



## Verona Environmental Commission

600 Bloomfield Avenue  
Verona, New Jersey 07044

### **VEC Public Meeting December 18, 2012 - 7:30 pm Verona Community Center - Adjourned at 9:00 pm**

**Members present: Gerard Shimonaski, Gloria Machnowski, Virginia Citrano, Anthony Saltalamacchia and Council Liaison Kevin Ryan.**

#### **Minutes**

I. There were not enough members present to approve the Oct. 16 and Nov. 20 2012 minutes.

II. Proposed new playing fields: Jerry and Kevin talked about the need for the VEC to revise the plans and make suggestions. Virginia pointed out that we should comply with the same tests and requirements for a private developer to ensure that our water is not negatively affected. Jim Helb and a second engineers' consultant company, Kinsey Associates ([www.kinseyassociates.com](http://www.kinseyassociates.com)) are working on this project. The VEC has three concerns- blasting, parking lots and artificial turf and how these and the run off would possibly impact our water wells, drinking water, water treatment plant and the Peckman and Passaic rivers.

III. Update by the Vice Chair on the "Verona Safe Playing Fields" VEC petition to stop synthetic pesticide use on Verona Township and school fields: the presentation at the council meeting on Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> went very well. Verona residents Rose Saltalamacchia and Gabby Discafani presented the petition, already signed by more than 200 residents. Councilmen Sniatkowski and Nochimson called for a two to three year commitment of pesticide free, organic field maintenance. Councilman Ryan mentioned the need to include the BOE in this commitment.

VEC members suggested to start in February with organic care at the VHS lower field and HBW athletic field (which already has sprinklers). Tony mentioned that football players used to water the fields themselves and even though Everett field has no irrigation the fire hydrant can be used as a water source. Kevin mentioned that Veteran's field is a mess and first we need grass there. Gloria suggested to ask an organic landscaper to visit all 4 locations and submit a plan. Virginia suggested to involve the organizations that use the fields as well as the 5th Downer's (Paul DellaValle, Don Flood and Donna Greco).

IV. Report by Kevin about the status of the VEC proposal to install Recycling Bins with "Recycling Enhancement Act" moneys (\$10,865 this year ) and status of replacing one day of curb collection of bulk items by a corrugated cardboard box collection: During the last Council meeting Kevin asked Mr. Martin about the

grant and Martin said that Verona gets that money every year and he will provide the information about how it is used. Also, Helb said that we cannot offer cardboard curb pick up since if we do we should offer commercial cardboard pick up as well, and that it is not profitable. At the VEC meeting members pointed out that neighboring towns pick up cardboard from residents and it seems that it is profitable, so we'll do some research about it.

V. Jerry suggested to push for "Single Stream Recycling". He will work with Kevin in this matter. VEC members will have to help to implement it and plan to find ways to educate residents about it.