

<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 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 September 11, 2019 Meeting Minutes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>MOTION to Approve:</b> Jess; <b>Second:</b> Sarah.</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>Upcoming Events/Actions:</b>	
	<b>a) Sustainability Contest Progress:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sarah and Kari attended Laning and FN Brown: The Laning Winner is: <u>Elizabeth Gottlieb</u> "Save our Planet" The FN Winner is: <u>Isabella Sandoval</u>: "Save the Turtles..."</li> <li>Sean and Fuad attended Forest Ave: The Forest Ave Winner is: <u>MacKenzie Powley</u>: "Untitled"</li> <li>Martin and Christine attended Brookdale: The Brookdale Winner is <u>Mark Squilante</u>: "Idling and saving our earth"</li> <li>Jessica attended HBW: The HBW Winner is <u>Nia Pilauri</u>: "Be Kind"</li> <li>Jessica attended VHS. The Club proctor, Ms. Haftel had changed her email address and had not received any of our correspondences. Jess extended their due date to Thursday, 10/10/19, however no submissions were received.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members are asked to attend the 10/21/19 Council meeting for the awards ceremony.</li> <li>Jess has sent names to Town Clerk Jennifer Kiernan for Certificates and Jennifer has offered to print them out and place each in a Township folder.</li> <li>Jess has contacted parents so they can be present at the ceremony on 10/21/19.</li> </ul>
	<b>b) Public Education for Open Space Trust Fund:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jessica and Christine worked with the Township Manager Cavallo to draft a small infographic that is currently being shared on FB and on the Township website.</li> <li>Jess is pushing for a short video to be made and uploaded to the township YouTube channel and shared on social media that basically narrates the infographic. Results of suggestion are pending.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share this infographic with your friends and neighbors.</li> <li>Jess will ask Steve Neale for any further information that may be shared on Facebook.</li> <li>Awaiting further directions from the Township on proposed video.</li> </ul>
5.	<b>Updates:</b>	
	<b>a) Essex Trail Clean up Results:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clean up was Sunday 10/6/19 at West side of West Essex Trail.</li> <li>Essex County Parks Dept. supplied materials, gloves and disposal and transportation of trash.</li> <li>Trail had a great deal of garbage that volunteers collected where accessible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sean will contact the County, and Jess the Township, to see if there is some sort of signage that may be installed or discussion with neighboring properties to deter illegal dumping.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 20 Volunteers came to help. Pictures were posted on Facebook directly following the event.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Frank will contact people at Runnymede to see if they will help to deter dumping.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>b) Tree Ordinance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tree Ordinance was re-introduced at 10/7/19 Council meeting. A brief discussion of the ordinance followed explaining the modifications. These modifications were made based upon input from experts and residents alike.</li> <li>○ The revisions are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The cost of the application permit was \$100 per tree, revised to \$50 for the 2-tree limit.</li> <li>▪ The tree replacement schedule was revised to lessen the replacement trees for larger standard removals.</li> <li>▪ Certain language was tweaked to ensure that no conflict exists between the powers of the Shade Tree Commission over Public Trees and the Zoning Code officer over Private Trees.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Second reading will occur on 10/21/19 and all are welcomed to attend to support the ordinance.</li> <li>○ Councilwoman McGrath expressed excitement to see this Ordinance pass and pledged her support.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Members are encouraged to attend 10/21/19 Council meeting to support the Ordinance.</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) Peckman River Erosion Remediation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mayor McEvoy, Engineer DeCarlo and Manager Cavallo attended a flood remediation meeting with Mikie Sherrill's staff and representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers to discuss possible aid to Verona to stabilize the Peckman River banks and deter further erosion.</li> <li>○ Army Corps of Engineer members unfortunately are undertaking much larger issues, including, ironically having to purchase flooded properties downstream from Verona that were no longer habitable. They and, in some cases, the State have purchased hundreds of properties in Little Falls.</li> <li>○ Mike DeCarlo is continuing to file for certain grant moneys through FEMA. This grant asks for a feasibility study which is required in order to secure funding. He was also told to ask the State for aid. Finally, he is working on our Emergency Mitigation Plan with Essex County Officials (Updated every 5 years) and through that, has been gaining further education on mitigation and preventative actions that we may take.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mike DeCarlo is in the process of filing for a grant through FEMA and will keep us posted on the Township's progress.</li> <li>● Sean recommends that we add some information to our website (when ready to launch) that describes and educates the public on the impervious land use fee.</li> <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>e) VEC Web Site: Mike A.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mike A. requires more time 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>● Update next meeting.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>f) Plastic Bag Ban:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Steve Neale presented information about a potential Plastic Bag Ban for Verona at the 9/23/19 Council Meeting. The Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Steve Neale is the lead on this.</li> <li>● Frank and Jess will keep</li> </ul>

