



## Verona Environmental Commission

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

Minutes of the Verona Environmental Commission Regular Meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 P.M., Conference Room, Verona Community Center, 880 Bloomfield Avenue, Verona N.J.

Attendees: Gloria Machnowski (Chairwoman), Anthony Saltalamacchia (Vice Chairman), Members Jessica Pearson, Sean DiBartolo, Sarah Yauch O'Farrell (Alternate I), Walter Steinmann (Alternate II), Michael Foley (Planning Board Liaison) and Mayor Kevin Ryan (Council Liaison). Guest: Carolyn Rubinfeld (NJWAP Watershed Ambassador).

1. Chairperson calls the meeting to order and reads the notice of **Open Public Meetings Act**. There is a quorum to go ahead and hold an official meeting.

2. **Minutes** from the March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved by members.

### 3. Events:

• **West Essex Trail Cleanup outcome:** members are very happy that Verona DPW and the County Parks Department sent trucks and employees to support the clean-up on April 2nd. Volunteer turnout was fantastic, almost all VEC members attended and we received 69 signed waivers from volunteers. Two groups met at Cedar Grove and Verona, everyone pitched in to remove a lot of trash and junk, including car tires, batteries, and even a refrigerator. Sean sent GPS coordinates and pics of larger debris to Mike Nugent from Essex County Parks, and Mike and crew were able to return to the trail on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, to pick up larger debris, as well as additional piles of fencing, long pipes, and bagged trash. A total of 10 truck loads of junk were removed from the trail. Frank Ceccacci found a buried pickup truck last Monday near the intersection of Keeney St and the trail. We sent this to Theresa Trapp, Mike Nugent and Dan Salvante of the Parks Department, it may take them a week or two to remove it.

• **Essex County Environmental Commission's Round-table outcome:** Frank, Sarah and Martin attended on April 3<sup>rd</sup> the ECEC meeting. Frank provided notes. Sarah gave a summary: Chuck Feinberg, VP of Greener by Design, an energy and environmental management consulting firm, was the first featured speaker and provided a presentation on the extent that vehicle exhaust contributes to total gas emissions and air quality. He discussed a few state initiatives, such as converting all of Atlantic City's jitneys to hydrogen fuel and an upcoming municipality alternative fuel test slated for Montclair, Woodbridge & Secaucus.

Tommy Moloughney, owner of Charging Ahead Consulting Services and also Nauna's restaurant in Montclair, was the second featured speaker. Tommy got started in his consulting business about 5 years ago when he purchased an electric car as part of a BMW test and was provided a charging station by BMW alongside his restaurant. He began allowing his restaurant customers to use the charging station, which eventually led to an increase in his restaurant's business. Tommy feels strongly that businesses and municipalities should

consider adding charging stations to 1) contribute to cleaner air in their community 2) attract additional upscale shoppers and 3) address their future needs as the number of alternative fuel cars grow. He also feels that these charging stations should charge money to at least break even, and discussed that 2018 & 2019 will be breakout years in the growth of electric cars.

### **Round Table Discussions:**

- Verona: Sarah discussed our 4/22 free tree/seedling giveaway and Frank reviewed our West Essex Trail Cleanup.
- Maplewood: Solar Challenge Program; New & more efficient heating system installed in school
- West Orange: Upcoming Earth Hour event (shut off all non-essential powered items for an hour on 4/22); HS student involvement in creating alternative fuel sources; Milkweed seed planting initiative for Monarch Butterflies; Earth Day plant giveaway
- Bloomfield: While their EC was first started 3 years ago, they're just now finalizing their group and "finding its way". They plan on undertaking an environmental resource inventory and it was recommended that they work with ANJEC in doing so.
- Caldwell: Shoprite has recently provided money to fund pollinator gardens; solar panels are now being constructed at their sewage plant site; Clean Communities is funding their 4/22 Earth Day celebration; their town's refuge collector has donated a shredder for a day to make available to the public for donations.
- Newark: Their EC now reviews all Newark building permits; working to straighten up neglected (Woodlawn?) cemetery; acknowledged that there's "lots of work to be done" due to size and extensive past polluting.
- Montclair: Grant recently received for a pollinator garden; launched a "green" TV show on CH 34; planning board liaison now working to create a checklist for "green" construction; upcoming tree giveaways; working on their tree ordinance to address recent tree loss.

