

Members Present (Quorum Established at Four or More Members)		
<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 type="checkbox"/> Kari Baureis	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Martin Golan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fuad Dahan (Alternate I)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Yauch O'Farrell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Christen Dietz (Alternate II)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Frank Ceccacci (Sustainable Verona Liaison)	<input type="checkbox"/> Kevin Ryan (Gov. Body Liaison)	
	DISCUSSION	ACTION REQUIRED
1.	Call to Order by Jess: a) Open Public Meetings Act Statement b) Roll Call performed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None.
2.	Public Comment Period: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No members of the public commented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
3.	Approval of January 13, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOTION to Approve: Sean; Second: Martin. APPROVAL: All Members Present AYE. Abstentions: None. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sean will email approved minutes to Township Clerk Kiernan and Steve Neale.
4.	Updates:	
	a) Commerce Court Cleanup: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Had a successful turnout that collected vast amounts of garbage and debris. Over 85 people volunteered. Sean set up a sign-in sheet that kept us well organized and helped to maintain a constant flow of volunteers. We should continue using this method for our future cleanups. Sean took over 300 pictures and mapped the site according to where garbage was frozen into the ground and requires revisiting after the thaw. Jess and Sarah took about 60 photos each. The photos were compiled and sent to Manager Cavallo for use by the NJ Land Conservancy to help Verona apply for Green Acres funding. Photos should be posted to our events page. Jess can draft body copy to introduce the material. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mike and Sean will work on adding an events tab and populating it with photos. Sean can create a form within SignUpGenius with our waiver for upcoming events.
	b) Verona and Clean Communities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steve Neale was just appointed Verona's Clean Communities Coordinator. New Jersey Clean Communities is a statewide, comprehensive, litter-abatement program created by the passage of the Clean Communities Act in 1986. The Act provides a funding source for the program by placing a tax on 15 categories of businesses that may produce litter-generating products. It generates about \$20M each year, which is dispersed through various grants to municipalities. Jess and Steve are discussing a rigorous schedule of regular cleanup events to occur, perhaps monthly, and to involve different members of the public community, according to the area of town in which the cleanup is scheduled. Inviting groups is necessary while COVID restrictions continue. SignUpGenius, or an application like it should be used for these 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update next meeting. Members seemed interested in launching a Clean Communities movement in Verona. Members will be interested in attending multiple cleanups throughout the next calendar year. VEC to reach out to Scouting groups in town, Verona Kids Rock, SCAs, MSU Greek Life. Steve Neale indicate he would look into providing "Leave No Trace" signage at Verona's Green Spaces.

	<p>events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Possibilities include March: West Essex Trail, April: Grove Park, May: Commerce Court redux; June: Peckman Trail; July: Mt Prospect green space; September: other portion of the Peckman; and October and November could be cleanups with Hilltop and Verona Park Conservancy. ○ Jess polls members as to their interest to launch new clean-up movements. 	
	<p>c) Earth Day Tree Giveaway</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Steve and Jess submitted the application for 400 tree seedlings. ○ The seedlings will likely be picked up by DPW and will be given out the following day, Saturday, April 24 from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Grove Park. Social Distancing and masks will be required. ○ The Cleanup event will differ from the Commerce Court Clean up in January 2021 because community members will be picking up their seedlings. Future cleanups should follow Sean's invitation only model from Commerce Court. ○ Steve will form a signup sheet so that residents can register for the seedlings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The event will occur, subject to NJ Health code updates or restrictions on Saturday April 23, 2021 from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. ● Update at our March meeting. ● Jess will ask if we can have mulch delivered for the garden, if needed.
	<p>d) Verona Recycling Videos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Steve estimates video productions should begin March 1, 2021. ○ Steve will drop off a camera to those interested, and those people will choose from a list which mistake or how-to issue to cover in a short 1- to 2-minute video. Each person will have the camera for 2 to 3 days to complete their video. ○ Most common mistakes include plastic bags, cleanliness of bottles, cans; bottle caps are not recyclable; only plastic 1, 2 and 5, flatten cardboard and keep it dry; explain chipboard and give examples of it with mixed paper, and discuss specialty materials like oil, tires, e-waste collections, shredding events and hazmat. ○ Another idea was to simply walk a local street with the camera and take video of obvious mistakes you see on your walk. One person can do commingled and another can do cardboard day in their area. We only ask that the video conceals people's homes and only captures the recycling piles with narration about the mistakes and corrective actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Awaiting direction from Steve Neale and SV members as to when and how to tackle the video production. ● Kari, Sarah, Mike and Christen are interested in creating videos. ● Jess will email Steve with contact information for the interested members.
