

Members Present (Quorum Established at Four or More Members)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jessica Pearson (Chair/Planning Board Liaison)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jean Deo	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sean DiBartolo (Vice Chair/Plan Review)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kelly DiGeronimo	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Yauch O'Farrell	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant (Alternate I)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Walter Steinmann	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anthony Triolo (Alternate II)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adam Bulger	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alex Roman (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"> None
3.	Approval of January 14, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOTION to Approve: Sarah; Second: Adam. 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 (Tabled until action is undertaken): <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 awaiting further discussion. Awaiting meeting schedule.
	b) Spring Newsletter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ideas for the 2026 Spring Newsletter were touched upon at January meeting. Trash guidelines "Talking Trash." Tree of the Month (featuring Treasured Trees). Plants for getting your garden started: Scarlett. Exposé of trail creation by James Waugh at Peckman Park. Bird pics from 2/13 to 2/16/2026: Great Bird Count? Know your weed (more apt for summer edition when weeds will be in full bloom). Profiles on Junior commissioners Violet and Scarlett. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jess will await copy to insert into template on Canva.
	c) Sustainable Verona: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anthony Triolo, newly appointed to the VEC, will be the liaison to SV. He will be available for attendance starting in February. Continued energy efficiency program work. Potential compost program for small segment to be located near recycling center through Java Compost- grant monies may be sought. Free Trees for kids at the Library giveaway 4/25/2026. Artificial Turf vs. Grass discussion- seeking conversion sites that went back to grass. Scholarships - Will be giving two \$500 dollars to be presented in June. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates as available.

**Regular Meeting Minutes:
 Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 7 p.m.
 Via Internet Conferencing**

	<p>d) Junior Commissioner Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Violet Palmer: sent word she could not make tonight's meeting. ○ Scarlett Morin: Raise awareness on via posters; Newsletter club at school- do a short story competition (gift card for winner) think as if you were nature - a tree; Gardens. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates at every meeting.
	<p>e) Vest Attire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jess has all members' sizes and will move forward with PO. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jess will move forward with purchase.
	<p>f) Poster Contest Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Received all posters from F.N. Brown so far. ○ Awaiting contact from other schools. ○ Discussed whether it is acceptable to choose two students from one school in lieu of one from each elementary school due to lack of submissions or quality. Members thought it would be fine to award two students from one school and grant honorary mentions to entrants from other schools if the entries are scant and do not capture the spirit of the contest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates as available.
	<p>g) WeCare NJ update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The case was closed and public comment occurred on 1/14 and 1/28/2026 when it was also closed. ○ The case will continue for final statements by the applicant's and the objector's (WeCare NL) attorneys and will be presented for discussion and deliberation by the West Orange Planning Board set for 2/25/2026. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates as available.
5.	<p>Ordinance Updates:</p>	
	<p>a) Tree Ordinance (Tabled until new updates):</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates as available.

<p>6.</p>	<p>Plan Review:</p> <p>a) 21-25 Grove Avenue Revisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Applicant proposes 11 Townhouse units on 0.72-acre property requesting variances including use variance for residential use in a commercial zone, rear and side yard setbacks where decks, buildings and mechanical equipment are planned, reduced required landscape buffer, building land coverage, height requirements, rooftop decks, parking lot sizes, etc. ○ Tree removals updated, but tree species running along the border of the site were unchanged from a species that will not survive in those shaded, water bogged areas. ○ Removed 2 decks from the closest apartments, but encroachments into setbacks and privacy issues, lack of a proper buffer remain. ○ The applicant's SWM plan remains non-compliant with Verona's code: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Not treating water onsite. ● Not retaining water onsite. ● Not proposing or utilizing green infrastructure onsite. ○ The VEC PRC recommended various portions of the site be converted to green infrastructure for stormwater utility. ○ The VEC PRC did not send a new review because their original review was still applicable on all points. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● VEC PRC memo was emailed to the appropriate Board prior to this meeting.
<p>7.</p>	<p>New Business:</p> <p>a) Cleanup Event:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sean proposed a Cleanup Event for Saturday, 2/21/2026 from 9 to 11 a.m. ○ Sean will call town and DPW / Sarah will distribute flyer from Sean. ○ Jess will arrive early to set up table. <p>b) Earth Day Celebration 2026 Ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cleanup at: Veterans Field, the VCC grounds, gardens and playground. ○ Ideas to draw more student participants- Scarlet and Violet can help at high school level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● High school students will be given service certificates. ● We can contact the Key Club to participate (they have made contact with us to participate in events for service hours). ○ Jessica mentioned that the tree giveaway options from the state were based upon a 10-year to mitigate for tree loss from superstorm Sandy. The plan expired last year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All to attend. ● Planning.

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	<p>c) Other Projects/Initiatives 2026:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sarah has scheduled a lecture on transforming lawns to pollinator meadows: Tuesday, 3/24/2026 from 6 to 7 p.m. ○ Anthony suggested a webinar series - will work with Adam. ○ Amazon Deforestation expert (Adam). ○ How to start a garden – basics (101 course level on starting a garden). ○ Sustainable development / Climate Action. ○ Pistachio wars. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow up as appropriate.
8.	<p>Adjournment: 8:47 p.m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Next Meeting Thursday, March 11, 2026. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Via Internet Conference.
9.	<p>Meeting Minutes Approved: 3/11/2026.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jessica Pearson, Chair, Verona Environmental Commission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes to be sent to Municipal Clerk, PIO and posted to the VEC website upon approval.