



Verona Environmental Commission

600 Bloomfield Avenue
Verona, New Jersey 07044

VEC Public Meeting at the Verona Community Center - November 20, 2012

Members present: Gerard Shimonaski, Gloria Machnowski, Virginia Citrano and Kevin Ryan – Started at 7:30 pm - Adjourned at 9:00 pm

MINUTES

I. There were not enough members present to approve the Oct. 16 minutes.

II. The VEC 20th anniversary will be commemorated by planting a native ornamental tree such as a dogwood in the Community Center during the Spring of 2013. Jerry discussed the matter with Martin and Cunningham.

III. The VEC received an Award at the ANJEC congress. Jerry, Gloria and Kevin attended workshops on green infrastructure, recycling and good practices. All posters were exhibited at the schools and will be on display at the Verona Public Library from Nov. 21 through December 3rd. The Award Ceremony at Town Hall went well and the Idle Free Verona video was shown.

IV. The VEC suggest to install street Recycling Bins with “Recycling Enhancement Act” moneys. Kevin and Jerry will talk to Martin about it.

V. Members discussed the sinkholes opened on VHS Sellitto Field and the need to test the soil to ensure that it is not contaminated. If it is contaminated the VEC suggests to apply for brown fields funds from the U.S. DEP and rehabilitate it. The BOE would need to spend up to \$15,000 to test the soil. Paul McDevitt, will do a presentation on school buildings and grounds matters on Nov. 27.

VI. VEC members approved the VEC Resolution urging legislators to pass the Safe Playing Fields Act. Jerry and Gloria will sign it and mail it. Virginia edited and members approved the VEC “Verona Safe Playing Fields” petition to invite residents to sign at Fair In the Square asking the township and BOE to stop using synthetic toxic lawn pesticides in our public fields. Gloria will make a pesticide display and set up with Tony. Virginia, Tara and other members need to confirm their participation. Also, Jerry will start writing a Steep Slope Resolution.

VII. The new fields at the Community Center were discussed. Kevin showed the blueprint of the project that will add 163 parking spaces. Members suggested a reduction of paved parking areas and/or “green parking lots” -parking lots that may incorporate a variety of environmentally preferable features, including a minimized footprint and/or impervious surfaces, stormwater best management

practices, and alternative parking surface materials-. Parking lot runoff is a major contributor to non-point source pollution of our waterways. Conventional parking lots quickly move stormwater into receiving water bodies. This results in large volumes of polluted runoff entering surface water and groundwater resources, negatively affecting water quality.

VEC members expressed the need to participate in the township discussion for this project. The town should fulfill the same requirements that private projects have, such as infiltration tests to demonstrate the impact of the project and avoid compromising our drinking water quality. Members also showed concern about matters such as blasting and artificial turf fields that could negatively impact our environment.