

Members Present (Quorum Established at Four or More Members)		
☒ Jessica Pearson (Chair/Planning Board Liaison)	☒ Jean Deo	
☒ Sean DiBartolo (Vice Chair/Plan Review)	☒ Kelly DiGeronimo	
☒ Sarah Yauch O'Farrell	☒ Joe Sudia (Alternate I)	
☒ Walter Steinmann	☐ Anthony Triolo (Alternate II)	
☒ Adam Bulger	☒ Alex Roman (Gov. Body Liaison)	
	DISCUSSION	ACTION REQUIRED
1.	Call to Order by Jess: a) Open Public Meetings Act Statement. b) Roll Call performed.	• None.
2.	Public Comment Period:	• None
3.	Approval of April 8, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes: • MOTION to Approve: Sarah; Second: Joe. • APPROVAL: All Members Present, AYE. • Abstentions: 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) ○ Jess, Walter, and Sean still need to meet to discuss content and design.	• Lock replacement awaiting further discussion. • Awaiting meeting schedule.
	b) Summer Newsletter: (tabled) ○ Expose of a VEC member. ○ Expose of the Juniors, the beginning coverage of the project they're proposing. ○ Upcoming Events.	• Jess will await copy to insert into template on Canva
	c) Sustainable Verona (Anthony) ○ Discussion included Artificial Turf vs Natural Grass installation at Centennial Field.	• Updates as available.
	d) Junior Commissioner Update ○ Violet and Scarlet continue working on the garden at VHS. ○ They have received a promise of 50 plant plugs from 2 different vendors in Montclair; and are working on a soil source. ○ Discussion included drafting a report that includes all of the steps taken in the creation, completion and maintenance of the garden, creation of a spreadsheet with all donated plants and their characteristics. ○ The VEC will be contacted and kept abreast of all next steps. ○ The existing ground soils under the beds will be stripped of grass, loosened and utilized as a base soil for the plant roots to grow into; Kelly offered help by way of her science honors students.	• Updates at every meeting
	e) Vest Attire/Shirts ○ Jess has vests available for pick up. ○ Needs one more size update for shirt order placement-	• Jess awaiting member pick up.

Regular Meeting Minutes:
Wednesday, May 5, 2026, at 7 p.m.
Via Internet Conferencing

5.	Ordinance Updates	•
	Tree Ordinance (Tabled until new updates)	Updates when they are available.
6.	Plan Review	
	a) 257 Pompton Avenue ○ Applicant proposes a residential apartment building on a site that is zoned for commercial use. ○ Tree removal and replacement plan does not label tree replacement by species according to the list provided by the Applicant. ○ Landscape plan contains a listed invasive species (burning bush), which is recommended for replacement. ○ The drainage area conveyed to the bioretention stormwater basin is not documented; question whether the basin is appropriately sized. Plans indicate only that the basin can handle 3,689 ft² of impervious area when the site will contain over 11,000 ft² of impervious area. ○ All proposed stormwater from the parking area is directed offsite into the municipal roadway catch basins on Pompton Avenue, rather than being managed on site. ○ Questions raised about the biobasin on whether it will be seeded and whether there will be appropriate anchoring of filtration fabric. ○ Question raised about whether there will be filtration fabric added to the pipe trench piping to bar soils from entering the piping. ○ The VEC PRC recommended detaching downspouts to flow over permeable areas on site and to rely upon the recommended planting list for any proposed landscaping updates. ○ MOTION to approve VEC PRC for 257 Pompton Ave: Sarah; Second: Jean. ○ APPROVAL: All other Members Present: AYE. ○ ABSTAIN: None.	• VEC PRC memo was emailed to the appropriate Board prior to this meeting.

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7.	New Business a) Turf Field Proposal at Centennial ○ VEC learned of the proposal of Pivot synthetic turf on April 27, one week earlier. The capital ordinance was placed on the Council agenda for May 4, 2026. There was no time for research or a full group work session on this item. ○ Jess met with the Manager to state objections to the lack of any realistic timeline (and the turf) as well as to the lack of detail given to the artificial turf pricing list. Additionally, there were no costs listed for protection of our storm drains, and this field is adjacent to our Lynn Drive Well. A promise was made to delay a bonding ordinance until the May 18, 2026 Council meeting. ○ Jess and Kerry Bass, our Township expert on artificial turf, met multiple times to discuss the false advertising for Pivot turf and shared plans for both the VEC and Sustainable Verona prior to the introduction of this bonding ordinance. ○ Jess contacted four different NJ municipalities who had or were currently having Pivot turf installed. Only one of the towns has had the turf for over one full year. It is a new product and hasn't stood the test of time in NJ. ○ The VEC discussed, reviewed and made some updates to the proposed resolution. ○ MOTION to adopt RESOLUTION 2026-01 "Supporting Conversion of Centennial Field to Natural Grass: Sean; Second; Walter. ○ Roll call vote was recorded: ○ AYE: Joe, Kelly, Jean, Adam, Walter, Sarah, Sean, Jessica ○ NAY: None. ○ Absent: Anthony	• Jessica will send the signed Resolution to the Council, Administration, Sustainable Verona Chair Kerry Bass, and the Rec. Committee Chair Corey Schor.
8.	Adjournment: 8:46 p.m. ○ Next Meeting Wednesday, June 10, 2026.	• Via Internet Conference.
9.	Meeting Minutes Approved: 6/10/2026. ○ Jessica Pearson, Chair, Verona Environmental Commission	• Minutes to be sent to Municipal Clerk, PIO and posted to the VEC website upon approval.