

Sustainable Verona Meeting Minutes
April 1, 2026 at 7:00PM

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

2. ROLL CALL

Kerry Bass
Christine Liaukus
Rebecca Force-Delgado
Robert Prout
Jack McEvoy (Town Council)
Carol Thomas (STC)
Jack McEvoy (Town Council)
James Staudinger (DPW - guest)
Anna Shea (guest)
Melissa Lesko (guest)
Members not present:
Jami Bjornstad-Bal
Casey Sisko
Anthony Triola (EC)

3. ADOPTION OF MARCH MEETING MINUTES - Approved

4. REPORT OF MEMBER COMMITTEES

- a. Environmental Commission - Not present
- b. Shade Tree Commission
 - Unhealthy trees on Linden Ave removed
 - Urban Canopy Management Program proposed to prevent this in the future
 - Would look at alternative sidewalks with a possibility for a pilot program surrounding sidewalk technology
 - Letter will go out to Linden residents to sign-up to receive a new street tree
- c. Town Council
 - Were able to push back on original plans for Linden, which had all of the trees coming down
 - Arborist came in to do a review and decided not all the trees needed to go
 - Everett - work is moving fast, crews have been out working basically since the snow started to melt
 - Land is graded, ready for grass
 - West Orange development is still up in the air
 - Historically, land is only approved for single-family homes

5. NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Review timeline for 2026 - Committees - No updates
- b. Community Solar - community outreach
 - Not pursuing auto enroll for LMI residents
 - Doing outreach program with Solar Simplify
 - Either webinar or in-person presentation
 - Rates should only stay this high for the next 6 months or so then will go back to around 20%

- There's a lot of skepticism from residents (it seems too good to be true, what's the catch, etc)
 - This is why the presentation is important
- c. Energy Efficiency
 - Hired Chrystine Gaffney with grant money to head up EE program
 - Initial focus on commercial track
 - Speaking with leaders of houses of worship with Kelvin
 - She's talking with residents about residential program and seeing skepticism/pushback
 - Plans to focus on education and fact finding
- d. Earth Day 4/22 - social media campaign
 - Piggy backing on Library/Shade Tree Commission's event on 4/25
 - Tree giveaway
 - SV will be tabling
 - Nightlight giveaway
 - Chrystine and Christine will be talking about EE, Kerry will be answering questions on community solar
 - Share library event flier on social media
- e. Terracycle options - pickleball recycling
 - Plan to buy a shed, buy terracycle boxes, and put at recycling center
 - Use SV budget to purchase shed/boxes
- f. SJ Grant - Residential Compost
 - Would accommodate 45 households
 - Residents would collect their own waste, then drop it off at toters
 - Toters would have a combination lock
 - Find out if approved at end of April
 - If approved, ideas of composting workshops for girl/boy scouts
- g. VHS Scholarship - No updates
- h. SJ Certification Plans - Capstone student - No updates

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

7. ADJOURNMENT at 8:25pm

Minutes authored/signed by:
 /s/ Anna Shea
 April 3, 2026