

Regular Meeting Minutes:
Wednesday, June 10, 2026, at 7 p.m.
Via Internet Conferencing

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 May 5, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes: MOTION to Approve: Walter; Second: Sarah. 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: - Summer newsletter is being released tonight. - Fall newsletter should cover Junior commissioners and response from residents on gas-powered leaf blowers.	Discussion next month.
	c) Sustainable Verona - Discussion on Wednesday will include Artificial Turf vs. Natural Grass installation at Centennial Field. - Attended the Community Solar Event. Recommend that all members of the VEC check out the website that could save 45% of your electric bill monthly (Solarsimplified.com). - All solar comes from a solar farm which could be installed on warehouse roofs, or on brownfield types of properties that cannot otherwise be built on.	Updates as available.

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	d) Junior Commissioner Update ○ Scarlett gave us an update. They are setting up a watering schedule and involving VHS Environmental Club members into that rotation. ○ Violet and Scarlett, along with Jess, Sarah, Kelly, members of the Environmental Club, Dep. Mayor McEvoy, Colin Palmer, and resident/landscape designer Steve Cherep worked on gardens. ○ The garden was redesigned to go directly into the ground instead of in raised beds. Over 60 plants were donated, way too many for the small, raised beds. Also, they would not have had enough depth for proper root growth in the shallow beds. ○ Garden planting was completed on Saturday, 5/30/2026. ○ Orange Valley gave us unlimited access to their wood chips for mulch. ○ Next steps: assume watering responsibility and monitor growth. ○ Juniors must draft a report for presentation of their entire strategy, process, and long-term plans and goals. ○ Plans will also include a ribbon cutting ceremony to take place early in the school year with Council members, school administrators, VEC members, parents, etc.	• Updates at every meeting • Violet was absent from meeting
	e) Vest Attire/Shirts ○ Jess has needs Anthony size for t shirt order ○ Also, due to a bill for our website, we may be short funds for t-shirts. Jess is checking on our remaining funds.	• Jess awaiting budget balance.
	f) Turf Presentation ○ The presentation will occur Tuesday, 6/16/2026 at 7 p.m. at the VCC meeting room (1st Floor). Zoom login will be provided. ○ Jess ran through the proposed presentation and discussed Sustainable Verona's expertise on this issue. ○ All members are encouraged to attend (via zoom)	• Updates next meeting
5.	Ordinance Updates	
	Tree Ordinance (Tabled until new updates)	• Updates when they are available.

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6.	Plan Review	
	a) Bloomfield Ave Streetscape Project ○ Planting areas not identified ○ Plantings are mostly exotics (not invasive) and some are annuals that will not return year after year. One shrub is a tropical that will likely not survive our winters. ○ Recommended other native species and recommended they be planted in areas that will not receive foot traffic or road salt (i.e.: the municipal building's surround, the 9/11 memorial area). ○ MOTION to approve Bloomfield Avenue Streetscape Memo: Walter; Second: Joe. ○ APPROVAL: All other Members Present: AYE. ○ ABSTAIN: None.	• VEC PRC memo was finalized emailed to the Administration after this meeting.
7.	New Business	
	a) Verona Pool Beautification ○ VEC visited the pool to discuss areas that may be good for gardens.	• Updates as they become available.
	b) Walter and Sarah to host a nature walk at the pool ○ Walter and Sarah will schedule and keep us posted.	• None.
8.	Adjournment: 8:30 p.m. ○ Next Meeting Wednesday, July 8, 2026.	• Via Internet Conference.
9.	Meeting Minutes Approved: 9/9/2026. ○ Jessica Pearson, Chair, Verona Environmental Commission	• Minutes to be sent to Municipal Clerk, PIO and posted to the VEC website upon approval.