



Verona Environmental Commission

600 Bloomfield Avenue
Verona, New Jersey 07044

VEC Meeting, October 19, 2010 **Verona Community Center, Conference Room, 880 Bloomfield Ave.**

Members present: James Loudon, Virginia Citrano, Anthony Saltalamacchia, Tara Bratek and Gloria Machnowski.

MINUTES

1. **September 2010 minutes** were approved unanimously. Members that were absent from the meeting gave proper notification in advance.
2. **Status of recyclables at HBW:** Tony explained that man power is down due to sick helpers, paper bins are full and new comingle bins did not arrive yet. Some HBW parents and students are concerned about the use of disposable **Styrofoam trays** at the cafeteria. Tony will research the matter at school and Virginia will bring it up at the BOE meeting. It is garbage **service contract renewal time** in town and a good opportunity to address recycling regulations, Tara added that we must focus specially in condos. Tony suggested to have an indoors **“leave and take” area** in the recycling center or maintenance garage were people can drop and pick up stuff. We liked the idea very much; Gloria will suggest this to the mayor, especially for electronics such as computers.
3. **Discussion on a replacement meeting with Paul McDevitt** (The schools' new facilities director), and Chuck Sampson. Tony will contact McDevitt since the meeting was cancelled.
4. **Status of field trip research and recycling displays at schools.** Virginia contacted Marcal; they do not offer field trips but have plenty of information on-line for teachers, ideal for HBW. Virginia suggested having a spring event involving Art Teacher Lisa Varuolo to work with students on recycled displays or art.
5. **Discussion on recent “Walk to School Day” event and “Idle Free Verona” poster contest.** Gloria and Tara visited the 4 elementary public schools in town, collected posters and set up displays, Tara will disassemble. Students came up with very creative and inspiring messages. The biggest turn out came from schools that sent several e-mail reminders to parents inviting students to participate. Distributing flyers is not effective. Regarding WTSD, the police suggested schools to choose at least 2 home addresses to meet up instead of corners and to

avoid driving to the meeting locations. At one of the schools students also wore green clothes at the parade and other schools had students marching with the posters taped to sticks. Gloria took pictures of the event and posters, asked principals to submit and authorize pictures to be published. Thank you to Jim for printing all oversized signs for advertising; those were displayed at all schools, library, community center, Town Hall, etc. **The Award Ceremony** is open to the public and scheduled for November 1st at Town Hall. Gloria will make the winners' display and certificates. The **Essex County Environmental Center** will exhibit all posters from November 15th to November 30th. The local media will be informed about it.

6. Discussion on the participation in **"Steps to go green fair"**: Tony, Tara, Virginia, Jim and Gloria presented the VEC programs and the **DVD "Idle Free Verona"** at the fair and played the game **"How long will it last?"** with visitors. Tara mentioned that it was a great opportunity for her to get acquainted with so many great VEC programs and make new contacts. We posted the event and picture on the Web site. The VEC participation in the fair was announced at the Council meeting and sent to newspapers.
7. **Status of Rain Garden at HBW**: Tony and Marjorie submitted the project to the VFEE to get funding. Virginia mentioned that the Service League could be contacted again.
8. **Regarding the Green House at VHS**, we should contact Carl Cascone. Jim suggested having a **VHS student representative** at the VEC meetings with a system of school credits and put an announcement looking for such candidate at the school and local media. We all loved the idea, Virginia will do the research about the credit system first.
9. **Status of 2010 selected Treasured Trees**: Gloria photographed the tree at 10 South Prospect Street and added it to the Web site virtual tour <http://www.veronaec.org/treasuredtrees> . We all sent our condolences to Marjorie for her family loss. We'll take care of the other 2 trees shortly.
10. **Ideas for December's Fair in Square**: We should invite **Project Porch Light** and apply for the 2010 incentive again this year, Gloria will do. Residents Night was cancelled (usually takes place on Nov). **Recycled or nature crafts** ideas will be welcome in our next meeting. Gloria and Tony signed up for setting up; 11:30 am to 1 pm. Tara signed up for 3 pm to 5 pm and break down. The fair is from 12 noon to 5 pm. **We still need 2 members from 1 to 3 pm and at least one from 3 to 5 pm.**
11. **Additional VEC Web site updates**. All 2010 minutes and agendas were uploaded to: <http://www.veronaec.org/vecmeetings> .Walk to School Day-Idle Free Verona page was updated <http://www.veronaec.org/kids/walk-to-school-day> and Green Halloween Tips will be added.