



Verona Environmental Commission

600 Bloomfield Avenue
Verona, New Jersey 07044

VEC Public Meeting: May 15, 2012 at the Verona Community Center, Conference Room, 880 Bloomfield Ave.

Members in attendance: Gerard Shimonaski, Gloria Machnowski, Tara Bratek, Tom Freeman, Marjorie Williams, Council Liaison Kevin Ryan. Guest: Suzanne Broullon (Master Gardener, Chair of the Beautification Committee at HBW, Co-Chair of VMAC).

MINUTES

I. The April 17, 2012 minutes were approved without corrections.

II. Rain Garden project for HBW: all things considered, Suzanne Broullon and Marjorie Williams recommended to move on and stop pursuing this project. VEC members agreed. May be a tree could be planted in that area.

III. Rocket Composter: Jerry explained that Mr. Martin offered \$10,000 to purchase the composter but the schools do not have matching funds in the budget. Marjorie will contact people that currently work in green houses to come up with an estimate to fix the VHS green house.

IV. VEC recommendation for school year 2012-2013: The VEC Chairman will present a letter to the BOE recommending "Not Idling", "Green Cleaning", "Waste Reduction" and "Pesticide-Free" policies for Verona schools.

V. Waste Water Presentation and Field Trip: the presentation is already on VTV. Jerry will present it to F. N. Brown and Brookdale Ave. Principals as well to plan field trips for next school year.

VI. VEC members asked Jerry to develop a guide to review site plans and notified them before submitting the comments. Gloria suggests that this information could be posted on the VEC website as well to inform the public about local plans for development.

VII. Treasure Tree Program: Jerry and Marjorie will confirm award dates and coordinate with Gloria to take pictures, post in the Web site and submit announcements to the media.

VIII. Ideas to celebrate the first 20 years of the VEC: Kevin suggested to celebrate it on September instead of August, to have more people at the event.

Gloria suggested a township clean up. Marjorie suggested a walk in the park. Jerry offered to have a lunch at his house. More ideas are welcome.

IX. VEC Web site updates: information about "Pesticide Awareness Campaign" and suggestions to reduce the amount of polystyrene waste in town will be added in the home site. Jerry will participate on the F. N. Brown School Annual Eco-Fair. Gloria made a new "How Long it Takes To Decompose" game for the event. Pictures and information will be added to the VEC site.