	<p>e) Sustainable Verona Update: Frank</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ordinance on Community Garden was passed by the Council and new funding was offered by an additional charity. Town plans to move forward on garden planting for the community this spring. ○ Tentative Garden Ribbon Cutting: March 19, 2021 ○ Energy Aggregation Program will be presenting in a public online meeting on the evening of February 16, 2021. March 7, 2021, is the last day to opt out. ○ Currently looking to find a new contractor to accept plastic bags for recycling. TREX accepts them. Looking for the public to be able to bring them to the recycling center. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Frank gives updates at each meeting.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Videos for recycling still in planning. ○ SV will be helping the VEC on Earth Day. 	
5.	Ordinance Updates	
	<p>a) Stormwater Ordinance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jess and Sean discussed the features of the latest version of the Ordinance that may be proposed as soon as 2/22/2021. ○ The major differences between our draft and the State Model include lower thresholds for the definition of major development, application to all major developments and redevelopments, an emphasis on the use of green infrastructure as a means of stormwater controls, maintaining stormwater on site and the addition of mitigation requirements on minor developments. ○ Our version of the ordinance also has an extensively expanded list of definitions that are not found in the State Model. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Update at next meeting. ● Members are encouraged to attend the Special Council meeting to discuss the Stormwater Ordinance on 2/17/2021 and the Council meeting for first reading on the proposed Ordinance on 2/22/2021. ● Second Reading would be scheduled on March 8, 2021.
	<p>b) Land Use Ordinance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Manager Cavallo and Zoning Administrator Mike DeCarlo are in the process of drafting a new Land Use Ordinance. ○ No further updates are available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Ordinance is a work in progress. ● Jess will follow up with Manager Cavallo when he is available.
	<p>c) 1 Sunset Avenue (Spectrum) Zoning Ordinance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The overlay of the zone, which exists in an R-100 zone calls for exemptions from many aspects of the Stormwater, the Tree, and the Steep Slope Ordinances. It also was deficient in many other specifics that most other overlay Zoning ordinances should include. ○ It was discovered at the 1/28/2021 Planning Board meeting that this property exists in Planning Area 5, which include properties that have environmentally sensitive areas. These properties, according to the State Planning Agency do not support dense developments like the one being proposed. ○ The Planning Board found the Ordinance to be deficient and not consistent with the either the Verona Master Plan or the State Plan. ○ The Planning Board drafted and discussed additional recommendations to be sent to the Verona Town Council to amend the ordinance for consistency with the Master Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No actions need to be taken. ● Update at next meeting.
6.	Plan Review	
	<p>a) 1 Rawding Court</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The applicant proposes to remove shrubbery from a retaining wall, build a 20-foot x 30-foot in-ground pool and adjacent paver patio and, according to the PRC calculations, will exceed maximum improved lot coverage by 3.8%. ○ The pool appears to be built too close to the water pipe, which directs stormwater off site to the street. ○ PRC recommended that the applicant reduce the size of the pool to comply with the allowable coverage. Additionally, recommendations were made to install native plantings, sedge grass or trees to help with runoff. ○ MOTION to approve VEC PRC Memo 1 Rawding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Board of Adjustments heard this application with our completed comments on 1/14/2021.

	<p>Court: Sean; Second: Mike.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ APPROVAL: All Members Present other than Mike AYE. ○ ABSTENTION: Mike. 	
	<p>b) 21 Howard Street</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The applicant proposes to build a second-story deck on the back of the home that will partially encroach into the required rear yard setback. The total improved lot coverage will remain within the allowable limits and no trees will be removed. ○ The PRC recommended that the applicant use low-impact development techniques, green building materials and dispose of all construction waste properly. ○ MOTION to approve VEC PRC Memo 21 Howard Street: Sean; Second: Frank. ○ APPROVAL: All Members Present AYE. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board of Adjustments heard this application with our completed comments on 1/14/2021.