• **ANJEC workshop “Fundamentals for Effective Environmental Commissions”**: Walter and Frank attended the workshop on March 25 at the Cranford Community Center. The VEC is an ANJEC member so they paid the discounted price of \$35. Mr. Cavallo approved the reimbursement. Walter gave Gloria a USB drive with all the presentations, that she uploaded to Google drive and shared with all members, including “Assessing impact using natural resource inventories” by Jessica Ferrer and Mark Gallagher, Princeton Hydro, LLC: “Late on a Tuesday night a development applicant stands before a tired planning board; a site plan for a new residential subdivision is the topic of conversation. The applicant assures the board that the site’s 30 acres of woods contain little to no wildlife as verified by the project engineer. The project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) clearly states that the hydrology will remain unchanged, any environmental impact will be minimized, water quality in the adjacent wetlands will be improved by the retention pond, and wildlife will benefit from the new non-native landscaping. Although these conclusions may seem ridiculous, sadly they are often the norm in an EIS.” “This scene replays itself across New Jersey time and time again. What happens next depends on the local development review process. In a community like Readington Township in Hunterdon County, the applicant would not satisfy the land development ordinance. The Readington code §148-102 requires that “all applicable material on file in the Township pertinent to evaluation of regional impacts shall also be considered, including the Township Master Plan and Natural Resources Inventory (NRI).” Consequently, the board could ask the applicant to resubmit an EIS that assesses the compatibility, or lack of compatibility, of the project with the NRI, Master Plan, and other relevant planning documents. The ordinance also requires that applicants specifically address potential impacts

on thirteen environmental components including artificial light and energy use. Unfortunately, Readington Township is currently among the minority in New Jersey”.

- **VEC tree seedlings giveaway and cleanup** will take place at Grove Park on April 22 from 8am to noon, 130 communities are participating this year in the New Jersey Tree Recovery Campaign, including Verona and 7 more towns of the 22 in Essex County. Gloria will pick up 300 seedlings at Roseland Environmental Center on Friday April 21, and divide them in groups of 5 seedlings. DPW will drop a table for the event and a wheelbarrow for the cleanup. Gloria, Tony, Jessica, Walter and Sarah will set up a tent, cleaning supplies and signage. Set up is at 7:30 am. Every resident must sign in for the trees, and then the VEC will fax the list to 609-984-0378 after event. The VEC will display the tree species fact-sheet to inform residents, the list is also posted on the VEC's website. Residents will receive a total of 60 packs of trees, 5 trees each. Mayor Ryan mentioned that at the last meeting they had an Arbor Day proclamation and announced the VEC event.

- **VEC participation in Verona Green Fair.** The VEC registered to participate again this year. The 3rd Annual Verona Green Fair will take place on May 20, 2017 from 11am to 4pm outside in the Verona Civic Center, 600 Bloomfield Ave. The fair has free entry, it focuses on sustainability, and includes Family & Kids Activities, Vendors & Exhibitors, Live Music, Green Businesses, Shredding Truck, Food Drive, Rx Drug Drop, Health & Nutrition, Solar Info, Gardening, Volunteer Opportunities, Local Food Vendors and more. For More Information please visit [www.VeronaNJ.org/SustainableVerona](http://www.VeronaNJ.org/SustainableVerona).

Gloria checked with Chuck and DPW will give us recycling bins and barrels to distribute. We did a "how long it takes to decompose" game in the past, people love it, and Sarah proposed to have a quick "Recycling Race". She'll gather different types of items, number 1, 2, 5 or no number. Kids wear gloves. (she'll bring a pile of gloves.) They grab the items, look to see if it is recyclable and put it in the right bucket. They get a time to do this, say 30 seconds, We could use an hourglass. The person who gets the most right gets some stickers. Sarah has some Clean Water Rangers sticker sheets that she will bring as a prize. It's easy and fun.

