



Verona Environmental Commission

600 Bloomfield Avenue
Verona, New Jersey 07044

VEC Public Meeting at the Verona Community Center - March 20, 2013

Members present: Gerard Shimonaski, Gloria Machnowski, James Loudon, Virginia Citrano, Kerry Bass and Council Liaison Kevin Ryan. Guest: Verona Resident Sue Walman. Started at 7:30 pm - Adjourned at 9:00 pm

MINUTES

I. Minutes for February 20, 2013 were approved after correcting the value of 2 properties sold in Bloomfield Ave. for \$375,000 instead of \$200,000.

II. Plans to switch to single stream recycling: Members decided to research and obtain hard numbers to study if this is a sound option for Verona. Verona could have a weekly garbage pickup and a weekly single stream recycling pick up including cardboard, plastics types 1 to 7, books, etc. This sounds like a good plan to increase recycling and minimize the amount of garbage.

Nevertheless, the Town Manager wants to keep working with the Occupational Center and considers that the Recycling Center is a crown jewel in town.

Jerry will meet with Chatham's Environmental Commission Chair to gather data about their single stream program and produce a cost-benefit analysis. Kevin wishes to attend that meeting, if possible. We need a draft ready for May 30th.

III. Update about organic landscape care for Lynn Drive in the Community Center and the schools: No news yet. Kevin will ask for an update during the upcoming Council Meeting and Jerry will get in touch with the BOE. The NJ Safe Playing Fields Act was not implemented yet.

IV. Steep Slope Ordinance: Jerry gave to all present members copies of the "Regulations for Development within Steep Slope Areas", which were drafted, discussed and put aside during the production of the Master Plan. Jerry will recommend the Planning Board and Board of Adjustment to consider adopting such ordinance.

V. Our plans for Earth Day: Members agreed to have a cleanup during the second weekend of April, either on Saturday 13th or Sunday 14th. Kerry will organize it with Gloria's help. It will be a Peckman River Grounds Cleanup instead of river cleanup since the water is still too cold to get into the river. A possible meeting point is F.N.Brown School. Kerry and Gloria will visit possible locations to determine meeting sites and times and contact the Town Manager,

DPW, media, etc. regarding the event. We'll ask Jim to print posters and announce in the School District Friday Folder as well as VTV and local web sites.

VI. Effective June 30th Jerry Shimonaski will be resigning from the Verona Environmental Commission due to health issues. Members are looking for a new Chairman. Gloria invited to the meeting former members such as Cinzia Cortese and Teena Schwartz, as well as Kristin Donohue, Sue Walman, Monica Taylor and Lynette Mathewson in an attempt to attract new members to the VEC. But only Sue Walman was able to attend. The VEC will make announcements inviting residents to join the commission.

VII. New fields: Jerry finally received three of the existing 32 plans for the Hill Top sport fields, after several unsuccessful requests. In the past Martin said that he doesn't need to give the plans of the development to the VEC but VEC members disagree since reviewing projects is one of its main duties. The Township introduced a Bond for \$5 million for the two new sports fields and they need 4 votes of the Council Members to approve it. The vote will take place on April 15th.

Helb met with Jerry today and showed the plans to him today. The project includes severe excavation and blasting. VEC members reviewed the 3 available plans during the meeting. All members had a lot of questions and few available information to study. Members decided to write a letter to Mr. Helb asking those questions, including but not limited to the following:

1. What is the area of impervious surface being added to the site?
2. What is the calculation of storm water runoff for a 100-year storm?
3. What is the distribution of the catch basins at the site that will collect the water?
4. How does this project satisfy NJDEP stipulations?
5. What is the size of the buffer that is being installed between the development and wetland?
6. What were the results of the perc test on the site?
7. How many trees will be cut down and planted at the site?
8. What certificate is required from the Hudson-Essex Passaic Soil Conservation District?
9. What is the condition of the storm water pipes from the former prison?
10. What is the soil erosion and sediment control plan for this site?
11. What is the grading plan for this site?
12. What is the type of the synthetic turf that will be installed?

VEC members also suggested holding a special meeting with Mr. Helb. The commission hopes to be able to gather in that meeting the missing information needed to write the commission's project review and submit it to the Council Members before the vote takes place.

Jerry also mentioned that one VEC member must be in the Planning Board, but not two. Currently Tom is both, a VEC member and a Planning Board Member. Jerry has a copy of the Natural Resource Inventory that the VEC made in 1999 with Teena Schwartz as Chairwoman. Jerry will give a copy to Jason Kesler and Helb.