



Verona Environmental Commission

600 Bloomfield Avenue
Verona, New Jersey 07044

Minutes: September 21, 2011 - Verona Community Center

Members in attendance: Gerard Shimonaski, Gloria Machnowski, Tara Bratek, Anthony Saltalamacchia, Kerry Bass, Kevin Ryan

AGENDA ITEMS

- I. The June minutes were approved without any corrections.
- II. Treasured Trees- all pictures are up-to-date on the VEC website. The VEC is awaiting approval by the United Methodist Church for inclusion of a Sweetgum tree located on the church's property.
- III. A newspaper article announcing the new additions to the Treasured Trees will be written.
- IV. Kevin Ryan is the new liaison between the town council and Shade Tree Commission.
- V. The VEC did not submit the Idling Program to ANJEC for an award. The Idling Program has been very effective but has limited reach. Police enforcement of the law is necessary. As per a discussion between Jerry and Chief Huber, the police department does not have the time to enforce the law. Kevin encouraged Jerry and the VEC to call the attention to idling enforcement at a joint public meeting between the town council and Board of Education if one is to be scheduled in the future. Gloria asked the members to view the Idling presentation on the website and provide feedback. Gloria will add the presentation to YouTube for greater viewership. Jerry suggested addressing an issue with the large number of buses (there are approx. 54) idling at The Children's Institute on a daily basis.
- VI. Walk to School- plans for Walk to School were finalized. The date set is October 5, 2011.
- VII. Water Conservation- Jerry brought up a couple of concerns regarding the wells. One concern is the lack of an ordinance limiting or restricting the use of fertilizer around the wells. Second concern- what protections are in place to safeguard our wells from environmental hazards and/or potential drillers that could disturb our well source. Kevin will informally discuss with Jim Helb to monitor water runoff from the Hovnanian Housing Development on Hilltop.
- VIII. Jerry is attending a SWAC county meeting and will address the need for more recycling bins in Verona Park.
- IX. School Lunches- Gloria mentioned that the food vendor for the middle and high schools would like to offer a pilot lunch program for the elementary schools. Gloria mentioned that we might want to get involved with recommending alternatives to Styrofoam trays, promoting recyclable materials, and encouraging the delivery trucks to follow idling laws.