



## Verona Environmental Commission

600 Bloomfield Avenue  
Verona, New Jersey 07044

### **Minutes: June 21, 2011 - Verona Community Center**

**Members in attendance: Gerard Shimonaski, Gloria Machnowski, James Loudon, Tom Freeman, , Virginia Citrano , Anthony Saltalamacchia, Tara Bratek, Marjorie Williams, and Kerry Bass, a guest**

### AGENDA ITEMS

- I. The May minutes were approved without any corrections.
- II. Jerry, Virginia and Gloria will prepare and submit to ANJEC's 2011 Awards the VEC Idling Program.
- III. Jerry suggested and the VEC agreed to come up with some kind of project to promote water conservation and to consider adding an annual event. Getting kids involved was suggested by Virginia. Marjorie mentioned "Project Wet", an educational course for kids, she will prepare a presentation. Gloria suggested a rain barrel program modeled after the Rutgers Train the Trainer Program. The VEC will determine a suitable time of year for this.
- IV. In an effort to raise awareness and keep the VEC's mission fresh, Virginia recommended holding an event every-other-month.
- V. Tony discussed the middle school's grant application to build a rain garden. The middle school came very close to receiving the grant, it was in the top three and has been encouraged to apply again in the fall of 2011. The VEC will support this effort. Jerry offered to help with preparing the proposal. Tony suggested creating a cross section diagram depicting how the rain garden works. It was suggested to add information from the teachers about how the rain garden could be used in different educational subjects.
- VI. The town has two trash contracts: one for garbage and one for recycling. Jerry brought copies of each one with details about what is being collected. The garbage contract is from 2009-2013 and the recycling contract is from 2010-2015. Jerry would like to review these contracts and begin working on proposals for the council before the contracts expire. Such proposals could be moving to single-stream recycling and substituting one bulk-pickup day to cardboard pick-up. Jerry, Tom, Kerry and Tony will work together on this effort.
- VII. The Shade Tree Commission mentioned that they would like to run a program with the VEC. Gloria has been in touch with Jay Sniatowski and wanted our feedback on Jay's proposal for a tree program (purchase saplings from a local nursery and sell them to interested residents at a discounted price). Jerry feels residents would not support the proposal. Jerry has concerns regarding the dying trees that were planted not long ago around the civic center and their improper care. Tom convinced Jerry to wait and formulate a plan to approach the council.