

**MINUTES OF THE PLANNING BOARD MEETING  
Thursday, February 24, 2022**

Present:

Mayor Alex Roman  
Mr. Steven Neale  
Mr. Tim Camuti  
Mr. David Freschi  
Mr. Jesse Lilley  
Mr. Greg Mascera, Planning Board Attorney

Vice Chair Jessica Pearson  
Councilman Jack McEvoy  
Mr. Al DeOld  
Mr. Jason Hyndman  
Mr. Jeremy Katzeff  
Ashley Neale, Planning Board Secretary

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Meeting called to order at 7:30PM by Vice Chair Pearson. This meeting was held via Zoom Video Conferencing due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Steven Neale was sworn in prior to the meeting by Mr. Mascera as the Class II member- term expiring December 21, 2022.

Mr. Jeremy Katzeff was sworn in prior to the meeting prior to the meeting by Mr. Mascera as the Alternate #2 member- term expiring June 30, 2023.

**Pledge of Allegiance:**

Vice Chair Pearson reads Open Public Meetings Act Statement and explains how the public can raise their virtual hands to participate in the meeting.

Vice Chair Pearson notes for the record that Application 2022-01 for 4 Arnold Way has been adjourned to the Board's March 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Public Hearing**

Vice Chair Pearson asks if anyone from the public would like to address the board on topics not on this meeting's agenda. No one from the public came forward. Mr. Lev from 45 Summit- clarifies that 4 Arnold will be discussed at the next meeting.

**Approval of Minutes**

Vice Chair Pearson asks for a motion to approve minutes from a Special meeting held on November 30, 2021. Mayor Roman makes the motion, Mr. Camuti seconds. Mr. Katzeff abstains, all others present vote in favor.

Vice Chair Pearson asks for a motion to approve minutes from a Regular meeting held on December 2, 2021. Councilman McEvoy makes the motion, Mr. Freschi seconds. Mr. Katzeff abstains, all others present vote in favor.

Vice Chair Pearson asks for a motion to approve minutes from a Special meeting held on December 14, 2021. Mr. DeOld makes the motion, Mr. Camuti second. Mr. Katzeff abstains, all others present vote in favor.

**New Business**

Vice Chair Pearson explains that in the Township's Zoning Code there is an outdated list of plant selection and placement of plantings. She notes that the Environmental Commission thought it should be updated, and have

compiled a new list with the help of members from the Hilltop Conservancy and the Shade Tree Committee. She adds that Mr. Mascera suggested having a forester review and sign off on the proposed list. The Board would then vote and recommend to the Township Council that the Zoning Code be updated to include the new list. Mr. Mascera suggests that the Board authorize Vice Chair Pearson to hire a forester from the list she compiled not exceeding an agreed upon amount. There is discussion amongst the Board about procurement processes and the differences between an arborist and forester. Mr. Mascera notes that the Resolution can be done verbally tonight and then memorialized in writing at the next meeting. Mr. Mascera states that Resolution 2022-01 would read as follows: *The Planning Board authorizes Vice Chair Pearson to engage the services of a forester of the State of New Jersey, at a cost not to exceed \$750 for the purpose of reviewing the planting list to be contained in an amendment to the Township of Verona's Zoning Code. Board Chairman Larry Lonergan will then be authorized to execute a contract with chosen forester on behalf of the Planning Board.*

Vice Chair Pearson asks for a motion to approve Resolution 2022-01. Mr. DeOld makes the motion, Mr. Hyndman seconds. Roll call is taken. Councilman McEvoy abstains. All others present vote in favor.

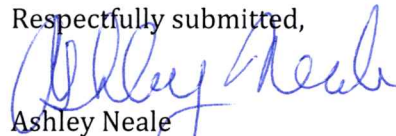
There is discussion amongst the Board about returning to in person meetings. It is ultimately decided that the Board would return to meeting in person at the Verona Community Center starting at their next meeting, Thursday March 24 at 7:30 PM.

Mr. Freschi asks how other members of the Board are updated on activities and progress of the sub-committees. Vice Chair Pearson suggests adding it as an agenda item for future meetings. Mr. Mascera gives a brief update on the Master Plan sub-committee meetings that have taken place in the last couple of weeks.

### **Adjourn**

After a motion made by Councilman McEvoy and seconded by Mr. Camuti, there was a unanimous vote to adjourn at 8:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Ashley Neale  
Planning Board Secretary

*PLEASE NOTE: Meeting minutes are a summation of the hearing. If you are interested in a verbatim transcript from this or any proceeding, please contact the Planning Board office at 973-857-4805.*