**4. Natural Resource Inventory:** Verona applied for a \$10,000 grant from Sustainable Jersey for a new NRI last January. The application was prepared by the Land Conservancy, there are no news regarding grant approval yet. If Verona doesn't get the grant they will have to pay for this inventory, since it is needed to develop the new Master Plan. It takes about one month to create the inventory and the Land Conservancy of NJ could do it (<http://tlc-nj.org/>).

Jessica mentioned that the current Verona NRI is too old to be useful. It was called "Resource Inventory for Verona Township", it was published by the VEC in 1999, and prepared by March Associates Landscape Architects, with a grant from the Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Environmental Services.

The VEC recommended that the mapping effort includes incorporation of NJ's digital Elevation model (DEM), this will allow us to take a broad stroke at identifying steep slope areas in Verona, there should be more information about steep slopes and topography in the NIR report. After reviewing the NIR from 1999, we recommended to see more in the way of a detailed Land Use/Land Cover evaluation and animals and plant habitats review.

Carolyn talked about the wildlife surveys that take place on parks to track and count animals or birds online, such as the Project FeederWatch, by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at Cornell University or the eBird database. Walter inquired about the best time to count birds and migratory species and if we could get volunteers to do that. Carolyn mentioned that usually

you do this counts several times per year in different seasons. The Audubon Nature Institute conducts weekly bird counts for a national ornithology and the VEC could cooperate with the Hilltop Conservancy in a similar project. Sean liked the idea of involving the public in wildlife counts.

**5. Meeting at Town Hall:** On March 27 Gloria met with Town Manager Matt Cavallo, Mayor Ryan, Sean DiBartolo, Steve Neale and Town Engineer Jim Helb. They talked about the following projects:

- **Verona Open Streets Festival:** Open streets are sustainable programs where streets are temporarily opened to people and closed to cars to provide a safe space for pedestrians and cyclists to exercise. During our March meeting VEC members approved to host the first open streets in Verona on Fairview Ave. from Franklin to Durell (0.4 miles) closed to cars for the festival. People could enjoy the West Essex Trail as well. Mr. Cavallo approved the event for a Sunday morning during the Summer and asked for 3 date options, avoiding holiday weekends. A digital sign will be used to notify road closure. We like August 13 since the day before is the 8th Annual Hilltop Grasshopper Kid's MTB Race and the Hilltop Conservancy is willing to team up with us for the open streets event. Other options are July 16, or August 27.

We should confirm with the Town Manager and Essex County the event date as soon as possible. The sooner we know, the easier to organize and get vendors / sponsors. We need BOE authorization to use VHS front lawn / front driveway / parking lot. The VEC contacted the following to check availability:

Empanada Lady Truck, Towne Scoop Ice Cream Truck and Green Point Jucery. They all are willing to participate, Towne Scoop would also like to donate to the VEC a percentage of the day sales. The VEC is planning to contact Cycle Craft (to give bike safety inspections like they do at the Hilltop Grasshopper Race) and Electric Spokes, Yoga / Zumba classes, New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition for education, and rent a Climbing Wall from "Any Excuse for A Party" in Fairfield paid by a sponsor (is about \$1,000) . We could make commemorative t-shirts / reusable water bottles.

Partners for Health Foundation will look into the potential for a sponsorship of the Open Street Festival. We need to put together materials developed for sponsorship for them to review. Preregistration is strongly suggested. We could offer preregistration through the Verona Recreation Department.

- **Green Infrastructure:**

Green Infrastructure is an approach to water management that protects, restores, or mimics the natural water cycle. It's cost-effective, sustainable and reduces stormwater runoff.

