



Verona Environmental Commission

600 Bloomfield Avenue
Verona, New Jersey 07044

VEC Public Meeting: September 17 at 7:30 pm – VCC Annex building.

Members present: Gloria Machnowski, Anthony Saltalamacchia, Virginia Citrano, Jessica Pearson, Julia Capuano, Chris Stark, Martin Golan and Council Liaison Kevin Ryan.

MINUTES

I. Members approved the minutes for the June 18, 2014 VEC meeting.

II. The commission requested the mayor and town manager to reappoint Virginia Citrano and Antony Saltalamacchia. Kevin and Gloria will contact them again to confirm that the appointments will take place during the upcoming Council meeting.

III. VEC Poster Contest: entries due Oct. 8, the theme is 'Sustainable Verona'. Open to public schools' students grade K to 12. Winners will receive \$50 dollars and an award certificate from the mayor. Jim will print flyers, Gloria will visit the elementary schools and contact all SCAs. She submitted the flyer for the Friday Folder and talked to Superintendent of Schools Dionisio who will meet with all principals and talk about it. Julia and Tony will post the flyers at HBW and VHS. Neale added the event to the township's website and VTV. It's also posted on the commission website, facebook and twitter, local papers, etc. Tony is working with HBW students to increase recycling efforts and come up with a swap method for unused supplies. Tony is also working with the students to produce a video to inform how to recycle in the cafeteria.

IV. Complete Streets policy: Christine Liaukus from the Green Team prepared a presentation for Council members, it's not scheduled yet. Waters of the US resolution: Chris will do more research about how this benefits Verona.

V. Rain Barrel program presented by Chris: cost about \$80 to \$100 each, including tubing and accessories. DIY barrels can be made for \$20. For each inch of rain that falls on a 500 square feet you can collect 300 gallons of water. Verona could reduce load on water system, installing 50 rain barrels could reduce water demand by 18m gallons per year and reduce runoff contaminants. This water can be used for gardening, car / bike washing and pet washing. We'll probably plan a display for fair in the square with workshop sign up for the Spring.

VI. Recycling video: the VEC submitted the video to the ANJEC 2014 awards.

VII. Peckman Woods Restoration Project, Fall maintenance will take place on Sunday, Sept.

28 from 9 to 12 noon. We'll have 2 chainsaws to cut fallen trees that are blocking the trail, Jessica and Jack will bring one and Geordie Smith will bring the other. Gloria requested a pile of mulch and tools, recycling bins, etc. from the township and generator, pump, etc. from BOE. Event announcements were sent to local media. The trail map will get updated and members will generate a QR code and put together a geocache.

VIII. VHS Field Update: Back in June the BOE explained that the Conceptual Drawing of the Lower Field Project posted in the school's website was not accurate. The commission would like to see the final plans. The commission was also told that a fall planting will take place to replace the trees that were removed by the front, but there is a school budget freeze. Members will explore other ways to fund the planting, perhaps with donations from parents like HBW does.