

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 checked="" 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 February 10, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOTION to Approve: Sean; Second: Fuad. 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) Earth Day Tree Giveaway <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steve and Jess submitted the application for 400 tree seedlings. A recent response from the State could not confirm that we will receive all 400 seedlings requested. The seedlings will likely be picked up by DPW and will be given out on Saturday, 4/24/2021 from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Grove Park. Social distancing and masks will be required. Jessica will ask Steve to form a registration sheet for residents who would like seedlings. Registration will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. Apart from the residents who attend to pick up seedlings, we will create a general invitation ad for social media to publicize our cleanup. Sean and Mike will invite various scout organizations for collection of natural items to construct a mythical model house. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The event will occur, subject to NJ Health code updates or restrictions on or about 4/24/21. Jess will ask if we can have mulch delivered for the garden, if needed. Jess will send Mike the copy for the web ad. Sean and Mike will invite the various scout organizations. Update at our April meeting.
	b) Verona Recycling Videos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributors will choose from a list of common mistakes residents make in recycling and produce a short 1- to 2-minute video using their own cell phones. Most common mistakes include plastic bags, cleanliness of bottles, cans; bottle caps; only plastic 1, 2, and 5, directives to 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 your street with the camera and take video of obvious mistakes you see on your walk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kari, Sarah, Mike and Christen are interested in creating videos. Jess sent the list of common mistakes to the contributors and they will communicate with each other from here on in. Update next meeting.

	<p>c) Sustainable Verona Update: Frank/Kari</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The ordinance on Community Garden was passed by the Council and new funding was offered by an additional charity. The Landsberger donating \$10k, which will likely be used for tables with chess and checkers board on the tabletop. ○ Today, 20 beds were placed in their locations. More wood is needed for completion of all beds. ○ The ribbon cutting event is scheduled for 3/19/2021 at 11 a.m. ○ Sustainable NJ Actions for attaining a Bronze status were discussed. ○ Energy Aggregation Program held their presentation and new media for further public understanding will be shared on social media. ○ SV is moving forward with the TREX program. After a certain amount of plastic is collected, the town can receive a TREX bench which would fit well at the new community garden. ○ Educational Recycling videos plans have been altered. Steve will be emailing the participants a list of issues and directions on using your own smartphones to produce the video. ○ Java Composting will be presenting a composting webinar and SV and the VEC are interested in a townwide composting initiative. ○ SV was invited to join the VEC at Grove Park for the Earth Day tree giveaway and cleanup event. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Frank and Kari give updates at each meeting. ● Kari will email Steve to ask for particulars to post about TREX program drop off program. ● Frank will email the group with the contact information for upgrading to more green energy sources.
5.	<p>Ordinance Updates</p>	
	<p>a) Stormwater Ordinance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Stormwater Ordinance was discussed by the Council at a Special Meeting on 2/17/2021 and introduced at the 2/22/2021 meeting. ○ The Ordinance was passed at the 3/8/2021 meeting by a vote of 5-0. ○ The VEC sent a memo to the Council on 2/17/2021 that listed items it thought imperative to include in the Ordinance. Most of the items were adopted in the final ordinance. ○ The major differences between our draft and the State Model include lower thresholds for the definition of major development, applicability to all major developments and redevelopments, an emphasis on the use of green infrastructure as a means of stormwater control, maintaining stormwater on site, and the addition of mitigation requirements on minor developments. ○ The Ordinance was not inserted into our Zoning Code; an action which the VEC felt would aid in compliance of all properties throughout the township. ○ MOTION to approve Memo on Stormwater Ordinance Recommendations by the VEC: Sean; Second: Fuad. ○ APPROVAL: All Members Present AYE. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● VEC PRC letter was emailed to the Town Council prior to this meeting. ● No actions necessary.
	<p>b) Land Use Ordinance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Manager Cavallo and Zoning Administrator Mike DeCarlo are in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Ordinance is a work in progress.

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	<p>the process of drafting a new Land Use Ordinance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o No further updates are available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jess will follow up with Manager Cavallo when he is available.
	<p>c) 1 Sunset Avenue (Spectrum) Redevelopment Overlay Zoning Ordinance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The Town Council directed a redraft of the overlay Ordinance but did not include many of the Planning Board recommendations and suggested changes. o The new Ordinance continues to exempt the developer from the Steep Slope Ordinance and was unclear as to compliance with the Tree Preservation and Stormwater Ordinances among other regulations in the Zoning Code. o The Council passed this Ordinance by a vote of 4-1. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates as they become available.
6.	Plan Review	
	<p>a) 8 Ann Street, Verona NJ.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The applicant proposes to widen and lengthen their driveway which exceeds the parking standards in front yards and will exist 1 foot from the property line. o PRC recommended that the applicant use a permeable paver system to reduce runoff from their site. o MOTION to approve VEC PRC Memo 8 Ann Street: Sean; Second: Mike. o APPROVAL: All Members Present AYE. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VEC PRC was emailed to the appropriate Board Secretary prior to this meeting.
7.	New Business	
	<p>a) Leaf Blowers (Gas-powered).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The VEC is researching the possibility of sending a memo to the Town Council that would recommend certain restrictions on commercially-used, gas-powered leaf blowers. o Many nearby municipalities restrict commercial use to seasonal months: summer through mid-fall of each calendar year. o Other municipalities also limit hours of operation, allowing for gas powered leaf blower use from 8:30 a.m. on weekdays and at 9 a.m. on weekends until 5 p.m. all days. o Members agreed that, at this point, no restrictions should be placed on residential use of gas-powered leaf blowers. o Members all agreed that they would like a memo sent to the Council for consideration of an ordinance to address this matter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jess asked Martin to begin a draft memo, including a statement of purpose and to send to Jess and Sean. • Jess and Sean may finalize it and forward a memo to the Town Council and Manager. • Update next meeting.
	<p>b) Girl Scout Fairy Houses/Cabins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Mike Auteri suggested this as a project for all Scout Organizations to coincide with our Earth Day event in April. o It was thought that the trail at Grove Park could be lined with the naturally constructed products and the public would be invited to tour the exhibit at their leisure. This will invite and engage the public to explore the trail at Grove Park while helping scouting organizations to achieve merits. o The gnome homes, hobbit houses, etc. will be constructed out of only natural items that are biodegradable so that they will 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike and Sean are leading this project. They will contact all Scout organizations in town to put out the invitation and the directives. • These organizations will be invited to come collect some of their project needs at our Earth Day cleanup event on 4/24/2021. • Mike and Sean will update us

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	naturally decay along the trail.	as new information becomes available.
8.	Adjournment: 9:18 p.m. Next Meeting Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 7 p.m.	• Via Internet Conference