



## Verona Environmental Commission

600 Bloomfield Avenue  
Verona, New Jersey 07044

**Minutes: December 20, 2011 - Verona Community Center**

**Members in attendance: Gerard Shimonaski, Gloria Machnowski, Virginia Citrano, Anthony Saltalamacchia, Tara Bratek, Kerry Bass and Kevin Ryan.**

**Absent: James Loudan, Marjorie Williams, and Tom Freeman.**

**Guest: Jared Siegal**

### AGENDA ITEMS

- I. The November minutes were approved without any corrections.
- II. Tony provided an update on his discussion with HBW Science Team Coordinator about a presentation for the school district: visiting a sewage plant or the Passaic Valley Basin. He thought a 2-hour round trip would be appropriate for 8<sup>th</sup> graders and ideal for September of 2012. Gloria suggested combining a recycling center and sewage plant trip. Jerry mentioned he would contact Tim Norton, the manager of the local sewage facility, to get a sense as to what the kids would see and learn if they visited.
- III. Fair In the Square was a wonderful event. The weather was ideal and the VEC table was well organized. It was noted that lots of kids participated in the recycling and hazardous waste games. Many visitors to the table were interested in a variety of environmental issues. It was noticed that the Laning Environmental Club was selling a recycled item. Perhaps the VEC would consider something like this for a future event, such as reusable canvas bags. About 25 people signed-up to receive free township recycling bins at the VEC table.
- IV. Gloria informed the members that the domain name for the VEC's website veronaec.org was registered with Namecheap.com. It costs \$9.69/year and the new expiration date is October 25, 2012. We do not pay for any other services. Web hosting is free with Google Sites (100 MB of storage for our free account). There have been some updates to the website that include pictures from Fair in the Square, Eco-holiday tips, a YouTube video about idling and a few more.
- V. Tony provided an update on his efforts to get Idling Signage at HBW and Jerry asked if the HBW Environmental Club could prepare a short video on the subject for the local TV channel to help educate the public. Jerry mentioned that NJEF could help with the video.
- VI. Some ideas and questions were raised about the town's recycling. Kerry was curious about how much money the town makes on the recycling materials. It was mentioned that the Recycling Center is noticeably high-trafficked. Virginia suggested stepping-up the level of signage at the Recycling Center such as thanking people for using it and providing more suggestions on what else the public can do to further their recycling and Eco-efforts.
- VII. Gloria reported that he visited the Essex Environmental Center and Tara Casella, the director, wants to keep the VEC Idling Posters on display. The

posters were moved into the Center's library and are on permanent display until further notice.

VIII. To bring more attention and history to the Treasured Trees program, Jerry would like to conduct a video interview with a Treasured Tree owner.

IX. Jerry mentioned his concern protecting our water supply. Since we are selling our water to other towns, he expressed concern that if our wells begin to dry up that Verona might have to fight for it's own water.