

## Sustainable Verona Meeting Notes – 10/4/2023

### Attendees:

Kerry Bass  
Sandy Williams  
Dan Murray  
Jack McEvoy  
Carol Thomas  
Bob Prout  
Christine Liaukus  
Jami Bjornstad  
Jonathan Hayter

### VEC Updates:

Kari B. reported that the Sports Swap made \$421 and was donated to the Verona Library.

### VEC updates:

- Treasured Tree Program is back; all worn out tree tags have been replaced with new ones and the VEC website added a page with pics and information about what sort of trees are eligible for nomination and how to nominate a tree.
- VEC is planning more elementary school assemblies which will occur around April 2024 (Earth Day) and the focus is on recycling, plastic reduction and idling. This coincides with the poster contest.
- Looking at putting together a "Junior Commissioner" program for HS students. More info to follow
- Working towards updating the Stormwater Ordinance; Jess working with the Township Attorney.
- Gas Leaf Blower restrictions recommendations were made by the VEC in 2021... they were very reasonable restrictions and focused on prohibiting commercial use from July 1 through Sept 30 (summer) and Dec 16 through Feb 28 (winter). Other towns have adopted total bans and include resident use of gas blowers. VEC will be resending the recommendation with a 5 year allowance for the Township to convert their own landscape equipment fleet to electric (2028 deadline).
- VEC planted a new Redbud Tree at the Community Center Gardens with the funding from Verona Rocks and help from Hillcrest Farms. The tree was planted in honor of a Verona Veteran who passed away last summer.
- Cleanup event on Sat Oct 21 from 9-11 am at the end of Park Place; behind HBW track and adjacent to the River.

### Shade Tree Updates:

- Shade Tree planted on Ann & Willow may need to be replaced
- Carol is using iTree Academy
- Shade Tree is applying for 5-year Capital Budget, submitting to Town Council, will cover maintenance and planting program
- We discussed tree stump removal at Verona Park, Kerry will reach out again to the parks system

### Town Updates:

- Open Space & Recreation Trust Fund
  - Current funds cover property just purchased

- New funds can be used for fields, historic property, etc. there are many uses in Verona for it. (would prefer not turf fields)
- SV took a vote to support the question. All voted FOR, 1 AGAINST
- No-Idling resolution will be adopted at the next Council meeting.
- Today was Walk-to-School day, very successful.

Sandy Williams posed a question regarding clear-cutting, which happens around her property. Attendees discussed storm water, steep slope ordinance and fragile ecosystems.

#### SV Agenda:

- Solar Tour is on for Saturday, despite rainy forecast. Discussed participating in the National Tour every year.
- SJ Actions – we reviewed the Actions that VEC & Shade Tree has worked. For the next meeting, we will delegate remaining Actions.
- Silver Certification is 350 points. Must implement 3 of 13 PRIORITY actions. Must include 8 of 18 categories. Good for 3 years. First submission date is 2/25/2024.
- Public Forums (Passive House, Composting, Recycling). We discussed mainly holding a “Composting 101” which would tie into a Municipal Compost Pilot with Java. Kerry to attend meeting with Java to see where things were left off with Steve Neale.