Examples: Downspout Disconnection, Cisterns, Rainbarrels , Rain Gardens, Planter Boxes, Bioswales, Permeable / Green Parking, Green Roofs. Rutgers has a manual on-line:  
<http://water.rutgers.edu/GreenInfrastructureGuidanceManual.html>

**Rain Gardens:** Christopher Perez, Program Associate at Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program contacted the VEC asking if we were able to submit our grant application and offering to help. He provided plans for 4 rain gardens. Passing the front of the Community Center, three connected, rain gardens "rise and fall" from the landscape, evoking a dried creek bed. This has the stormwater management benefits of a rain garden, but also providing a visual educational component, augmented by signage. The trails and rain gardens culminate by connecting to a separate conceptual trail in the nearby ravine, a historic rail bed. The Eco Exercise with X country path, park-our course and bouldering are interesting components. Sean presented the plans to the membership.

Gloria replied to Christopher Perez and copied the Mayor, Town Manager, Town Engineer, the Chairman of Sustainable Verona, our Municipal Clerk and Sean, in case they wanted to comment. The VEC was not able to submit a grant application for green infrastructure yet, since the first site is involved in litigation and Verona's Town Engineer, Mr. Helb, had concerns regarding the second proposed site for a rain garden. due to its proximity to the building and underground utilities (labeled site "A").

Mr. Helb expressed interest on the site labeled "B" for a rain garden, where the pear trees are located, we requested from him the existing conditions drawings last month, we didn't receive it yet. If our town authorities agree we could focus on that area, and provide the necessary materials to request approval and funding. Trees do not need to be removed. One mature and two young pear trees are planted there (Pyrus, flowering pear- invasive alien). Would require a downspout to be tunneled under the sidewalk.

There are plans to install exercise equipment with \$50,000 grant from Partners for Health on site "C" (instead of a rain garden) and a concrete surface, the VEC asked Chris to suggest a permeable surface. He proposed a network of green infrastructure and recreational trails (Eco-Exercise) throughout the complex. Hopefully we'll be able to implement more green infrastructure practices in Verona in the near future. Gloria mentioned that rain gardens are a lot cheaper than permeable parking and a good green infrastructure option to manage storm-water runoff. Michael said that rain gardens provide different benefits than permeable parking since you can not drive or walk over them.

**Organic Community Garden at VHS:** the current approved site is the grass area on Sampson Drive by VHS parking lot entrance. We required soil test, raised garden beds, deer fencing and preservation of existing trees. Mr. Cavallo will propose to lease the property from the BOE to run the VOEG through the recreation department. According to BOE the historic fill is behind fenced area. We didn't receive feedback about the meeting with BOE, or LandTek Group site plans (historic fill boundaries) to work on the layout proposal.

**6. Impervious Cover Assessment** prepared for Verona Township by the Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program. The VEC received and distributed this study to members and township authorities. Sean talked about this report, it is posted on the VEC's website. Walter said that there is no problem plowing snow from permeable surfaces such as grid pavers, and those are cheaper than porous asphalt for parking lots. Mayor Ryan mentioned that the township is going to hire an assistant engineer.

**Summary:** As impervious areas increase, so does the volume of stormwater runoff. The primary cause of the pollution, flooding, and erosion problems is the quantity of impervious surfaces draining directly to local waterways. NJ is one of the most developed states in the country. Currently, the state has the highest percent of impervious cover in the country at 12.1% of its total area. Many of these impervious surfaces are directly connected to local waterways. To repair our waterways, reduce flooding, and stop erosion, stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces has to be better managed. Surfaces need to be disconnected with green infrastructure to prevent stormwater runoff from flowing directly into New Jersey's waterways.

Disconnection redirects runoff from paving and rooftops to pervious areas in the landscape. Green infrastructure practices such as bioretention, green roofs, porous pavement, rain gardens, and vegetated swales can produce a variety of environmental benefits. In addition to effectively retaining and infiltrating rainfall, these technologies can simultaneously help filter

air pollutants, reduce energy demands, mitigate urban heat islands, and sequester carbon while also providing communities with aesthetic and natural resource benefits.

