



Verona Environmental Commission

600 Bloomfield Avenue
Verona, New Jersey 07044
www.veronaec.org

VEC Public Meeting: March 20, 2012 at the Verona Community Center. Members in attendance: Gerard Shimonaski, Gloria Machnowski, Anthony Saltalamacchia, James Loudon and Kevin Ryan was a #20,000.

MINUTES

I. We had a quorum of members which permitted the minutes from December 20, 2012 and January 17, 2012 to be approved by the membership.

II. The members discussed the Waste Water Treatment Plant after reviewing the video on a laptop computer. We all felt that Gloria had done a great job producing the video. Tony Saltalamacchia was the spokesperson on the video. Tim Newton, the plant Manager already saw and approved the video contents. A discussion then began as to the grade level this video and field trip to the plant should be targeted to. Tony suggested 5th grade, Jim Loudon suggested 4th grade. We will offer this program to school principals.

III. The members all agreed that this video should be placed on VTV. Gloria said she would contact Steve Neale about its placement on VTV. Gloria mentioned that Mr. Martin would like to show the video at a Council Meeting, as per her conversation with Tim Newton. Jerry agreed to contact Mr. Martin about the date and details to present it.

IV. Earth Day---Posters were brought to the meeting by Jim Loudon. Gloria gave two to Jerry to place at VHS and FN Brown and one to Tony for HBW. Gloria would place the remaining posters at the other schools, Town Hall, Verona Library, Verona Park, the Post Office and the Community Center. Time assignments were given to the members to be at the Recycling Center on April 14th. Articles about the event and the use of cloth bags were placed by Jerry in the Observer and Verona-Cedar Grove Times. Also the VEC Web site and VTV announced the event.

V. Updates—Jerry asked Tony if the Rain Garden was something that the VEC should do. Tony agreed. Jerry will contact Ms. McNeal about it. Jerry said he had not received a reply from Carl Cascone, the VHS Environmental Club Advisor about VHS cleaning the Peckman River. Jerry stated that the Paper Recycler had sent the paper tonnage for 2011 to Paul McDevitt, the schools facilities Director. The tonnage was 10,200 lbs. Tony said the school idling video was still a work in progress.

VI. Jerry discussed seeking a grant for the purchase of a "Rocket" composter for VHS. Jerry explained that Mr. Forte, the Superintendent of the Verona Schools had mentioned he would like to do composting at VHS. He assigned Carl Cascone and Dr. Nicole Santora to assist the VEC to write a grant for this purchase. Jerry said he was working with Pat Collington with the Chatham Township Environmental Commission, who purchased a Rocket Composter for the Chatham Township HS with grant money. Gloria suggested to approach Mr. Forte to plan to stop using Styrofoam and Aluminum food trays and switch to biodegradable products as a first step. She also suggested to start a regular composting program at schools. Members agreed on joining Sustainable Jersey and Jerry will approach the Town Manager about it. Becoming a member will allow Verona to apply for a variety of grants for environmental programs, including the purchase of the British \$20,000 composter unit for VHS; that could compost food waste from all the schools in the District.