

<b>Members Present (Quorum Established at Four or More Members)</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jessica Pearson (Chair/Planning Board Liaison)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Auteri	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sean DiBartolo (Vice Chair/Plan Review)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kari Baureis	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Martin Golan	<input type="checkbox"/> Fuad Dahan (Alternate I)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Yauch O'Farrell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Councilwoman Christine McGrath (Gov. Body Liaison)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Frank Ceccacci (Sustainable Verona Liaison)		
	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION REQUIRED</b>
1.	<b>Call to Order by Jess:</b> a) Open Public Meetings Act Statement b) Roll Call performed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None.</li> </ul>
2.	<b>Public Comment Period:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>No public attendees were present.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No Comments</li> </ul>
3.	<b>Approval of August 1, 2019 Special Meeting Minutes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>MOTION to Approve:</b> Sean; <b>Second:</b> Jess.</li> <li><b>APPROVAL:</b> All Members Present AYE.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sean will email approved minutes to Township Clerk Kiernan and Steve Neale.</li> </ul>
4.	<b>Sustainability Contest Progress:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teachers/ Elementary Principals have been notified via email as to the parameters of the contest. All 4<sup>th</sup> grade students are invited to submit posters depicting sustainability themes by Oct. 2, 2019 (National Bike/Walk to School Day).</li> <li>HBW and VHS Environmental Club Teachers have been notified via email as to the parameters of the contest. All HBW and VHS environmental club students may submit a meme, a tweet, an ad, a picture with a headline, a 15- to 30-second video, digital or hand drawn poster art depicting sustainability themes due on Oct. 2, 2019.</li> <li>Members will attend schools on or around Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> to hang posters, take photos and choose the winning poster. They are reminded to record the winning submission's name (properly spelled) and school and email that information to Jess and Sarah.</li> <li>Jess and Mike A. will cover HBW and VHS.</li> <li>Sarah and Kari will cover FN Brown and Laning Ave.</li> <li>Sean, Fuad, and Frank will cover Forest Ave.</li> <li>Martin and Christine will cover Brookdale.</li> <li>Certificates will be printed by Jen Kiernan once names have been confirmed.</li> <li>The four winning posters and best multimedia submissions from HBW and VHS will be awarded a \$50 gift card and certificate from the Mayor at the October 21, 2019 Council Meeting. VEC members are encouraged to attend.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members will plan their school visits independently according to their group's availability.</li> <li>Members will email Jess and Sarah clear pictures of the winning submission with the winner's name and school along with a few group pics of the other submissions.</li> <li>Jess will get files for the six certificates at Staples.</li> <li>Jess will send out a reminder to the schools as well as to the VEC members as we approach Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>.</li> <li>Jess will email Steve Neale a picture of each winning submission for showcasing at the awards ceremony.</li> </ul>
5.	<b>Updates:</b> <b>a) Peckman River Streambank Stabilization:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Picking up on our discussion from June 2019, concern has been voiced over the streambank erosion and resources of mitigation and stabilization. The VEC has been in contact with Mike DeCarlo who has taken a proactive stance to seek</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mike DeCarlo is in the process of filing for Federal Grants and will keep posted on progress and on next steps.</li> <li>Sean recommends that we add some information to our website</li> </ul>

	<p>Federal funding for Verona.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers seem to have the final say on which projects are subject to attention and funding.</li> <li>○ Sean suggested using a Go-Pro camera and narrating a walk down the banks of the Peckman to point out the drastic erosion. Steve Neale indicated that the township may be considering hiring someone to fly a drone down the river to illustrate the issues. The source of pictorial documentation has yet to be determined.</li> <li>○ Promoting a discussion on a Stormwater Utility for Verona and associated Impervious Cover fee is not a priority at this time for the VEC due to the perceived level of effort and other initiatives the VEC is addressing.</li> <li>○ Mike DeCarlo has been in touch with Congresswoman Mikie Sherrill's office a number of times and is hoping her office will join the effort and attempt to allocate funding and attention to this issue.