

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 type="checkbox"/> Fuad Dahan (Alternate I)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Yauch O'Farrell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anthony Castillo (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 April 14, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOTION to Approve: Jess; Second: Michael. 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. Sean will also email the Commission recommendations for Chair and Vice Chair to Manager Cavallo.
4.	Updates:	
	a) Earth Day Cleanup, Tree Giveaway, Scout Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The cleanup event was a success as the Commission distributed about 270 trees to residents. The leftover trees were donated to the Hilltop Conservancy for planting. The seedling species included Pin Oak, Cornelian Cherry, Sugar Maple, Eastern White Pine, Black Gum, Black Walnut and Willow Oaks. Jessica emailed the recipients a list of care instructions and planting conditions for each species. An event report was drafted and submitted to the State. The Girl Scouts that attended found many of their natural items for fairy house construction in the Grove Park woods. They, along with VEC members, helped to reestablish the circular trail by repositioning logs and clearing paths. Sam Cunniff will update us at our 6/9/21 meeting and set a date for a ribbon cutting for the fairy houses. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ribbon cutting event to be added to the June Agenda to determine a date.
	b) Verona Recycling Videos: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sarah (cardboard) and Christen (commingled) sent videos to Jess. Jess and Sarah added subtitles and music to videos for presentation tonight. Steve Neale approved videos for publication. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sean to upload videos to VEC Youtube Channel and Mike will embed videos on our website page for recycling and share to social media.
	c) Tree Ordinance Update:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates as they become available. Jess will contact Mr. DeCarlo about whether residents can

**Regular Meeting Minutes:
Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 7 p.m.
Via Internet Conferencing**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Michael DeCarlo reported that the Tree Ordinance has collected very few funds because most permit fees are waived when trees are assessed as dead, dying, diseased or posing a threat. ○ His suggestion is to collect a set permit fee regardless of the tree's condition to collect a source of revenue and pay for the Town's processing. ○ Furthermore, he has created a simpler application for homeowners, as compared to a more involved application for major developments. This should make filing for permits much easier for our residents. ○ Ash and Elm trees, which are especially susceptible to disease and insect destruction, were discussed as trees to possibly be waived from an update to the ordinance so that residents may preemptively remove them without mitigation. 	<p>preemptively take trees down that are extremely susceptible to disease or pests and likely to fall prey to them.</p>
	<p>d) Sustainable Verona Update: Frank/Kari</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The lottery for bed participants has been completed and the Community Garden planting has begun. 5/1/21 was orientation and 40 beds have been constructed. ○ SV cohosting a film viewing on 6/2/21: The Sacrifice Zone which will be followed by a Q and A with the filmmaker/director. ○ Presentation of ANJEC powerpoint of the Essex Hudson Greenway. ○ Mike and Frank will discuss a safe bike route to the beginning of Greenway in Montclair. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Frank will send the form along to the Commission. ● We will add discussion of Greenway to the 6/9/21 agenda for a vote.
	<p>e) White Tail Deer Update: Sarah</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sarah attended an ANJEC/Duke Farms webinar on Deer Management on 4/21/21. ○ The deer population has grown to crisis levels in NJ and is evidenced by the overgrowth of invasive species and the struggle of our native species to grow. ○ The program calls for reducing the deer population. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sarah wrote an article which she will forward to Mike for upload to the website. ● Sarah will share the story on social media.
	<p>f) Farewell to Christen Dietz</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The VEC gave Christen a warm farewell and wished her and her family luck in their relocation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● None.
5.	<p>Ordinance Updates</p>	
	<p>a) Gas-Powered Leaf Blower Ordinance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Town Council reviewed the VEC memo regarding restriction on Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers at their 4/19/21 meeting. ○ Jessica and Sean were invited to review the memo during the meeting and answer any questions from the Council members. ○ The result was that the council may review the township noise ordinance and may post this as a question on Planet Civic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sean will contact Mr. Cavallo to follow up on the Planet Civic poll initiative.
	<p>b) Mini Cell Towers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Town Council discussed this in New Business and are in the process of hiring a specialist to draft an ordinance. ○ The ordinance is a work in progress and a draft has been 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Ordinance is a work in progress. ● Updates as they become available.

	<p>posted to the Township Website. It will likely need to go before the Planning Board for consistency review of the Master Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It has yet to be determined as to whether the mini towers will be prohibited from certain zones and from direct installation on homes. 	
	<p>c) 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. • Updates as they become available.
	<p>d) Invasive Species Ordinance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Manager Cavallo sent Jessica a request to find other invasive plant species ordinances in the state to seek a model for Verona. ○ There were wide-ranging ordinances found, some only touching upon basics like bamboo and poison ivy and others detailing multiple species as well as trees and shrubs. ○ No further updates are available. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jess will contact Manager Cavallo and follow up as soon as new information is available.
6.	Plan Review	
	<p>a) 91 Forest Avenue, Verona NJ.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The applicant, whose home is on a corner lot, proposed a fence that would exist in the front yard. ○ The PRC did not submit any recommendations for this application. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VEC had no comments for this application.
	<p>b) 73 Franklin Street, Verona NJ.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The applicant proposes an above ground pool which will exist in a side yard setback. ○ The property is in a flood plain adjacent to the Peckman River. ○ The VEC PRC expressed concern that should the variance be granted, that the applicant should provide elevation details and past flooding information for their property. ○ The PRC recommended that the pool be properly anchored and all mechanical equipment be appropriately elevated. ○ PRC recommended that the applicant mitigate for stormwater management on their site. ○ MOTION to approve VEC PRC Memo 73 Franklin Street: Sean; Second: Jess. ○ APPROVAL: All Members Present AYE. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VEC PRC emailed their report to the appropriate Board Secretary prior to this meeting.
7.	New Business	
	<p>a) Welcome Tony Castillo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sean and Fuad request that Mr. Castillo replace Fuad on the VEC Plan Review Committee. ○ Tony joins the VEC as Alternate 2. He is a Professional Engineer and specializes in Stormwater Management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None.
	<p>b) Clean Energy Webinar via ANJEC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ May 19, 2021 @ 7p.m. via ANJEC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online event.

**Regular Meeting Minutes:
 Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 7 p.m.
 Via Internet Conferencing**

	<p>c) Guest Speaker Matt Karmel, the NJ Composting Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr. Karmel will join us at our 6/9/21 meeting. ○ Jessica has emailed Steve Neale to invite SV members to join the conversation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None.
	<p>d) Meeting Dates for 2021-22 calendar year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The meetings will generally occur on the 2nd Wednesday of each month unless otherwise indicated. ○ Meeting dates: 7/14; No meeting in August, 9/8; 10/13; 11/10; 12/8/21; 1/12/22; 2/9; 3/9; 4/13; 5/11; and 6/8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sean will email our Township Clerk, Jennifer Kiernan, so that the future meeting dates can be published.
	<p>e) Composting video: Sarah and Michael exploring this.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None.
	<p>f) Cleanup at the Peckman River: June 5, 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sean and Jess will execute.
8.	<p>Adjournment: 9:13 p.m. Next Meeting Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at 7 p.m.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Via Internet Conference.