The first step to reducing the impacts from impervious surfaces is to conduct an impervious cover assessment. Once impervious surfaces have been identified, there are three steps to better manage these surfaces.

1. Eliminate surfaces that are not necessary. For example, a paved courtyard at a public school could be converted to a grassed area.
2. Reduce or convert impervious surfaces. There may be surfaces that are required to be hardened, such as roadways or parking lots, but could be made smaller and still be functional. A parking lot that has two-way car ways could be converted to one-way car ways. There also are permeable paving materials such as porous asphalt, pervious concrete, or permeable paving stones that could be substituted for impermeable paving materials.
3. Disconnect impervious surfaces from flowing directly to local waterways. There are many ways to capture, treat, and infiltrate stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces. Opportunities may exist to reuse this captured water.

**Verona Township Impervious Cover Analysis:** A total of 82.5% of the municipality's land use is classified as urban. Of the urban land in Verona Township, medium density residential is the dominant land use. The literature suggests a link between impervious cover and stream ecosystem impairment starting at approximately 10% impervious surface cover. Impervious cover may be linked to the quality of lakes, reservoirs, estuaries, and aquifers, and the amount of impervious cover in a watershed can be used to project the current and future quality of streams.

Based upon the 2012 NJDEP land use/land cover data, approximately 31.5% of Verona Township has impervious cover. This level of impervious cover suggests that the streams in Verona Township are likely non-supporting.

There are sensitive streams, impacted streams, and non-supporting streams. Sensitive streams typically have a watershed impervious surface cover from 0-10%. Impacted streams have a watershed impervious cover ranging from 11-25% and typically show clear signs of degradation from urbanization. Non-supporting streams have a watershed impervious cover of greater than 25%; at this high level of impervious cover, streams are simply conduits for stormwater flow and no longer support a diverse stream community.

Water resources are typically managed on a watershed/subwatershed basis; therefore an impervious cover analysis was performed for each subwatershed within Verona Township. On a subwatershed basis, impervious cover ranges from 6.0% in the Upper Passaic River subwatershed to 36.0% in the Second River subwatershed. Evaluating impervious cover on a subwatershed basis allows the municipality to focus impervious cover reduction or disconnection efforts in the subwatersheds where frequent flooding occurs.

The next step is to set a reduction goal for impervious area in each subwatershed. Based upon the Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program's experience, a 10% reduction would be a reasonably achievable reduction for these subwatersheds in Verona Township. While it may be difficult to eliminate paved areas or replace paved areas with permeable pavement, it is relatively easy to identify impervious surfaces that can be

disconnected using green infrastructure practices. Disconnecting an impervious surface from a storm sewer system or a water body results in an "impervious area reduction".

Once impervious surfaces have been identified, the next steps for managing impervious surfaces are to 1) eliminate surfaces that are not necessary, 2) reduce or convert impervious surfaces to pervious surfaces, and 3) disconnect impervious surfaces from flowing directly to local waterways.

### **Examples of Opportunities in Verona Township**

To address the impact of stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces, the next step is to identify opportunities in the municipality for eliminating, reducing, or disconnecting directly connected impervious surfaces. To accomplish this task, an impervious cover reduction action plan should be prepared. For Verona Township, three sites have been included in this assessment: the Verona Community Center, the Verona Library and the H.B. Whitehorne Middle School. Examples of concept plans and detailed green infrastructure information sheets are provided in Appendix A.

### **Conclusions**

Verona Township can reduce flooding and improve its waterways by better managing stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces. This impervious cover assessment is the first step toward better managing stormwater runoff. The next step is to develop an action plan to eliminate, reduce, or disconnect impervious surfaces where possible and practical. Many of the highly effective disconnection practices are inexpensive. The entire community can be engaged in implementing these disconnection practices.

**7. Cycling Infrastructure for Verona:** the VEC recognizes the need to provide convenient, secure bicycle infrastructure such as bike lanes and bike parking for residents, employees and shoppers.

