



## Verona Environmental Commission

600 Bloomfield Avenue  
Verona, New Jersey 07044  
[www.veronaec.org](http://www.veronaec.org)

**VEC Public Meeting: January 21** - VCC Annex Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. **Attendees:** Gloria Machnowski, Anthony Saltalamacchia, Chris Stark, and Council Liaison Kevin Ryan. Started at 7:30 pm, adjourned at 9:30 pm.

### MINUTES

- I. Members approved the December 17, 2014 minutes. Members also approved to renew the 2015 ANJEC membership . Jessica and Martin sent written approval prior to the meeting. Gloria will fill out and submit the ANJEC paperwork to Matthew Laracy (Chief Financial Officer) and Mr. Martin.
- II. Julia has a new job and she is not able to attend and report on the VHS Environmental Club activities. Kevin recommended that she sends a club representative to the next meeting.
- III. Tony explained the 2015 plans for HBW Environmental Club. They are working on posters and a video to inform students about recycling procedures at school. They are also working to increment cardboard recycling and they are planning a composting program down the line. The faculty will discuss a healthy competition where 2 groups of 8<sup>th</sup> graders compete as they were 2 houses. Tony will work with the science teacher to install the composter in a visible and practical spot and launch the program during the Spring. There are plans for an organic vegetable garden, to be installed in back of the school. HBW teacher Carol Thomas contacted Gloria about the garden and about recycling and composting. The commission is helping with the research. Lucas could help too. Gloria suggested to contact Paul McDevit and Rui Dionisio to see if the school district will sign up with Sustainable Jersey for Schools. SJ has programs to support organic gardening, recycling and composting at schools. The schools could use these bins, recently installed at the Community Center:  
<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/#search/lids/1498084b5248b7ed?projector=1>
- IV. Green Construction: Gloria will ask Larry to present an update at the next meeting.
- V. Peckman Woods Restoration Update: Chris is putting together a VEC Geocache for the trail. He recommended to contact Northern New Jersey Cachers (NNJC) <http://www.nnjc.org> – Gloria sent an email to Bob Prout about possible participation from Eagle Scouts candidates to install the footbridge. Virginia is researching this matter as well. Tony mentioned that one of the candidates is working on the new bulletin board in Verona Park. The VEC sent the complete grant report to ANJEC on time.
- VI. 42 Grove Ave. Project : The Junior Woman's Club of Verona approved to donate \$2000

for the Verona Environmental Commission's Nature Trail Project in the municipal lot located at 42 Grove Ave. Kevin made the announcement at the town council meeting. The main goal of this project is to preserve the existing woods while making it accessible to residents with a nature trail (narrow dirt trail). Gloria already contacted the Town Manager and Mayor about this project and they expressed their support. Members will contact Mr. Laracy, Chief Financial Officer, to ask for the procedure to deposit the money in a township's account reserved for this project. Gloria believes that in the past the township opened a trust account for the VEC. Members expressed gratitude for the encouragement and assistance that the township is giving us. The recommended project includes purchasing and installing the following items in the front grass area of the lot (near the sidewalk):

Nature Trail Sign, Park Bench, Trash Receptacle and Native Tree/s – wild flowers

VEC members asked VEC member Jim Loudon if he could put together a landscape concept to be included with the proposal. The Town Manager said that he'll ask a landscape architect to do the design on January, and meet with Mr. Helb as well as include the trail in the garbage pick up route. We could mark the trail with help from volunteers. Members recommended to contact Ben Blinder and the Verona Historical Society to obtain historical information about this lot and recommendations for the name of the trail.

VII. An Anti-Idling Resolution was adopted by the Verona Town Council on January 20, 2015. Mayor Manley and three Councilmen (Ryan, Nochimson and Sniatkowski) voted favorably and approved the resolution. Councilman Sapienza was absent. The resolution is very similar to the draft recommended by the VEC and it is based on the NJDEP sample resolution for municipalities.

The word "priority" was deleted from the wording about enforcement, but the enforcement element is included. The following point was deleted: 4. Promote the widespread use of emission controls in construction contracts (for example, see the "Diesel Emission Controls in Construction Projects: Model Contract Specification" developed by the Northeast Diesel Collaborative). Instead, the following was included: "Supporting broad education of the public about the health, environmental and economic impacts of idling and ways to reduce idling, such as promoting the widespread use of emission controls in construction contracts."

Mayor Manley and Councilman Ryan helped the VEC to get this done and VEC members expressed gratitude. Also, Councilman Nochimson pushed to get the strong version in place instead of a watered down resolution. The commission has a copy of the resolution and members will distribute it to schools and local media.

VIII. Steep Slope Ordinance update: once more members expressed the need to have this ordinance in place. Members will contact Larry to ask him about the formal procedure to introduce the ordinance recommended by the VEC at the Planning Board meeting. Members also suggested to find out from the Planning Board's lawyer what is the formal procedure for the board to recommend the Town Council to study and adopt this resolution. The VEC made a formal recommendation over a year ago and Jerry had been bringing up the need of this ordinance since 2009, when the Master Plan called for one.

VIII. Commercial and institutional recycling, accepted materials visual list: members will contact the VHS faculty to see if students could produce this visual list.