

Sustainable Verona Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2025 at 7:05 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER – Kerry Bass
 - a. Open Public Meeting Act Compliance Statement

2) ROLL CALL

Kerry Bass
Jami Bjornstad-Bal
Rebecca Force-Delgado
Melissa Lasko (guest)
Christine Liaukus
Jack McEvoy
Dan Murray
Steve Pope (guest)
Casey Sisco
Anna Shea (guest)
Carol Thomas
Anthony Triolo (VEC liaison)

Members not present:
Robert Prout (STC)

3) ADOPTION OF SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES - Adopted as amended

Ayes: Bass, Force-Delgado, Liakus, Sisco, Thomas
Nays: NA
Abstain: Bjornstad-Bal, McEvoy, Murray

4) REPORTS OF MEMBER COMMITTEES

- b. Environmental Commission - No Updates
- b. Shade Tree Commission
- i. Grove St Development under review
- ii. Natural Climate Solutions Grant in Development
- iii. Not many emergencies - attribute to proactive maintenance
 - iv. Garden - lottery portal is open
 - v. Greenhouse Committee met to discuss funding allocation/projects - looking to get a portable solar panel to be in use when needed
 - vi. Tree give-away with the Library for Earth Day
- d) Town Council
 - vii. Everett Field - Targeting April completion depending on weather. Currently stopped
 - vii. Meeting with Sierra so they can talk about Verona's decision going natural grass as opposed to artificial turf
 - vii. Sports Field Manager needed to up keep natural grass - looking to hire, seeing if can be a shared service with neighboring towns, or a Company/landscaper that can get a certification
 - vii. Streetscape - no updates
 - vii. West Essex Highlands - public statements presented last week

1. Over 40 people spoke, no one in favor of the development
2. Expect about 3-4 appeals

5) NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Community Solar
 - i. Met with Gabel Consultants - Municipalities allowed to be combined to increase ability to qualify for automatic enrollment
 - ii. Need to designate 50% to low income/affordable units - then will qualify for automatic enrollment (5-15% savings on bill)
 - iii. Next meeting is tomorrow
 - b. Terracycle options
 - i. Want to get new members from Town to kick-off
 - c. SJ Grant – Residential Compost
 - i. Submitted for \$10k last year - did not get (received feedback)
 - ii. Next submission due next Friday
 - iii. Want to use for a composting pilot
 1. Reduce Verona's cost for waste disposal (40-60% of our garbage is food waste)
 - iv. Need a resolution passed through Council
 - v. Opt for a toter in a centrally located place in the Community
 1. Community Garden - Hesitant to add the compost there - need someone to manage it (and make sure the right things). Rather have a toter. Board of Ed Property
 2. Verona Pool, schools, community center, recycling center
 - vi. Partner with local boy & girl scout troops
 - vii. Look at which other towns have successfully implemented a community/residential compost
 - viii. Bring in businesses - Lakeside, Juicery?
- d. VHS Scholarship
 - i. Increased to \$500 - will give out 2 scholarships
 - ii. Will need to put together a review committee
 - d. Review Timeline for 2026
 - iii. Sent out via e-mail
 - d. SJ Certification Plans
 - iv. Applied for a capstone student to help

6) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

7) ADJOURNMENT at 8:20pm