**Bike Lanes:** Gloria informed Mr. Cavallo that the VEC voted in support of bike lanes in Verona with the caveat that, if biking lanes are installed in front of a school, such as VHS on Fairview Ave., the bike lane needs to be a protected bike lane to ensure safety. Painting an unprotected bike lane in a busy road in front of a school is like painting a crosswalk without installing a traffic light, it gives a false sense of security. Delineator posts are safer and cheaper than other options. Mr. Cavallo met with Essex County authorities and they have two requirements for bike lanes: they must connect two locations, such as Bloomfield Ave. and Verona Pool, and they must provide a way to get back to the starting point. Certain bike lanes require no street parking and could present a problem. There are many streets in Verona with no parking allowed on one side of the street, and no overnight parking. There is currently no parking on the east side of Fairview Avenue in front of VHS, the group considered the possibility of installing the two bike lanes (northbound and southbound) on that side. Clifton installed "share the road" bike signage and painted bike icons in the middle of the roads. But perhaps biking in the middle of the streets in front or behind cars driving at 40 miles per hour is not safe.

Mayor Ryan mentioned that he is not optimistic about bike lanes in Verona. Gloria mentioned that she saw bike lanes everywhere in California, where there's a will there's a way. Michael disagrees, he mentioned that a traffic study is needed to determine if it is possible to install bike lanes in Verona. Mayor Ryan added that he received and shared a memo from the Department of Transportation offering grants to install biking facilities, and mentioned that there is a traffic study on Oakridge Road that will be released on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Cavallo met with

county authorities to discuss Bloomfield Ave. and Lakeside Ave. crosswalks from the park, and at the main entrance. They are talking about road diets and designated bus stops.

**Bike Racks:** The VEC's green design checklist recommends placing bicycle parking racks in secure areas near entrances. One of the criteria for Verona Green Business Recognition Program is to promote biking. New Jersey Bike & Walk Coalition and Bike&Walk Montclair provided info about bike racks that Montclair installed at several locations years ago, they attach directly to existing parking meter poles and hold 2 bikes each, so no expensive concrete foundations are needed . Partners for Health Foundation funded them.

There are 3 main vendors: Creative Metal Works, Madrax and Belson Outdoors. Prices go from \$100 to \$170 each plus shipping. Montclair used Creative Metalworks. This rack was originally developed through a pilot program with the city of Seattle and has now been sold to many municipalities throughout the U.S. and Canada. The racks come with all hardware to install them. No special tools are required, other than a cordless drill, it takes 10 minutes to install one. It has a minimal footprint, is economical and helps maintain parallel parking. The available finishes are powder coating, galvanizing, or a combination of both. Mr. Cavallo has no problem with these racks. Mr. Helb recommended to install them in strategic places. Mr. Cavallo mentioned that we'll need to get a grant. Partners for Health Foundation said they would be happy to review a small grant application (up to \$10,000). <http://partnersfdn.org/application-process> - We could propose a combination of racks for the meters and <https://www.sarisparking.com/product/bike-dock> for areas without meters like the VCC. Mayor Ryan is very optimistic about these racks since are easy to install, convenient and not controversial.

## 9- Endangered Species Mural Project

We are working with Verona High School students to create a mural of the Peregrine Falcon, the largest falcon in New Jersey, endangered in our state, and the world's fastest animal, capable of flying at speeds over 200 miles an hour. The Center for Biological Diversity's Endangered Species Mural Project teams up with local artists and scientists to bring endangered wildlife onto the streets of cities and towns around the country (<https://tinyurl.com/juk7uys>). The mural project features wildlife species that are particular to their regions, promoting an affinity for the natural world, such as the mountain caribou in Idaho; the monarch butterfly in Minnesota; and the jaguar in Arizona. The idea is to obtain authorization to paint a wall in Verona with a bold image that will become part of our community, making it a little easier for people to care about the species struggling to survive. and to hire a professional artist to create the mural with help from the students. Sarah and Gloria visited several business in Bloomfield Ave. A good candidate is the Clinton Glass building (next to Verona Dinner parking lot, 676 Bloomfield Ave.) The owners loved the idea. Mr. Cavallo required to check the code for compliance and mentioned that the project should be paid with donations (we have over \$2,000). Canine Designs has two walls painted with cats and dogs. Jessica recommended to save some money to pant at Grove Park. Gloria agreed and mentioned no money will be spent without membership approval.

