



Verona Environmental Commission

600 Bloomfield Avenue
Verona, New Jersey 07044

VEC Public Meeting: March 19 - 2014, 7:30 pm at the Annex Building, 2nd Floor, Verona Community Center. Adjourned at 9:30 pm

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

Guests: Lucas Freschi and Julia Capuano (VHS Environmental Club). Marilu Marcillo-Gomez (Assistant Professor, SUNY Cobleskill) and Samul Marcillo-Gomez (former student of F.N. Brown and candidate for Eagle scout rank).

Minutes

I. Members approved February 19th, 2014 minutes.

II. At the March 3 meeting the Town Council unanimously approved Ms. Pearson as a full voting member of the VEC. Kevin and Gloria congratulated Jessica for her appointment. Jessica joined the commission as an Alternate in October 2013. The VEC invited Julia Capuano, a VHS sophomore and Environmental Club member to become a VEC Alternate. Julia provided her letter of interest and parental authorization to Kevin, who will contact Major Manley. Jessica will attend a VHS Env. Club meeting. Lucas mentioned that there are plans to replace the school green house with a new one.

II. Samul Marcillo-Gomez presented his Boy Scouts' Project to repair F.N. Brown bulletin board and boardwalk. Sponsors include the Verona Junior Women's League. The VEC will cleanup, remove weeds and mulch around the area to support this project. Virginia suggested to be careful and avoid driving over the school field.

III. ANJEC Open Space Grant (\$ 1,500): the VEC will submit an application to restore the municipal area behind F.N. Brown School. Gloria and Jim presented details and pictures. Jerry explained how previous cleanups were done in the area with VHS students' help. The project includes removing a hazardous tree from the trail, invasive plant control, planting native trees, trail maintenance/cleanup and creating a trail guide. A minimum of 80 hours of volunteer labor towards the project is needed. The commission will seek collaboration from Public Works, Paul McDevitt and Principal Lanzo. Jim will prepare the site map. Lucas and Julia offered to help recruiting VHS volunteers. Tony will work with students making posters to promote the events and homemade deer repellent for the new trees. Gloria will submit the application to Mr. Martin to obtain the required municipal endorsement letter. Members agreed to submit the application before the April 2 deadline.

IV. Earth Day Cleanup is April 26, from 9 to 12 noon in the woods behind Brookdale Ave. School. Julia will help recruiting volunteers, she created a flyer to post in VHS and she will collect permission slips from students. The Verona Junior Women's League volunteers will participate too, and the event will be advertised in VTV and Web site.

V. Environmental Education: VHS Env. Club students are working on a chipboard sign, a collage with several examples of chipboard products. Jim suggested to take a digital picture of the collage, print it and laminate it to display the sign at the Recycling Center. Jerry have plenty of boxes if needed. The VEC is also working on a recycling video with the students. The video will be shoot in the recycling depot on April or May depending on the weather.

VI. Gloria met with Steve Neale about Sustainable Jersey, and they created a list of actions that Verona is already doing. They are gathering the information required by the program to earn points. On March 17 the Council adopted a resolution establishing the Verona Green Team, organized and assisted by Steven Neale.

VII. Green Building Policy - Larry couldn't attend the meeting due to family matters, therefore this policy will be discussed during the next meeting.

VIII. Virginia said that the VEC Web site www.veronaec.org is fine but she suggested to open a VEC Twitter and Face Book account. Members approved the idea. Virginia will work with Jessica on this initiative.

IX. Public Participation: No comments.