



Verona Environmental Commission

600 Bloomfield Avenue
Verona, New Jersey 07044
www.veronaec.org

Verona Environmental Commission Meeting, December 16, began at 7:30 P.M., 2nd floor of the Annex Building in the Verona Community Center, 880 Bloomfield Avenue, Verona N.J.

Attendees: Tony Saltalamacchia (Vice Chair), Jessica Pearson (Treasurer), Virginia Citrano, Martin Golan, Michael Foley (Planning Board Liaison) and Mayor Kevin Ryan (Council Liaison).

MINUTES:

1. Vice Chairperson Call to Order and Roll Call. Notice of Open Public Meetings law.
2. Members approved November 12th, 2015 minutes.
3. Approval of 2015 Annual Report. Members approved the 2015 Annual report with Virginia's note to list "Mayor" Kevin Ryan wherever Kevin Ryan was listed. All members present acknowledged that Gloria compiled an outstanding report.
4. Update: Grove Park, 42 Grove Ave., Nature Preserve & Historic Park. "Ribbon Cutting" ceremony was a success! All present acknowledged and expressed appreciation to all involved! Jessica indicated that legal concerns regarding sponsorships for future park upgrades and plaque-like designations should not be problematic after her initial inquires directed to Mitchell. Later in the meeting (after a clarifying question from Jessica) Mayor Ryan concurred that if an entity were interested in contributing and sponsoring the preserve there would be a way to facilitate the contribution and recognition.
5. Outcome VEC participation in Volunteer Night, December 1st 2015: Members that were present at the event acknowledged that it was a good turn and went well. Jessica shared that Steve Neale was envisioning ways in which future participation could be enhanced... e.g. conducting another night in in six months possibly in a venue like a local gathering spot with refreshments to facilitate social interaction as well as civic-minded-ness.
6. Update: Steep Slope Ordinance. Members that attended the December 3rd shared their observations of the Planning Board review of SSO draft. Recommendations from VEC were considered and some language adjustments were included. Mike Foley helped clarify some of the issues that were being adjusted. All acknowledged the advising email from Kerry Miller of ANJEC, which Gloria had forwarded. Members were in agreement that a strategy where an ordinance gets "on the books" (with prospect of future amendments) is better than a proposal that fails, since we have been without an ordinance for such an extended period of time.

Mayor Ryan forecasted that the revised SSO draft might get on the Town Council Agenda hopefully by the mid February meeting at the latest.

Mayor Ryan also shared some other news from pending Town Council activities:

-Recycling ordinance first reading will be on next council meeting agenda.

-In contract renewal work with Waste Management; it is very likely Verona will be able to provide curbside pick-up for all paper recyclables in addition to Junk Mail... chip board and corrugated cardboard in the coming year.. details to follow. Members were beyond thrilled and thankful with the news of that likely possibility!!!

7. Adjournment – Next Meeting January 20th, 2016. Members exchanged holiday greetings and best wished to all present and the Verona Community!!