

Members Present (Quorum Established at Four or More Members)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jessica Pearson (Chair/Planning Board Liaison) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adam Bulger <input type="checkbox"/> Sean DiBartolo (Vice Chair/Plan Review) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kelly Peña <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Yauch O'Farrell <input type="checkbox"/> Philip Beaulac (Alternate I) <input type="checkbox"/> Fuad Dahan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Christopher Tamburro (Gov. Body Liaison) <input type="checkbox"/> Walter Steinmann <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant Seat (Alternate II)		
	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 Public Comments
3.	Approval of January 8, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOTION to Approve: Adam; Second: Jess. APPROVAL: All Members Present AYE. Abstentions: None. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sean will email approved minutes to Township Clerk Kiernan and Public Information Officer Northrop and post them to the VEC website.
4.	Updates:	
	a) Peckman Kiosk Plans (On hold) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jess, Walter and Sean still need to meet to discuss content and design. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lock replacement underway Meetings should occur for layout and content between Sean, Walter and Jess.
	b) Newsletter: Spring 2025 focus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adam and Trey will submit "What's in the Peckman River article and pics. Noella will contribute as well. Jess will post information concerning the Native Plant Sale and Native Plant Lecture. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spring Release date should occur in early to mid-March
	c) Sustainable Verona <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussed an Opt-out of plastic for Verona restaurants Ordinance: "Skip the Stuff". Discussed the Home Energy-Audit program; they may hire an intern to help with press and information regarding this and other programs. They are applying for a grant to help with this. Discussed possibility of giving away an electric/battery operated leaf blower if and when Verona passes restrictions; leaving that to the VEC. Will be giving two \$500.00 scholarships to VHS students. Will be introducing a Java Compost pilot with two drop-off sites: DPW at Commerce Court and the Community Garden. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates at each meeting.
	d) Junior Commissioners' Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trey: Still researching his Peckman River Article, working with Adam. Noella: Wants to draft an article for the spring edition on recycling. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work to continue. Newsletter to be issued at the latest, the 3rd week of March.

Regular Meeting Minutes:
Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 7 p.m.
Via Internet Conferencing

	<p>e) Earth Day Plant Sale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The plant sale is active, and we have received a couple of orders. ○ Jess has hung posters at a number of stores in Verona and Cedar Grove. ○ Keeping a spreadsheet of orders and moneys due/received. ○ Plant Sale closes Friday, 4/11/2025 with all orders and money is due by this date. Plant pick-up is Saturday 4/26/2025 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Hillcrest Farms. We need you to show up and help with this. ○ There is also a Verona Park Conservancy Cleanup from 9 to 11 a.m. on 4/26/2025. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jess asks that everyone attempt to help at Hillcrest
	<p>f) 2025 Poster Contest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Have received all posters from FN Brown; nothing yet from other schools. ○ Found a song online that would cost about \$15 for use. ○ Entries are due by 3/21/2025. ○ Awards ceremony to take place at the 5/5/2025 Town Council Meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jess will contact Municipal Clerk Kiernan to ensure scheduling of the ceremony. • Asks that members make themselves available to attend the 5/5/2025 Council meeting for the awards ceremony.
	<p>g) Everett Field Updates (tabled)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Town Manager mentioned that new plan updates are forthcoming. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates when they become available.

5.	Ordinance Updates	
	a) Tree Ordinance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jess sent a few updates to the manager and zoning official for their review. ○ Strong possibility that a new stipulation will be introduced that will allow for up to five trees in a 5-year period may be removed. ○ All trees will require a minimum of one replacement tree, and up to four trees. ○ Town Manager is working through the statistics on tree removal replacements, speaking to CFO and awaiting the framing of this ordinance. Will have results soon. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates when they are available.
	b) New Planting was approved via resolution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Passed at the 2/3/2025 meeting. ○ New list includes more grasses and perennials. ○ List will eventually be codified and will be found as an attachment under Chapter 150 Zoning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No updates
	c) Turf Moratorium Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Towns throughout Massachusetts, Connecticut, and California are passing moratoriums on new installation of artificial turf and replacement with natural, organic grass and landscaping. ○ Recommendation for a 5-year moratorium in Verona. ○ Discussion with the Town Manager held on 2/12/2025. ○ Town Manager indicated that Recreation Committee will be discussing fields soon and prefers to have all stakeholders included in this determination. Additionally, would like to be able to showcase Everett Field success prior to moving forward with this. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jess met with Manager O'Sullivan on 2/12/2025 • Updates when they become available.
	d) Gas Blower Restrictions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussion with Town Manager held on 2/12/2025 with Jess. ○ Town Manager contacting other towns with bans to seek input on enforcement, equipment replacement and potential partnerships with stores that carry battery operated equipment. ○ VEC discussed whether this should stay as is or be a stepped approach to a total ban. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates when they become available.
6.	Plan Review	
	a) 60 Pompton Avenue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Applicant seeks to extend a medical use in their building. The Planning Board passed a resolution that stipulated no expansion of this use in 2006 due to a variance granted for lack of parking for this same use. ○ Applicant was lacking parking in 2004 and would require an additional 44 spots. There is no overflow parking around this building, as it is on a State Highway. ○ The Applicant has no stormwater management on the site. The Applicant is deficient on the required buffer zone. ○ There is a brook in the rear of the property that has a history of flooding. ○ Recommend to add plantings and trees from official planting list. ○ Recommend to add stormwater management. ○ MOTION to approve VEC PRC recommendations for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VEC PRC memo was emailed to the appropriate Board prior to this meeting.

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	<p>60 Pompton Avenue: Walter; Second: Sarah.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ APPROVAL: All other Members Present AYE. ○ ABSTAIN: None. 	
	<p>b) 1 Wedgewood Drive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Applicant seeks to remove 43 trees for road repairs and appears to be deficient in replacements. There are a number of inconsistencies throughout the application documents. ○ Applicant tree replacement plan includes only two species of replacement trees, The Armstrong Red Maple, which is a columnar tree and the Swamp White Oak. The VEC thinks that the Applicant should diversify its replacement plan. ○ The VEC pointed out that trees removed from a buffer zone were not being replaced and must be in accordance with our ordinance. ○ PRC recommended using the Recommended Planting List to choose more tree species. ○ MOTION to approve VEC PRC recommendations for 1 Wedgewood Drive: Sarah; Second: Walter. ○ APPROVAL: All other Members Present AYE. ○ ABSTAIN: Kelly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VEC PRC memo was emailed to the appropriate Board prior to this meeting.
7.	New Business	
	<p>a) Extension of VEC member terms through December 31, 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Municipal elections have been moved to the November general election day. ○ Jess asks members to review the following dates for meetings that extend for the remainder of the calendar year: July 9, September 10, October 8, November 12, and December 10, 2025. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jess will send a memo to Clerk Kiernan for publication of the rest of our 2025 dates.
8.	<p>Adjournment: 8:12p.m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Next Meeting Wednesday, March 12, 2025. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Via Internet Conference.
9.	<p>Meeting Minutes Approved: 3/12/2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jessica Pearson, Chair, Verona Environmental Commission 	