</li> </ul>	<p>(when ready to launch) that describes and educates the public on an impervious cover-based fee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sean will contact Mike DeCarlo and Steve Neale to coordinate any actions the VEC may take to help in these efforts.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>b) Tree Ordinance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Matt Cavallo indicates that he is in the process of finalizing the ordinance and that it should be introduced later this month.</li> <li>○ Members discussed certain parameters of the draft ordinance: Enforcement by DPW and the Zoning Officer; Fines in the \$200 to \$2,000 range; Tree Replacement and Tree Replacement Fund etc.</li> <li>○ A concern was raised about dead trees and the fact that the property owner would have to gain a certification of the tree's health by a licensed tree expert. The concern was allayed when it was explained that the permit fees for certified dead trees will be waived and that most tree removal firms have a staff of licensed tree experts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No further action at this time.</li> <li>• Awaiting introduction.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>c) Site Plan Review/Stormwater Ordinance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Stormwater Ordinance is in the early phases of review.</li> <li>○ No update on Site Plan Review Ordinance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued input from Jess and Sean when warranted.</li> <li>• Update next meeting.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>d) VEC Web Site:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Jess sent Mike A. about 8 pages of simple information that should be included on the site.</li> <li>○ Mike A. requires more time throughout the Fall to complete his concept.</li> <li>○ Martin has agreed to work with Mike A. when appropriate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mike A. will continue working on Website so we can present to Township Officials.</li> <li>• Jess has consolidated and added content and will send to Martin for editing.</li> <li>• Martin and all members asked to send site or event photos to Mike for inclusion on site.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>e) Plastic Bag Ban:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Steve Neale will be presenting Plastic Bag Ban information at the September 23, 2019 Council Meeting. VEC members are encouraged to attend.</li> <li>○ Many residents are hopeful that with more towns adopting ordinances, that the State will act to pass a standard regulation.</li> <li>○ Update when new information is available.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steve Neale is the lead on this.</li> <li>• Frank and Jess will keep members updated on new information or events.</li> <li>• Jess will email members two model ordinances and a copy of Steve's presentation material for</li> </ul>

	<p><b>f) Sustainable Verona Update from Frank:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ E-Vehicle charger plans include a station to be placed in Town Hall Plaza as well as at the Verona Community Center.</li> <li>○ Updated that August meeting included an introduction to a Tesla.</li> <li>○ Community Garden water source conflict has changed the overall timeline of the garden. The grants will be filed in the near future, but this time lag may prove to delay planting for this upcoming spring. Frank has spoken with Mike DeCarlo and the source can be tapped from Park Place.</li> <li>○ VEC members agree that once the Garden funds are granted, that the Garden must take initiative to form a formal Garden Committee to oversee membership, dues, maintenance and all other necessary operation decisions.</li> </ul>	<p>their review.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Frank's updates will be a constant agenda item so that the VEC can maintain updated information on Sustainable Verona's initiatives and partner with them when we can.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>g) Public Education on Open Space Trust Fund:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Jess, Matt, and Steve met with an ANJEC representative Alex for support materials and information on presentation to public.</li> <li>○ Manager Cavallo will assist with enabling public presentation by extending VCC to public for informative review. Details forthcoming.</li> <li>○ Jess asks for VEC members who would like to be involved in the upcoming public education campaign. Sarah is interested.</li> <li>○ Christine expressed concern that the town may have waited too long to get information ready for the public and that the mail out ballot voters will likely not have the benefit of understanding why they should vote for such an initiative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Working on a date and times for presentation. Steve Neale will also post information on Verona's website.</li> <li>● We can share presentation and information on Facebook.</li> <li>● Jess will be in contact with everyone as events are planned for the public education.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>h) Rain Garden:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Council received \$212K in Community Block Development Grants for Lynn Drive. They also had to bond for \$385K to complete the sidewalks, curbs and streets. These funds may not be delegated away from Lynn Drive to be used at the Community Center (where the garden was planned).</li> <li>○ The VEC agreed to formally remove this item from the Agenda until next year when we can ask the township to include such rain gardens in the stormwater design at the Cameco site. This will benefit the area and educate the public on the ease of design and utility.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Tabled and removed from agenda until discussion begins on plans for Cameco.</li> </ul>
