



Verona Environmental Commission

600 Bloomfield Avenue
Verona, New Jersey 07044

VEC Public Meeting at the Verona Community Center – October 16, 2013
Started at 7:30 pm - Adjourned at 9:00 pm

Members present: Gerard Shimonaski, Gloria Machnowski, Larry Lonergan, Virginia Citrano, Anthony Saltalamacchia, Jessica Pearson and Council Liaison Kevin Ryan.

MINUTES

I. Members approved September 18th, 2013 minutes.

II. Gloria and Tony will present the program Sustainable Jersey to the Council on November 18th at 7 pm. The VEC recommends to adopt the required resolution, register in this program and create a Green Team. Kevin will include the presentation in the Agenda. Jerry suggested to have a sign up sheet for Green Team volunteers at Fair in the Square.

III. The VEC received about 150 posters for the Idle Free Verona contest from the 4 public Elementary schools and HBW. VEC members set up exhibits at the schools. The winners are Maxine Haralambiev (HBW), Mark Serra (Laning Ave.), Wednesday Fischer (Brookdale Ave.), Amelia Koellhofer (Forest Ave.) and Peter Popowich (F. N. Brown). The news will be posted in the School District Friday Folder and local media. Gloria will make a display with the winning posters and print/frame the certificates. The VEC made a video depicting the students' posters and will show it at the ceremony and VTV. The VEC website was updated with the news already.

IV. VEC's 20 year anniversary commemoration: Gloria spoke to Jim Cunningham, Chuck Molinaro is getting a 12 feet White Oak tree at Hillcrest Farms and they will plant it (\$300) by the VCC playground soon. The VEC bought a 6 by 8 plastic plaque for \$ 25: "White Oak Tree (Quercus alba) planted 2013, 20th anniversary of Verona Environmental Commission". We need a stone to glue the plaque and place it by the tree.

V. Verona's garbage contract expires soon. Jerry reviewed the current contract. He recommends to correct the loophole that allows the hauler to pick up cardboard with regular garbage. VEC members agree. Cardboard is one of Essex County mandatory recyclable materials and residents should bring it to the Verona Recycling Center. The Township should instruct the vendor to stop picking up corrugated cardboard boxes and other recyclables during curbside collection of regular garbage. Before entering into a new contract, Verona should restrict the vendor to dispose of the collected municipal garbage at the waste-to energy incinerator in Newark (Essex County Resource Recovery Facility -ECRRF), and not at a transfer station and/or landfill. Allowing cardboard to go into our main garbage stream puts Verona at risk of substantial fines. The VEC will contact the Council to address this issue.

VI. The goal of the VEC is to maximize actual recycling while minimizing costs. The commission would like to review Verona's Recycling contracts as well (Atlantic Cost Fibers, Waste Industries, Occupational Center, etc.). Gloria will contact the Recycling Coordinator Noreen Jones to request those contracts and review them during the next VEC meeting. If Mrs. Jones and Mr. Martin don't provide these materials, Virginia will formally request them at Town Hall. The commission recommends reducing White Goods/Metal/Bulk curbside to one day per month and maybe start collecting corrugated cardboard during newspaper collection.