

Sustainable Verona Meeting Minutes
June 3, 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

Casey Sisko

Carol Thomas (STC)

Jack McEvoy (Town Council)

Anna Shea (guest)

Owen Church (guest - Capstone student)

Members not present:

Jami Bjornstad-Bal

Dan Murray

Chrystine Gaffney

Anthony Triola (EC)

3. ADOPTION OF MAY MEETING MINUTES - Approved

4. REPORT OF MEMBER COMMITTEES

a. Environmental Commission - Not present

b. Shade Tree Commission

- Inventory is done, management plan is done
- Asking for public input on tree species or the Street Scape project
- Online form for reporting on year old trees planted to STC

c. Community Garden

- 6/10 - Tomato talk and social
- Need to find someone with experience with solar generators
- Weather has slowed things down, but planting is gearing up
- Solar generator could allow for earlier plantings
- Capstone students water sealed the tables and helped with tree inventory

d. Town Council

- Application for development in West Orange was denied
 - Meeting to memorialize plan before developer files lawsuit
- Idea to put "Keep Verona Green" on trash cans
 - Street Scape project can be used towards certification

5. NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. VHS Scholarships Awarded

- Jack presented scholarships
- Since we didn't do training for first responders, extra money in budget could go towards more scholarships

b. Sustainable Jersey Summit update

- Christine attended
- Some towns creating a Stormwater Authority that can increase funding

- c. Myveronanj - New owner
 - Danielle Cantor
 - Kerry spoke with her about doing a series on solar
 - Ideally get something out before 6/9 event
 - d. Verona Sidewalk Sale 6/6 & 6/7
 - First year being done
 - e. Community Solar 6/9
 - 6/9 event with Solar Simplify
 - Pizza, giveaways, tabling on energy efficiency
 - 1pm and 6pm events
 - Boosted event to Sustainable Essex Alliance
 - Idea to pass out flyers to apartments across from Community Center
 - f. Verona's Community Energy Plan
 - No direct updates, but is indirectly addressed through community solar and energy efficiency updates
 - g. SJ Grant - Residential Compost 6/15
 - Grant awarded
 - Kerry going 6/15 to be awarded grant money at TCNJ
 - h. SJ Certification Plans - Capstone students
 - Owen is the Capstone student helping get organized for certification
 - Use spreadsheet from 2024 to renew what we've already done
 - Made new spreadsheet for 2027 that aims for 370 points
 - First submission in February 2027
 - i. Energy Efficiency Program Updates - SV webpage
 - Contractor has been calling Kerry who's looking to expand his Direct Install program
 - Kerry passed his info to Bob Prout
 - j. Sustainable Jersey Success Story 6/22
 - Kerry wants to submit Community Garden
 - Has lots of elements SJ looks for (donation, education, community)
 - SJ has given grants and attended expansion openings in the past
 - First submission is 6/22
 - Cash prize for winners
 - k. Terracycle options - Pickleball recycling
 - Now recycling vape pens
 - This moves Terracycle up in list of priorities
 - Idea to do terracycle for pickleballs
 - l. Centennial Field update
 - Kerry is putting together a prerecorded presentation for Rec Department meeting on 6/16 against PivotCool turf that was recommended to the town manager for Centennial
 - Do as video so that it can be shared in the future
6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None
7. ADJOURNMENT at 8:31pm

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