	<p>c) 175 Grove Avenue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The applicant proposes to install a pool, a paver patio (partially covered), pool mechanical equipment, parts of a new retaining wall. The total improved lot coverage will go up to 51.5% when 40% is the maximum permitted. ○ The VEC was generally concerned about the stormwater management practices that were recommended for this site, as it slopes towards the neighboring properties to the south and east. Over 60% of the runoff was being directed to the township's storm drains and it was felt that much of this water could be kept on site in a dry well as well as redirecting direct connections to the property's gardens and pervious surface coverage for re-infiltration. ○ The PRC recommended that on-site stormwater system be installed and meet approval by our township engineer. ○ MOTION to approve VEC PRC Memo 175 Grove Avenue: Jess; Second: Sean. ○ APPROVAL: All Members Present AYE. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The VEC PRC was emailed to the appropriate Board Secretary prior to this meeting.
	<p>d) 79 Franklin Street</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The applicant proposes to construct a 608-ft², 2-story addition (a portion of which will exist in the Wetland Transition Area), which will put their building coverage at 29% when 25% is allowed. ○ The VEC also noted that this property borders on a FEMA flood plain. ○ The PRC recommended that should this application be approved, that is it would be contingent on the planting of native tree species that are well acclimated to wet areas. ○ MOTION to approve VEC PRC Memo 79 Franklin Street: Jess; Second: Sean. ○ APPROVAL: All Members Present AYE. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The VEC PRC was emailed to the appropriate Board Secretary prior to this meeting.
	<p>e) 19 Hamilton Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The applicant proposes to construct a deck which will increase their total improved lot coverage from a nonconforming 45% to 50% when 40% is allowed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The VEC PRC was emailed to the appropriate Board Secretary prior to this meeting.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It did not appear that any trees were to be removed. ○ The PRC recommended that should this application be approved, that the applicant should plant native grasses, ferns, wildflowers sedges or shrubs to aid with stormwater runoff. ○ MOTION to approve VEC PRC Memo 19 Hamilton Road: Fuad; Second: Mike. ○ APPROVAL: All Members Present AYE. 	
	<p>f) 40 Ann Street</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The applicant proposes to construct a second story balcony which will encroach into the required 30-foot front yard setback by 4'-9". ○ It did not appear that any trees were to be removed. ○ The PRC recommended that LID practices and green products are used whenever possible. ○ MOTION to approve VEC PRC Memo 40 Ann Street: Jess; Second: Fuad. ○ APPROVAL: All Members Present AYE. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The VEC PRC was emailed to the appropriate Board Secretary prior to this meeting.
	<p>g) 62 Durrell Street</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The applicant proposes to install a pool and concrete paver patio which will increase lot coverage to 48% when 35% is allowed. ○ It did not appear that any trees were to be removed. ○ The applicant added a drywell to their site which should be reviewed by the township engineer for its adequacy and location. ○ The PRC recommended that should this application be approved, that the applicant should plant native grasses, ferns, wildflowers sedges or shrubs to aid with stormwater runoff. ○ MOTION to approve VEC PRC Memo 62 Durrell Street: Sarah; Second: Martin. ○ APPROVAL: All Members Present other than Mike AYE. ○ ABSTENTION: Mike. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The VEC PRC was emailed to the appropriate Board Secretary prior to this meeting.
	<p>h) 63 Fairview Avenue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The applicant proposes to construct a deck which will encroach the rear yard setback. ○ It did not appear that any trees were to be removed. ○ The PRC recommended that should this application be approved, that the applicant should plant native grasses, ferns, wildflowers sedges or shrubs to aid with stormwater runoff. ○ MOTION to approve VEC PRC Memo 63 Fairview Avenue: Jess; Second: Sean. ○ APPROVAL: All Members Present AYE. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The VEC PRC was emailed to the appropriate Board Secretary prior to this meeting.
7.	<p>New Business</p>	
	<p>a) ANJEC Course: Fundamentals for Effective ECs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Environmental Commission Powers and Responsibilities: Sat. 2/27/21 at 9:30 a.m. and Tuesday 3/2/21 at 7 p.m. ○ Land Use Planning: The Masterplan and Ordinances: Sat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All members can register by emailing ANJEC at info@ANJEC.org.

	<p>3/13/21 at 9:30 a.m. and Tuesday 3/16/21 at 7 p.m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Site Plan Review: Sat 3/20.21 @ 9:30 a.m. and Tues 3/23/21 at 7 p.m. 	
	<p>b) Tree Ordinance Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The VEC will review the Tree Ordinance application and the permits attained over the past year. ○ We will also attempt to review the fines and mitigation fees paid to the township in order to assess the impact the ordinance has had on the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Update next meeting.
8.	<p>Adjournment: 8:58 p.m. Next Meeting Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 7 p.m.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Via Internet Conference