	<p>seemed very interested in pursuing further action on this and wanted to know more about feedback from local businesses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Steve has received feedback from many food service businesses that, for the most part, are favorable to an ordinance.</li> <li>○ Many residents are hopeful that with more towns adopting ordinances, that the State will act to pass a standard regulation.</li> <li>○ Jess also forwarded a poster submission from a Middle School Student “No Plastic is Fantastic” which may be used by the Township to publicize the upcoming Ordinance.</li> <li>○ Kari suggested using the student’s poster(s) in a larger media drive to educate parents. She suggested, if feasible, to print some of these posters on reusable shopping bags to encourage increased use of them.</li> </ul>	<p>members updated on new information or events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Jess will contact Steve Neale to find out if funding would allow for printing posters with student’s artwork for use in stores to education people on the upcoming changes. Jess will also ask if printing artwork on reusable shopping bags is feasible.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>g) Frank Update: Community Garden/Sustainable Verona:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Community Garden workshops are scheduled at the VCC annex building on Wednesday 11/6, 11/13, 11/20, 12/4, 12/11, and 12/18/19.</li> <li>○ Pre-Registration is required by 10/30/19 and it costs \$50 to attend.</li> <li>○ Kari mentioned that there were only four confirmed person registered for this 6-week course.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sarah will share this information on Facebook hoping to gain increased registration.</li> <li>● Members are encouraged to pass this information to local restaurants.</li> <li>● Franks Sustainable Verona updates will be a constant on our agenda.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>h) Custom Stainless-Steel Straws:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Jess spoke with Manager Cavallo about the prospect of selling the straws for profit. This would actually require ordinance passage. The VEC is not a 501c-3 organization.</li> <li>○ It was decided that this sort of action would be more labor intensive than the benefits that it may provide.</li> <li>○ Jess asks whether the VEC wants to participate in Fair in the Square. In past years, we’ve been more apt to participate in the Green Fair; this year it may be a Green/Art Fair.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Members decided against participation in Fair in Square.</li> <li>● Members prefer to participate in the Green Fair, finding it more applicable and timelier for our mission.</li> </ul>
6.	<p><b>VEC Plan Review Committee Comments and Findings</b></p> <p><b>a) Cam Gar at Verona LLC: 34 Linn Dr.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Applicant requests to convert interior of an 800-ft<sup>2</sup> garage into a gym for use by residents of Runnymede Gardens.</li> <li>○ The footprint of this non-permitted use would not be expanded.</li> <li>○ The applicant also argues that parking needs will not expand due to use by current residents only.</li> <li>○ VEC suggests using green building products for construction and dispose of waste materials (like asbestos pipe insulation) in a proper manner.</li> <li>○ <b>MOTION to approve VEC PRC Memo:</b> Sean; <b>Second:</b> Mike.</li> <li>○ <b>APPROVAL:</b> All Members Present AYE.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sean had sent VEC PRC comments to the appropriate Board Secretary at their due date.</li> </ul>
7.	<p><b>New Business</b></p> <p><b>a) VEC Financial Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This year, the VEC spent a total \$587.36 on the Grove Garden;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Jess is in the process or ordering the polo shirts for</li> </ul>

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	<p>Hillcrest Invoice: (\$457.40) Pleasantdale Invoice: (\$129.96).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Jess is ordering VEC shirts for Kari, Fuad and Christine. Those costs will also come out of our funds.</li> <li>○ We began the year with \$2,093.32 and currently have \$1,505.96 before ordering the members' shirts.</li> </ul>	<p>new VEC members. Matt Cavallo has directed Jess to contact Christine in his office to help with placing the order.</p>
	<p><b>b) Suggestions for 2020 Projects:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sean would like to revisit the Rain Garden if funding and Township support can be gained.</li> <li>○ Christine mentioned that flooding has become a very common issue and that in addition to rain gardens, that public education may help people to mitigate their own home flooding. Simple maintenance can save homeowners from water seepage into their homes. She hopes the VEC and other Commissions and Committees can write short updates and articles on a potential upcoming Verona Newsletter.</li> <li>○ Stormwater Ordinance update is overdue. The State is in the process of updating NJAC 7:8 and when that occurs, Verona will have to update their ordinance. VEC members have an interest in lowering the property size threshold for Stormwater rules and applications of non-structural standards.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jess suggests that VEC members start to think about our goals for next year.</li> <li>• Stormwater is the main theme.</li> </ul>
8.	<p><b>Adjournment: Next meeting November 13, 2019 at 7 p.m.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VCC Meeting Room</li> </ul>