## 10. Additional Matters

**VEC Low Impact "Green" Checklist** for construction and planning: Mr. Cavallo intends to adopt an ordinance to support the checklist. Sustainable Jersey provides a Model Ordinance. Steve Neale is working on it, it is one of Sustainable Jersey's actions. There is a Verona resolution from 2008 to incorporate all these materials into.

Gloria gave Michael Foley a copy. This suggested list has been compiled by the VEC based on best available practices and it is available on the VEC's website. This is not a requirement

of the uniform construction code. It is intended to be beneficial to all residents considering renovations and new construction.

Mr. Cavallo would like to implement Sean's recommendation and adopt an **e-plan ordinance**. Architects still only have the embossing-type raised seal. Regardless, the electronic submission would help get more eyes on the submission than with the hard copy alone.

Mayor Ryan mentioned that the **Shade Tree Commission** is looking for two new alternate members since one of their members is sick. There was no quorum at their last meeting, only him and the Chairman attended. He also mentioned that the **Verona Park Conservancy** President is retiring, and they are looking for new members. They receive donations but need more man power to maintain the park.

**11. Former Radiac Verona, 271 Grove Ave. remedial work.** The VEC received notification on March 22: A childcare center (Executive Kids) has operated since 1998 in former Building 6, and currently has expanded into Building 7. Radiac received a letter dated November 12, 2014 from the NJDEP requesting that it address contamination in the area of the Executive Kids building. This area would require remediation to the RDCSR or implementation of a NJDEP presumptive remedy. The Non-Residential Direct Contact Soil Remediation Standard (NRDCSR) is applicable to the remainder of the Site. The entire project area is located within the 100-year flood plain of the Peckman River. The total volume of soil removed will be approximately 69 cubic yards.

Sean spoke with Steve Maxwell (the LSRP for the site) and he indicated that the remedial work was scheduled to start on March 27 and last about 2 weeks. The copper concentration levels were up to 28,000 mg/kg and lead was up to 1,000 mg/kg. He was very forthcoming with information and basically because a day care facility was created at this site a few years back, the NJDEP brought this site back into the system to be reevaluated and, as it turns out, remediated. There are two small area of removal (319 ft<sup>2</sup> and 56 ft<sup>2</sup>) that are less than 5 feet in proposed excavation depth. Because of the limited size of the disturbance for remediation (<5,000 ft<sup>2</sup>), they are not required to provide a soil erosion and sediment control plan. However, they plan to provide filter socks down-gradient of the excavations to protect the Peckman River and curb inlet protections for stormwater runoff. They removed some brush and about five mature trees that might be effected by the excavations and planed to replace them with flowering dogwood trees at the completion of the project.

Dogwoods are small understory trees, which are generally surrounded or protected by other larger trees, therefore this should be considered before placement in the landscape. Gloria contacted Mr. Maxwell and recommended planting a variety of native, non-invasive tree species instead of just Flowering Dogwoods, in order to improve water quality and wildlife habitat by enhancing the riparian buffer. Large trees have a much larger biomass and provide far more benefits than small trees. Their own flood hazard permit application potential replacement trees included Red Maple, Black Maple, Sugar Maple, Red Hickory, Flowering Dogwood, Atlantic White Cedar, American Beech, Eastern Red Cedar, Sweet Gum, Tulip Tree, White Oak, Northern Red Oak, Chestnut Oak, Black Oak or Sweet Crabapple.

Mr. Maxwell agreed to contact the NJDEP and the property owner to get permission to change the planned plantings. He got approval and yesterday he told me they planted a mixture of White Oak and Lindens. They will finish the work this week and send us pictures of the finished area.

Adjournment – Next Meeting May 17, 2017.