

<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"/> Fuad Dahan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sean DiBartolo (Vice Chair/Plan Review) <input type="checkbox"/> Anthony Castillo (Alternate I) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Yauch O'Farrell <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brooke Berardo (Alternate II) <input type="checkbox"/> Kari Baureis (Sustainable Verona Liaison) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cynthia Holland (Gov. Body Liaison) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Auteri		
	<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.	<input type="radio"/> None.
2.	<b>Public Comment Period:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Manager D'Arco:</b> Joined the VEC meeting.</li> <li>• <b>Kevin Ryan:</b> Inquiring on virtual meeting structure if the NJ State of Emergency ends.</li> <li>• <b>Ashlee Smith</b> (Watershed Ambassador) volunteering to help the VEC at the Green Fair Event.</li> <li>• <b>Sandy Williams:</b> Member of Sustainable Verona discussing some organizational issues concerning the upcoming Green Fair.</li> </ul>	<input type="radio"/> Manager D'Arco will update the Commission on Virtual Meeting regulations.
3.	<b>Approval of February 9, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>MOTION to Approve:</b> Jess; <b>Second:</b> Sean.</li> <li>• <b>APPROVAL:</b> All Members Present AYE.</li> <li>• <b>Abstentions:</b> Brooke.</li> </ul>	<input type="radio"/> Sean will email approved minutes to Township Clerk Kiernan and Steve Neale.
4.	<b>Updates:</b>	
	<b>a) Peckman River Damage/Flooding; Stormwater; Webinars</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Township has ongoing meetings with the DEP and our new Manager, Joe D'Arco, has resumed all actions.</li> <li>○ Manager D'Arco received a report from the Army Corps of Engineers and succeeded in submitting permits by 3/3/2022. We are now able to move forward, under emergency circumstances, with certain clearance actions in the Peckman River. These actions will be taken within the next few weeks.</li> <li>○ Filed for bank stabilization permits.</li> </ul>	<input type="radio"/> Updates at next meeting
	<b>b) Sustainable Verona (Kari)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sustainable Verona's meeting was on 3/2/2022.</li> <li>○ They discussed the Green Fair, scheduled for 5/7/2022, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. It will feature more demonstrations with products and green infrastructure ideas for our own yards.</li> <li>○ SV waiting on reusable bag shipment for their table.</li> <li>○ Steve Neale has stepped back and has asked for members to elect a new chair. Sandy Williams will be helping to organize the Green Fair.</li> <li>○ S. Neale suggested that the VEC develop a best leaf practices policy for residents: "to rake or not to rake".</li> </ul>	<input type="radio"/> Updates at each meeting. <input type="radio"/> Jess will email S. Neale to confirm fair plans.
	<b>c) Water Conservation (Fuad/Brooke/Mike)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Michael, Fuad, and Brooke met last month to discuss</li> </ul>	<input type="radio"/> Updates when they become available.

