anti idling program at the Schools and through enforcement by our Police Department. The Woodbridge Mayor and Superintendent did such a program through flyers e-mailed to its residents. Ours was going to tailor the idling flyers to school parents only. The Mayor declined this request stating that our form of government is different. VEC members suggested to continue with the poster contest, on-line videos, presentation and articles in our local newspapers to spread the word.

4. Gloria gave an update on the "Idle Free Poster Contest" Awards Ceremony held in the Council Chamber on November 14. At the event Jerry gave a short presentation. He explained the purpose of the contest and how it was created by Gloria to invite school children to raise awareness of the dangers of unnecessary idling. Council Member Kevin Ryan talked about the commission's achievements and sophisticated Web site and congratulated all winners and participants. The Town Manager congratulated the VEC for been the most active and energetic commission in town. The Mayor handed the certificates and prizes to the winners and congratulated them. Gloria discussed the exhibition of all posters in the Township Library until the end of the month and at the Essex County Environmental Center until mid December. She also mentioned the November updates to our Web site.

5. Gloria reminded all of their assigned times for manning the VEC table at Fair in the Square, on Dec. 3rd. Jerry was given a list of needed items for our table.