

Sustainable Verona Meeting Minutes
May 6, 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

Robert Prout

Chrystine Gaffney

Casey Sisko

Carol Thomas (STC)

TJ Ferett (DPW - guest)

Anna Shea (guest)

Members not present:

Jami Bjornstad-Bal

Dan Murray

Anthony Triola (EC)

Jack McEvoy (Town Council)

3. ADOPTION OF APRIL MEETING MINUTES - Approved

4. REPORT OF MEMBER COMMITTEES

a. Environmental Commission - Not present

b. Shade Tree Commission

- Forestry Management Plan is done
- Did Arbor Day Proclamation
 - This makes Verona eligible as a Tree City, which opens up more grant eligibility
- No plantings for Arbor Day due to focus on library event
- Working on tree recommendations list
- Sent letter to Kevin regarding Everett regarding cost to maintain field that wasn't initially accounted for
 - Issues of erosion will put extra strain on DPW

c. Town Council - Not present

- Jack is attending West Orange planning meeting where a vote is expected to take place
 - Jack texted Kerry during the meeting to give the update that the application for development was voted down

5. NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. VHS Scholarship

- 5 submissions
- Scholarship assembly is 5/28
- Jack can present the scholarship

b. Community Solar - community outreach for June

- Solar Simplified meeting last week to work on community outreach
- Sustainable Verona isn't marketing for Solar Simplified, but Solar Simplified will present
- Planning a mailing on lowering utility bill that will advertise 2 presentations on 6/8, 1 in the morning and 1 at night

- There is a deadline for the mailing as Eliza has PTO at the end of May
- Want to do public presentation before summer
 - Before vacations, before rates go up
- c. Energy Efficiency Program updates
 - Tabling at Arbor Event generated a lot of good conversations
 - Sustainable Jersey wants us to spend our grant money in the immediate term
 - Planning tabling at the library on 5 dates
 - Idea of scavenger hunt for families at different businesses around town that can bridge residential and commercial engagement
 - Chamber of Commerce does Lunch & Learn event for business owners
 - Idea to have presenter from PSE&G speak on commercial program
- d. Terracycle options - No updates
- f. SJ Grant - Residential Compost
 - Haven't heard back yet, but will any day now
- g. Centennial Field
 - Town manager chose a supposed "PFAS-free" turf based on a recommendation, but it isn't as safe as the marketing will have you believe
 - Kerry is going to put together a presentation based on the presentation she went to on the detriments of artificial turf fields
 - All future fields should be grass, but is it too much to ask to revert a turf field to grass?
 - Kerry's presentation will refute the idea that it's too expensive to revert a turf field back to grass
 - Jack had the idea to have Kerry's presentation play as a video at the next Town Council meeting
 - Everyone should attend this meeting
- h. SJ Certification Plans - Capstone student
 - 2 Capstone students
 - 1 with environmental studies focus
 - Will work on certification
 - 1 with IT/AV focus
 - Will work on website in general
- g. Skip the Stuff
 - Law goes into effect 8/1
 - Eliza had the idea to promote on social media
- 6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None
- 7. ADJOURNMENT at 8:28pm

Minutes authored/signed by:
 /s/ Anna Shea
 May 9, 2026