	<p>conservation of water education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Brooke has developed some infographics to identify how to conserve and save on water usage.</li> <li>○ Mike is working towards uploading and designing this new information to our website</li> <li>○ Fuad continues to update the Township's usage chart.</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>d) School Outreach (Brooke/Jess)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Jess and Brooke are meeting with the VHS Science students on 3/23/2022 to describe their PSA projects.</li> <li>○ Dr. Furnari and the BOE have passed a district-wide resolution against idling. They will also be replacing some worn or old no-idling signage outside of their buildings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Update at April meeting</li> </ul>
	<p><b>e) Stormwater Webinar (Tabled)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sean will be preparing a Stormwater webinar for later this year.</li> <li>○ The webinar will cover the state rules – vs Verona's more strict rules, how this protects the town and properties.</li> <li>○ It will also cover examples of green infrastructure and how we can install these measures in our own yards to provide more flood protections.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Follow up at when more information becomes available.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>f) Tree Giveaway/Earth Day Cleanup Event at Grove Park.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Jess ordered 300 tree seedlings for our annual giveaway at Grove Park</li> <li>○ The event is scheduled for Saturday, 4/23/2022, from 9 to 11 a.m. DPW will pick up the trees and drop them at Jess's house on Thursday, 4/21/2022.</li> <li>○ Steve may see if there can be other items from Morgan Farms to be given away as well.</li> <li>○ The cleanup will include a cleanup of the woods and a quick garden cleanup/weeding.</li> <li>○ Jess will ask DPW to mulch the garden after the event.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Follow up at the April Meeting.</li> <li>○ Jess asks for volunteers to help with tree distribution.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>g) Green Fair</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Enviroscene (Ashlee Smith)</li> <li>○ Information on how to create and certify your yard as a wildlife habitat.</li> <li>○ Rain barrel education, A. Smith volunteered to help with a presentation. Waiting on S. Neale to provide a vendor(s)</li> <li>○ Nominate your tree: New Treasured Tree nominations form</li> <li>○ Animal Skull; Identification game (A. Smith may also bring micro invertebrates).</li> <li>○ We will work side by side with Sustainable Verona who will be supplying bags to residents</li> <li>○ We may have recycling bins available for distribution.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sarah is in contact with A. Smith on scheduling</li> <li>○ Jess will formulate a simple list of requirements for your yard certification</li> <li>○ Sean will create a fillable form for new Treasured Tree Nominations</li> <li>○ Jess will contact S. Williams on potential vendors for rain barrels</li> </ul>
6.	<p><b>Ordinance Updates</b></p>	
	<p><b>a) Mini Cell Towers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pending introduction.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Follow up when new information becomes available.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>b) Tree Ordinance Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The township is losing healthy trees daily without mitigation and this is leading to our Stormwater issues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Ordinance is a work in progress.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Suggested updates were forwarded to Mayor Roman, Mike DeCarlo and Manager D'Arco with a recommendation that the township discuss them on new business ASAP.</li> <li>○ Manager D'Arco has received the copy of the updated ordinance and understands the importance and the need of certain updates.</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>c) Planting Recommendations and Invasive Species Ordinance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Verona Planning Board had enabled Jess to find a forester to review the list of trees for an update to Verona's Zoning Code 150-11.7</li> <li>○ Millburn Forester Tom Doty reviewed the list and made several recommendations, which have been accommodated in the list.</li> <li>○ The Planning Board will review and likely make a recommendation to the Council to update the Zoning Code with the new list.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Updates as they become available.</li> </ul>
7.	<b>Plan Review</b>	
	<p><b>a) 48 Kenwood Avenue</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The applicants propose to regrade their yard, remove up to 19 trees (with no replacements proposed), add a pool, surrounding patios, and outdoor kitchen and a shed.</li> <li>○ Proposed coverage exceeds the allowable 40% by 10.6%: 50.6%.</li> <li>○ The VEC PRC recommended that the applicant comply with the Tree Ordinance in full, providing information on the trees to be removed and mitigation trees and or a plan for their replacement.</li> <li>○ Due to the new impervious coverage, the PRC inquired about the use of Green Infrastructure to mitigate runoff.</li> <li>○ PRC inquired about maintenance of the proposed catch basin and drywells, as well as where overflow will be piped.</li> <li>○ Safety issues were raised about the construction of the retaining walls on the neighboring property.</li> <li>○ 58-inch DPM Oak tree in adjacent yard may be irreparably harmed.</li> <li>○ <b>MOTION to approve VEC PRC Memo 48 Kenwood Avenue:</b> Sean; <b>Second:</b> Jess.</li> <li>○ <b>Abstain:</b> None.</li> <li>○ <b>APPROVAL:</b> All other Members Present AYE.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ VEC PRC memo was emailed to the appropriate Board Secretary prior to this meeting.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>b) 86 Durrell Street Subdivision (Tabled)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ VEC PRC will discuss this at the April Meeting.</li> </ul>
7.	<b>New Business</b>	

	<p><b>a) Continuance of Virtual meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sean and Jess discussed the benefits that meeting virtually provides for our members. Many have families and virtual meetings saves time and provides them the ability to multitask when needed.</li> <li>○ We also felt that since the VEC holds many in-person cleanup and other events, that we are still able to get together throughout the year at multiple other events.</li> <li>○ Members thought that having one in person meeting a year would benefit the commission.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ None.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>b) Meeting with Manager D’Arco</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Met with our new Manager on 2/17/2022, for about 1.5 hours.</li> <li>○ Gave Manager D’Arco a broad background of our members, our past and current activities, including our work on ordinances and resolution recommendations.</li> <li>○ Discussed the Peckman River conditions that have exacerbated localized flooding events, as well as spread the area of expected flood zones.</li> <li>○ Discussed some of our longer term plans, the importance of an update on the Tree Preservation Ordinance, a possible need for a township forester, a need for a water source at Grove Park, and a desire to install a rain garden in an appropriate area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ None.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>c) ANJEC Education for Environmental Commissions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ongoing this week.</li> <li>○ Series begins Tuesday, 3/8/2022.</li> <li>○ ECEC featuring Gas Leaf Blowers: 4/4/2022 at 6 p.m.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Jess will send members an email on upcoming dates.</li> </ul>
8.	<p><b>Adjournment: 8:51 p.m.</b>  <b>Next Meeting Wednesday, April 13, at 7 p.m.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Via Internet Conference.</li> </ul>