6.	<p><b>New Business:</b></p> <p><b>a) Fall Cleanup (West Essex Trail Arnold Way to Hillwood Terr.):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Location: West Side of Fairview at the Essex County Trail Head. Members and volunteers will meet to the right of 110 Fairview Ave, across from the west end of Franklin Ave.</li> <li>○ Date and Time: Sunday, October 6 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.</li> <li>○ We will need support from DPW for collection of trash/recycled goods either at the local level or county level.</li> <li>○ VEC members will be asked to dress appropriately to protect from ticks &amp; children under 12 must be accompanied by adults.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mike A. will form an E-flyer with information to be shared by Jess on Facebook, with the township and with local news sites.</li> <li>● Jess will contact DPW for tools and support.</li> <li>● Sean will contact Essex County to coordinate Cleanup.</li> <li>● Jess will bring chainsaw and waiver forms.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>b) Recommendation for new members to watch NJDEP Stormwater Review Training video:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ All members are requested to watch the 45-minute video to aid in their understanding of the rules and their applications.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sean will email all members the link to the online video course.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>c) Planning Board Findings: 1 Sunset Ave:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Planning Board found by 8-to-1 vote that 1 Sunset Ave met the criteria and made a recommendation to the Council to consider it as an Area in Need of Redevelopment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No actions necessary</li> </ul>
	<p><b>d) Custom Stainless Steel Straws for sale at Fair in the Square:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Jess and Steve Neale thinking about reusable items that could be offered at Fair in the Square.</li> <li>○ Jess priced out etched Stainless Straws with a Verona vendor and the VEC has the financial ability to make the purchase.</li> <li>○ VEC members discussed pricing options and bulk pricing options.</li> <li>○ Jess is awaiting confirmation from Manager Cavallo on our ability to move forward and plan the purchase as well as reserve a table for the Fair.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jess will confirm with Manager and revisit at the October meeting.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>e) Rescheduling Oct. 9, 2019 meeting due to Yom Kippur:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ VEC members agreed that Wednesday October 16, 2019 at 7 p.m. will be the best evening for rescheduling our meeting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jess will email Jen Kiernan for confirmation that the room is available.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>f) HEPSCD Feedback:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sean and Jess have been conferring with Mike DeCarlo and residents who are troubled by tree removals, flooding issues and development occurring at the Montclair Golf Course.</li> <li>○ Sean has been in contact with Matt D'Alessandro from Hudson-Essex-Passaic Soil Conservation District (HEPSCD) and has compiled a spreadsheet of all of the properties in Verona that have submitted and received certification for soil erosion and sediment control plans that may disturb more than 5,000 ft<sup>2</sup>. Each of these properties must abide by State Laws and oversight by HEPSCD. However, none of the properties on this long list are subject to VEC or Land Board review because they have no reason for such review. They merely need permits.</li> <li>○ Jess has spoken with Matt Cavallo about the need for updating our Soil Removal Ordinance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jess requesting a copy of list of sites in Verona disturbing more than 5,000 ft<sup>2</sup>.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>g) Splash Pool and Extra Verona Community Pool parking:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Christine wanted the VEC to be aware that the Township was planning to add a Splash Pool and additional parking at the Verona Pool over the next year.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No actions necessary at this time.</li> </ul>
7.	<p><b>Adjournment: Next meeting October 16, 2019 at 7 p.m.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VCC Meeting Room</li> </ul>